Thai Americans: A Poem Collection featuring "Bilingual Standard Poodle" and "Last Name กู Too Long"

Simon Boonsripaisal
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, simonb3@illinois.edu

Ravadee Boonsripaisal

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Cover Page Footnote
For Pumpkin.

This creative literary work is available in Journal of Southeast Asian American Education and Advancement: https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/jsaaea/vol19/iss1/8
Thai Americans: A Poem Collection

featuring “Bilingual หมา Standard Poodle” and “Last Name กู Too Long”

Simon Boonsripaisal

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Ravadee Boonsripaisal

Independent writer

Bilingual หมา Standard Poodle

Pumpkin ยิ้ม (yimm) and smile,
Pumpkin wear ดารา (dara) hat in style.

Pumpkin อยากกิน (yaak gin) cookie,
น้ำลาย (num lai) drop, need more cookie!

Pumpkin นั่ง (naang), Pumpkin sit.
No ของหวาน (kong waan), Pumpkin give fit.

Pumpkin give hand, Pumpkin high-five.
Pumpkin ต้อง (ttot) and do business outside.

Pumpkin chase Whisky in snow,
Whip cream and fluffy.
“Pump be nice, Whisky is your brother.”

Pumpkin very smart and care,
Pumpkin help grandma walk down stair.

“Grandma go home, grandma กลับบ้าน (gaab bahn).”
Pumpkin so sad and face on sofa,
“Pumpkin มานี่ (mah nee) and sit by grandma.”
Last Name Too Long

Simon Boonsripaisal
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Ravadee Boonsripaisal
Independent writer

Cannot get a job with this last name ถีบ (krup).
They scared you will take over ค่ะ (ka).
Boon-surprise!
Too many letters.

“How do you serve others?”
“I served different populations…”
“How do you serve non-Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders?”
I already answered ถีบ (krup).

They tell me to go back to school.
I’m more educated but passed over.
They recycle trash and hire each other.

Diversity mark here.
They work like they care.

You not the one ค่ะ (ka).
They always find a reason.
Still poor.
Acknowledgements

For Pumpkin.

About the Authors

Simon Boonsripaisal is a PhD student in Educational Policy, Organization and Leadership with a concentration in Higher Education at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Ravadee Boonsripaisal is an independent writer and Pumpkin’s grandma.
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