

Chinese Conversation Corner (Week 4, Semester 2, 2020)

中国的情人节—七夕节

Qixi Festival—Chinese Valentine's Day

一、七夕节的起源 Origins

每年农历七月初七这一天是中国的传统节日“七夕节”。今年的七夕节是阳历的8月25日。七夕节也叫“乞巧节”。汉朝的时候就有了。农历七月初七这一天，女孩在庭院摆上水果、瓜子和熏香，向织女星乞巧。

On the 7th day of the 7th lunar month each year, there is a traditional Chinese festival called Qixi. This year it is on August 25th. This day is also called the 'Qiqiao Festival' which dates back to the Han Dynasty. On the 7th day of the 7th lunar month, girls prepared fruits like melons, as well as burnt incense in their yard and prayed to the Weaver Girl for skill in their domestic work.

传说天帝的第七个女儿织女，心灵手巧、擅长织布，所以人间女子就拜祭她，祈求智慧、灵巧和幸福。后来因为牛郎和织女的浪漫传说，中国的年轻人就把七夕当情人节过了。

Legend has it that the Weaver Girl, who is also the seventh daughter of the Jade Emperor, is clever and good at weaving. Therefore, ordinary women worship her and pray for wisdom, skill and happiness. Later on, because of the romantic legend of Niulang (Cowherd) and Zhinu (the Weaver Girl), young Chinese people now consider the Qixi Festival as a Chinese Valentine's Day

Please go through <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nln9US5xuiw> for the legend.

二、古代七夕节的习俗 Customs

七夕晚上，人们坐在户外观察星星。中国老奶奶会说，如果站在葡萄树下，您可能会偷听到织女和牛郎的谈话。

On the evening of Qixi, people sit outdoors to watch the stars. Chinese grandmothers say that if you stand under a grapevine you can probably overhear what Zhinu and Niulang are talking about.

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1. 穿针乞巧 chuānzhēnqǐqiǎo Needle-threading Competition

女子们在一起比赛穿七孔针，看谁手巧。

Young women thread a needle which contains seven eyes (needle holes), to see who is the best.

2. 喜蛛应巧 xǐzhūyīngqiǎo Spiders-netting Competition

就是把蜘蛛放盒里，第二天早上看，看谁的蜘蛛织的网又密又圆，那就是得巧了。

Spider-netting is catching a spider and keeping it in a box overnight. The next morning, the denser the spiderweb, the more skill the woman will have.

3. 种生求子 zhǒngshēngqiúzi Planting seeds to pray for children

七夕前几天，将绿豆、小麦等浸于瓷碗中，等长出嫩芽，再用红、蓝丝绳扎成一束，称为种生。寓意多子多福。

A few days before Qixi, mung bean and wheat are immersed in a bowl and tender shoots are grown. Then they are tied together into a bunch with red and blue silk ropes. This process is called seeding. It means more children, more happiness.

4. 为牛庆生 wéiniúqìngshēng Celebration of the ox's birthday

儿童会在这天摘野花挂在牛角上，给牛过生日。因为在牛郎织女的故事中老牛帮了大忙，人们为了纪念老牛的牺牲精神，便有了这个习俗。

On this day, children pick wild flowers and hang them on the horns of an ox. This is because the old ox helped a lot in the story and people want to commemorate its spirit of self-sacrifice.

到了现在，人们更愿意用现代人的方式去庆祝这个浪漫的节日：恋人们出门逛街、吃饭、看电影……

<https://v.qq.com/x/page/e07594ntysh.html?ptag=qqbrowser>

Nowadays, people are more willing to celebrate this romantic festival in a modern way. Lovers go out shopping, eating, watching movies.

yuan tiānxià yǒu qíng rén zhōng chéng juàn shǔ

愿 天 下 有 情 人 终 成 眷 属!

May lovers in the world get married!



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三、任务 Tasks

1. Zhōngguó de qíng rén jié shì nǎ yì tiān
中国 的 情人节 是 哪一天 ?
Which day is Chinese Valentine's Day?
2. wèi shén me qī xī jié yòu jiào qǐ qiǎo jié
为什么 “七夕节” 又叫 “乞巧节” ?
Why is Qixi Festival also called the “Qiqiao Festival”?
3. gǔ dài qī xī jié yǒu shén me xí sú
古代 “七夕节” 有 什么 习俗 ?
What are the customs of the ancient Qixi Festival?
4. qǐng dú yì dú gǔ shī què qiáo xiān
请 读一读 古诗 《鹊桥仙》。
Please read the poem Fairy of The Magpie Bridge.

鹊桥仙 Fairy of The Magpie Bridge	
宋·秦观	Qin Guan Song Dynasty
织云弄巧 zhī yún nòng qiǎo 飞星传恨 fēi xīng chuán hèn 银汉迢迢暗度 yín hàn tiáo tiáo àn dù	Clouds float like works of art; Stars shoot with grief at heart. Across the Milky Way the Cowherd meets the Maid.
金风玉露一相逢 jīn fēng yù lù yì xiāng féng 便胜却人间无数 biàn shèng què rén jiān wú shù	When Autumn's golden wind embraces dew of jades, All the love scenes on earth, however many, fade.
柔情似水 róu qíng sì shuǐ 佳期如梦 jiā qī rú mèng 忍顾鹊桥归路 rěn gù què qiáo guī lù	Their tender love flows like a stream; This happy date seems but a dream. Can they bear a separate homeward way?
两情若是久长时 liǎng qíng ruò shì jiǔ cháng shí 又岂在朝朝暮暮 yòu qǐ zài zhāo zhāo mù mù	If love between both sides can last for aye Why need they stay together night and day? (Translated by Yuanchong Xu)

女: <https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1QW411N7sj?from=search&seid=3492700526506346763>

男: <https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1rt411n7mw?from=search&seid=3492700526506346763>

