

“Come on Jimmy, it’s time for bed!” called his mom. “Turn off your lights and get to sleep! You have a big game in three days.” “Yes mom, I’m just putting away my favorite baseball hat”, called Jimmy. He quickly hung his red baseball hat on the hook beside his bed. Then he opened up his window to help him stay cool on the hot stuffy night.

I really do need to rest up because my baseball game is coming up! I hope I play this game better than the last, he thought as he drifted off to sleep with a cool breeze gently blowing on his face.

The next morning as the sun was peeking in his window, Jimmy opened his eyes and realized his hat was not on its hook. He searched around his room but could not find it! Just then, he had a horrible thought, what if it blew out his window? So, he looked out his window and saw that his horrible thought was true. There was his beautiful red hat blowing out of sight. “Ahh! Not my special red hat!” cried Jimmy “I need you for my baseball game. I have never won a game without you! Stop wind! Stop blowing away my hat!” But it was too late. The hat disappeared from sight.

* * *

“Oh look!” exclaimed Oumou, shading her eyes from the hot Niger African sun. “It’s a hat! I wonder where that came from?” Then she had a great idea. “Mom’s plants are dying because they don’t have enough shade. If I can prop up the hat at just the right angle, then the hat can shade most of the garden!” As the wind continued to gently blow, it carried the hat closer and closer to Oumou. Finally, it came just low enough that she plucked it out of the sky. Oumou spent the next hour finding the perfect place for the hat to shade the plants.

That night at dinner Oumou told her family all about the mysterious red hat. Everyone was so surprised to hear her story. Before bed they went out to the garden and Oumou proudly showed her family the work she had done with the hat earlier in the day. They agreed it was a magnificent idea! Once inside, Oumou tiredly climbed into bed thinking all about the exciting day she’d had. As she fell asleep, she couldn’t wait to see how her plan would work.

The next morning Oumou got up and ran to see the plants through the window. It looked like they were bigger! Could it be it possible? Oumou wondered. She called for her family to take a closer look with her in the garden. Sure enough, the plants were bigger than they had ever been before. Oumou beamed with pride as her family congratulated her. Suddenly her face fell. “What is wrong?”, her family asked. They were confused by her sudden change of attitude. “The hat is gone! It was there last night when I went to bed. Now it’s gone and the plants will die.” Oumou cried. Oumou’s mom reassured her, “The plants are big and strong enough that they will live on their own. The hat and its shade were just what they needed.” Oumou felt better by her mom’s words but still wondered what had happened to the hat.

* * *

“Oww!” yelled Mei. “This is the second time I have spilled Mom’s hot Chinese New Year’s soup!” This is so frustrating, Mei thought to herself. I keep messing things up. First, at the HairPlace when I had my haircut and moved which made my hair get so wonky and messed up. Then, I tripped during the dragon dance and made everyone fall! Oh man, this has been such a bad day! Too bad, I already received my lucky red envelope. It doesn’t seem to have any luck for me so far! Mei put down the soup and went outside to get a change of scenery and fresh air.

Taking a deep breath Mei looked up into the sky and noticed a small red speck floating down towards her. It’s a bird she thought at first. But as it drew closer, Mei could tell that it was too big to be a bird. Plus, the shape was different from a bird. “Hey it’s a hat! A red hat! Red is a lucky color. Maybe this will help me with my luck!” Mei reached up and quickly plopped it on her head, not wanting to lose her new found chance of having good luck. Now feeling more joyful than before, Mei felt prepared to go back inside the house. She carefully finished bringing the soup to the table, this time without spilling any of the soup. I did that without messing it up, she thought. Maybe my luck is changing.

Later that evening as the moon was rising, Mei climbed into her bed and placed the hat by her open window. “It actually turned out to be a really good day, thanks to this red hat,” Mei said to herself and she drifted off to sleep. When she woke up, the next morning, the first thing she noticed was that the lucky red hat was gone. Aw man, the red hat is gone! Mei thought. But I know that today can still be a really good day without it!

* * *

On the day of his big game, Jimmy hopped out of the car and dragged his feet over to the baseball field. He missed his special red hat and wished it would have come back to him before his game today. He looked up into the clear blue sky, hoping with all his heart that his hat would come back to him. He saw nothing at first besides a few birds, but then he spotted something weird in the sky coming towards him in the gentle breeze. It was his hat! He couldn’t believe his eyes! It really was his red baseball hat! It came spiraling through the air like it was aiming for him and landed softly on top of his head. Jimmy was surprised but excited that it had come back! Surely, I will have good luck now! he thought. He somehow felt like there was something different about his hat. He couldn’t put his finger on it, but he felt like it had helped other people too. Jimmy was happy and glad if his hat had helped other people. He knew it would help him during the game and sure enough, he was right and his team won the game.