

Cultural Shock

At first when Christopher arrived in faraway Paris, he couldn't find his roots since Chinese people are focused on metaphors, imagination, dreams and ideals. Parisians would be far more practical and Cartesian (focused on the mind and scientific logic). He knew they wouldn't understand how he felt about his home country and the dreams of his ling horse he had carried with him, or rather inside of him together with a small suitcase he had since all the other possessions were either discarded or shipped in advance. His school teacher was very curious about the reasons why Christopher refused to communicate with his peers. I told her that my son had always been an observant person but rather silent. He knows everything and is wiser than his years. He knows the answer to what he is being asked but doesn't know how to express in public but would always make a brief summary of each situation together with pertinent conclusions when he is at home'.



Chris sitting in front of the blackboard looking intellectual



Christopher brooding all day when he first attended his French school

I have selected the French bilingual school in Parc Monceau as this was the only bilingual school in Paris where they would get a chance to be completely trilingual: French, English and Chinese. China has been opening its gates and it is important to be the bridge between East and West, gaining a mutual understanding of different cultures. Although the school was supposed to be international, there weren't any Chinese other than my son. His classmates were blond, tall and handsome but at that time he was rather small for his age and too thin. So Christopher felt like an outcast in a country where he didn't understand the culture, values and even the way to interact with others. Finally he couldn't stay on his own brooding all day so he made a social effort to become friendly with his classmates. At the end of each school day, my son's nanny would come and pick him up.



Chris was the only Chinese in the international school



Christopher finally became a social animal with leopard skin