THE FIRST PASS UNDER HEAVEN
GONG GONG'S SECOND TALE

The great calligrapher Xiao Xian is an honest official and so good at his job that his colleagues are jealous and conspire to get him sacked. Their plot succeeds and the supervisor Wang Ho demands Xiao Xian resign his position. When the Emperor orders the creation of a tablet for the east gate of the Shanhaiguan Pass, Wang Ho begs Xiao Xian to return to produce the inscription, which must be so magnificent it will entice a passing dragon.

As ever, Xiao Xian is slow to start, taking his time to perfect his art. When he finally finishes the tablet, and with the Emperor only minutes from arrival, Wang Ho, to his horror, discovers a dreadful mistake – 'First Pass Under Heaven' has become 'First Ass Under Heaven!' With everyone in a panic, the heroic Xiao Xian focuses his art and corrects the error – pleasing the Emperor and stopping a passing dragon!

Lauriston School

Xiao Xian – a calligrapher
Matteo Fernandes

Wang Ho – his supervisor
Tiziah Deans

Chamberlain
Jack Lower

The Emperor
Kwame van der Maten

Almond Seller
Rosa Ford

Calligraphers
Jessica Abbott, Maisie Adair, Daniel Adjin-Tettey, Fenner Amos, Ella Belton-Saunders, Caitlin Blake McEachran, Sylvie Bornat, Shannon Burke, Charlie Calvert, Chelsea Calvert, Heather Casson, Poppy Casson, Kadene Castle-Ellis, Rhea Cedras, Isabella Dogliani, Leon Dorley-Brown, Lucas Drummond, Shadai Eshun, Lucy Gillett, Meg Grant, Zara Hennessy, Seran Karacas, Humphrey Kasumba, Esra Kurtulan, Adrianna Kyriacou, Athamos Kyriacou, Adam Lea, Kean Lisbie, Ellen Lloyd, Seher Macit, Sadie Maris, Robert Miller, Michael Momodou, Anita Nwabueze, Oliver Parker, Ryanna Ryan, Rhys Simon-Lloyd, Lara Slyce, Rubia Southcott, Charlotte Taylor, Ayanna van der Matan, Stacee Villiers, Jonah Welch, Kerrie Wilson, Sara Yassi

A Passing Dragon
James Andrews, Noah Finch-Shah, Hannah Francis, Yussuf Ilyas, Laurie Lumley, Minty Millest, Lewis Morey, Jake Wilson

Confucius says:
Desire to have things done quickly prevents them from being done thoroughly.

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