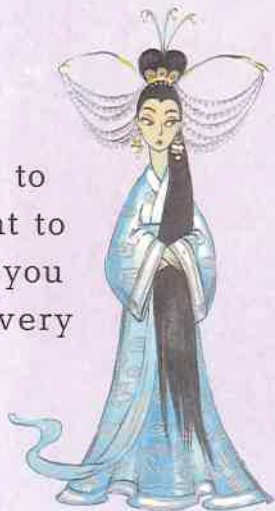### Calaf

My name is Calaf. I was born the Prince of Tartary. I am an old man now, but when I was young I experienced a great challenge. I lost a friend, but I changed the life of a very special person. Do you like riddles? I do.

King Timur

My name is King Timur. I lost my country in war and my sight while fleeing. I am searching for my son, Calaf. We were separated following the war.

Luckily I have Liu, my servant, to guide me. What would I do without her?

Princess Turandot

My name is Princess Turandot. Many men ask for my hand, but I refuse to marry them. I think it is important to honor our ancestors, don't you? If you wish to marry me, you must be very clever or else you will pay the price!

Liu

My name is Liu. I am King Timur's servant. After the war I took care of the King. It is my duty to look after the King and his family. I am very fond of Calaf, and I hope we can find him soon.

CHAPTER ONE

The Ice Princess

My life has been full of adventure. Now that I am very old, telling stories is all I can do. My name is Calaf. I was born the Prince of Tartary.

After a very long and terrible war, my father, King Timur, and I were forced to escape from my country. I didn't know what happened to my father but now I was in Peking.

I would never forget the evening I arrived in this great city. Many people had gathered in the square in front of the Imperial Palace.
It was really amazing. There must have been thousands of people there.
I thought that something very exciting was to occur, so I asked, "What's happening?"

One person in the crowd replied, "A man will be killed soon. He had come to try to marry Princess Turandot. He had to solve the Princess's riddles first before he could marry her, but he failed. Now they will cut off his head."

☐ adventure [əd`ventʃə(r)] (n.)
　冒險；經歷
☐ be forced to 被迫⋯⋯
☐ escape from 從⋯⋯逃脫
☐ what happenend to
　發生⋯⋯
☐ Peking [pekɪŋ] (n.)
　北京的舊譯名

☐ square [skwer] (n.)
　（方形）廣場
☐ imperial [ɪm`pɪriəl] (a.)
　帝國的；皇帝的
☐ must have + p.p.
　必定已經（對過去已發生事情的推測）
☐ be to 即將發生⋯⋯

☐ occur [ə`kɜːr] (v.) 發生
☐ crowd [kraʊd] (n.) 人群
☐ solve [sɑːlv] (v.)
　解決；解答

☐ riddle [`rɪdl] (n.) 謎；謎語

杜蘭朵公主

人物簡介

Calaf 卡拉富 我叫卡拉富，是韃靼國的太子。我已經老老垂垂矣，但年輕時也曾經驚濤駭浪過。當時我痛失一位摯友，還改變了某個人的一生。你喜歡打啞謎嗎？我很喜歡。

Princess Turandot 杜蘭朵公主 我是杜蘭朵公主。很多男人來向我求婚，但我不想嫁給他們。光宗耀祖，才是要緊事，不是嗎？想娶我的人，要是不夠聰明，就得付出代價。

King Timur 帖木兒大帝 我是帖木兒大帝。一場戰爭讓我亡國，後來我又在逃亡期間，雙目失明。我一直在尋找太子卡拉富，我們在戰亂中失散了。幸好多虧有婢女柳兒在身邊帶著我，要是沒有她，我真不知道該怎麼辦。

Liu 柳兒 我叫柳兒，是帖木兒大帝的婢女。戰後，我便一直服侍著大帝。侍候大帝皇族，是的我職責。我很仰慕卡拉富，唯願早日與他重逢。

[第1章] 冷若冰霜的公主

我的一生歷經過各種風浪，如今我老了，只有陳年往事可以說。我叫卡拉富，是韃靼的太子。在一場漫長而艱鉅的戰爭之後，我和帖木兒父王開始逃亡。我這時來到了北京，但父王下落不明。

進京後的這一晚，我畢生難忘。當時，宮殿前的廣場上圍聚了成千上萬的人民，場面驚人。我心想，必定是發生了什麼大事。

我向路人打聽底到是發生了什麼事，有一個人回答說：「有人要被處決了！那個人原本是想來娶杜蘭朵公主的，但是他沒有答對公主出的啞謎，所以現在要被斬首了！」

「誰是杜蘭朵公主？」我問。

「她是皇帝的女兒。」站在我身邊的一名婦女說：「她美若天仙，很多國家的太子都跑來想娶她，但她誰也不想嫁。她冷若冰霜，鐵石心腸。想娶她呀，難如登天！她出了三道謎題，規定只有能解謎的人才能娶她，如果答不出來，那就……你等一下就可以看到下場了……」

此時，走出一名穿著官服的人，他喊道：「波斯太子未能解答公主的謎題，今晚月亮東升之時，即行處決。」當我聽著這則公布時，後面傳來了聲響。我回過頭，看見一位老翁跌倒在地上，一名婦人大喊：「看啊！他們竟然將可憐的失明老人推倒在地。」我趕過去，扶老翁站起來，卻嚇了一大跳！那名老翁，竟就是父王帖木兒大帝。