THE GRANDMASTER'S DAUGHTER

Dan-ah Kim
In a small, quiet village known for its persimmon trees and pastel sunsets, there is a modest dojang.

A school of martial arts.
Within its walls are staffs, swords, and targets. And often a small girl named Sunny, already a black belt. The grandmaster’s daughter.
When she’s not practicing her forms,

Sunny helps sweep the floors.

She waters the plants.

And feeds the cats.
She breaks up a street fight.

And a cat fight.

She gathers fruit for a snack.
She trains with her nunchucks.

They get twisted and they twirl and fly away!

Even black belts mess up sometimes.
She teaches white belts how to kihap—
a breath, a shout;
power from the belly through the mouth!
Their kihaps grow bold enough to wake the mountains!
The students have learned to use their skills only for defense.

They will protect one another.

The white belts and blue belts, the red belts and yellow!
Sometimes they fly,
sometimes they fall.

But they won’t give up
when they have battles to fight
and wounds to mend,
moves to learn and spirits to defend!
Kick, strike, block, breathe!

HAP!

HYUH!

HAAAAAH!

They sweat and they spar, until it’s time to battle the biggest enemy of all—
their growling . . .
stomachs!
Sunny offers peace with some snacks.

Everyone bows to say thanks.
They’ll share persimmons and watch the pastel sunset, until twilight falls over the school of martial arts.
Tae Kwon Do is a martial art from Korea that is now practiced all over the world. “Tae” means foot or kick, “Kwon” means fist or strike, and “Do” means art or way of life. Students develop the mind, body, and spirit through action and philosophy, including the five tenets: