



About the Book: Little Star and her mama bake a big Mooncake together, agreeing on one rule: Little Star is not to eat even a bite of the Mooncake until mama says so. Can Little Star follow the rules? This story follows Little Star's adventures through the night sky as she tries her best to resist the delicious Mooncake. Follow Grace Lin's dreamy illustrations as this story unfolds, teaching its audience about the phases of the moon and introducing students to the traditions of the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival.

Suggested Reading Level: Ages 3 - 8

Source: <https://www.gracelin.com/content.php?page=abigmooncakeforlittlestar>

Discussion Questions:

1. Who is Little Star?
2. Where do you think this story takes place?
 - a. What context clues can you use from the book or illustrations to help you figure this out?
3. Do you think Little Star will obey her mom? Why or why not? (Suggestion: Use this as a prediction question when reading aloud. Ask this on page 4 of the text).
4. Have you ever done something even though you were told not to do it? What did you do?
5. What ingredients would you put into a big mooncake?
6. How did the mooncake stay in the sky?
 - a. Do you think the moon could be made out of mooncake?
 - b. What kind of things do you think the moon is made of?
7. Does the moon always stay the same shape in the real night sky? Does it stay the same in the book?
 - a. Why do you think it changes?
8. What similarities do you notice in the night sky represented in this book? (Suggestion: the bands of stars made out of the mooncake crumbs)

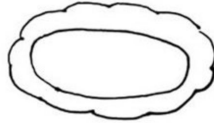


Mooncake Drawing Activity:

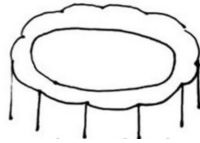
1. How to draw a Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival Mooncake

<https://www.cuteeasydrawings.com/pictures/How-to-Draw-Chinese-Mid-Autumn-Festival-Moon-Cakes-Step-by-Step-305.html>

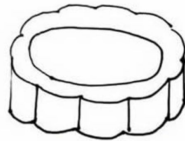
- a. Draw an oval and then add a larger oval around the smaller one but in a wavy design.



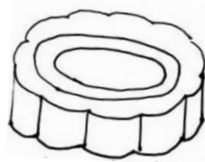
- b. Draw some vertical lines down from the bottom of the wavy oval.



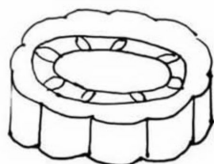
- c. Then connect each vertical line together in a wavy design.



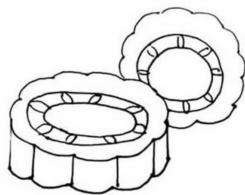
- d. Draw a small oval in the center of the other oval.



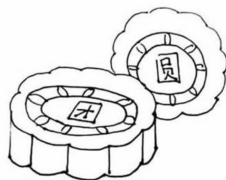
- e. Paint decorative lines in the small sections between the two smaller ovals. Get Creative!!



- f. Repeat steps A through E and create a second mooncake if you wish!



- g. Add the Chinese symbols in the center of the mooncakes and you are done!



Here are other examples of Mooncake Designs!!



Phases Of the Moon Activity:

1. Listen to the phases of the moon song:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79M2ISVZiY4&feature=emb_title
2. Gather some coloring pencils or markers and paper and draw out each phase of the moon with its correct label.



3. After drawing and labeling each phase, take another piece of paper and have the student draw their favorite phase along with stars and other space objects around the moon.
4. After creating each phase go outside that night and compare your drawing to the moon, try and see if the student can tell what phase the moon is in. Continue trying this every once and a while, perhaps every day for a full cycle, so the student can start seeing the different phases of the moon in the sky.

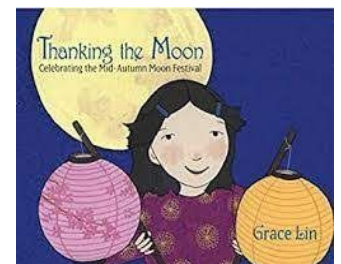
Mid-Autumn Moon Festival Activity:

Dive further into the traditions of the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival by reading other connecting children's literature on the subject such as Grace Lin's *Thanking the Moon*. Afterward, have students create and decorate their own colorful paper lanterns. The example seen above uses accordion-folded tissue paper glued to colorful construction paper. Add on to this by having students add one phrase to their lantern picture that describes something that they are thankful for. Both of these traditions are important during this festival. Why might it be important to reflect on what we are thankful for?

Sources:

<https://coloursofus.com/9-childrens-books-about-the-chinese-mid-autumn-moon-festival/>

Photo: <http://nestinginskyscrapers.blogspot.com/2012/09/mid-autumn-festival-crafts.html>





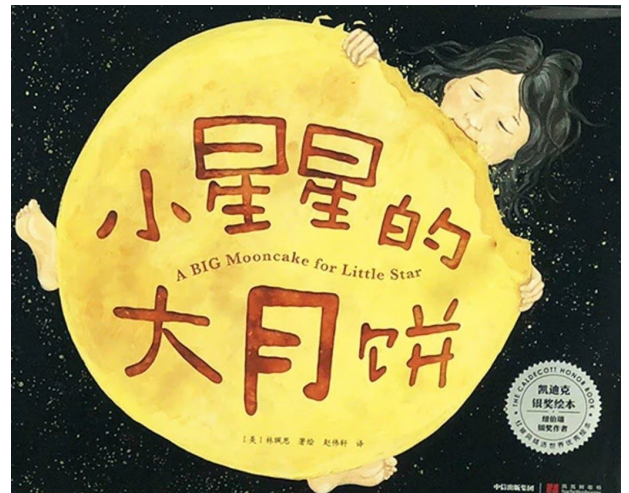
Re-reading Activity:

1. In this activity, the child will read the book again by themselves, aloud or in their head. As they read, the child should write down one to two questions that they have about the book or the characters in the book.
2. After they have finished the book, bring the children together into a group or group the children with an adult. Have someone else read the book to the group out loud, and see if they can answer the questions that the children have come up with.
3. This will help with the understanding of the book and have the child to start digging into the book to find things that might not be directly shown. The more the book is read the more information one can pull out of it!

Guest Reader Activity:

A Big Mooncake for Little Star is available for purchase in a Chinese Edition as translated by Lin Pelsi. If available to your classroom, invite a bilingual guest speaker in to read *A Big Mooncake for Little Star* to the class in Chinese. Please note that there are many dialects of Chinese, all of which can be extremely valuable to the enrichment of a classroom.

This can open the door to discussions about the value of diverse traditions and languages in the classroom and can expose children to languages other than English.



Example questions include:

- 1.) Why is it important to learn about traditions other than the ones you may celebrate at home? (Important: This is not to suggest that the traditions depicted are necessarily different from the ones students may already celebrate. Keep in mind that Grace Lin is Taiwanese-American--many students in America also celebrate these traditions at home!)
- 2.) Why is it important to learn languages at school other than English?
- 3.) What new information, or a new way of thinking about the information, did you learn from hearing the same book in Chinese?