A Country Boy Quits School

**Summary**

The story is set in rural China, where the economy is sustained by agriculture, and people are not educated. The older people were all farmers, and the younger generation assisted them in farming instead of going to school. But one day, an official proclamation was issued by the government for educational reforms. It said that unless a child over six years of age is sent to school, some adult in the family would go to jail. At this point, we get introduced to the protagonist in the countryside, the boy of the story. His parents were uneducated, and did not know anything about school, but they sent him to school fearing that they might go to jail. But when the boy brings his school books home to study, his parents and grandmother feel that the books are too expensive and that they do not teach the boy anything about his own country and his own life. The books have pictures of foreign-looking people who are called Father and Mother. They do not look like the people who live in their country. They do not understand anything about what the boy learns in school, and the grandmother throws a fit. They feel that schooling is a waste of time as the boy could help them with their work and contribute to the family income if he stayed at home. So, they finally stop sending him to school.