

I watched her as she inched her way towards me, hobbling and swaying as if her toes had been partly cut off. As she sat down with a sigh of relief, I placed my foot next to her embroidered shoe to compare sizes.

"Nai Nai, how come your feet are so tiny?" I asked.

"When I was three years old, a tight bandage was wound around my feet, bending the toes under the sole and crushing the arch so that my feet would remain small all my life. This has been the custom in China for over one thousand years. In my day, small feet were considered feminine and beautiful. If you had large and unbound feet, no man would marry you.

1. Why did Nai Nai hobble and sway?

.....

2. Write these words down on separate pieces of paper and see if you can put them in order, from the most normal way of walking to the least. Do your family agree? Sometimes we can interpret words differently!

hobble, sway, stagger, stumble, limp