

Author: Grace Lin

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About Grace Lin

Early Life:

- Grace Lin was born in New Hartford, New York in 1974
- Her parents were Taiwanese immigrants to the U.S.
- Grew up in upstate New York and later graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design
- Currently lives in Somerville, Massachusetts with her husband and daughter



Because Grace did not see herself represented in books she read as a kid, she wants to write stories that will make young girls and boys feel like they can see themselves in the story they are reading.

Grace Lin's books

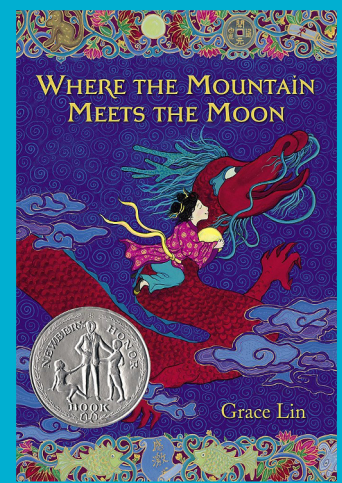
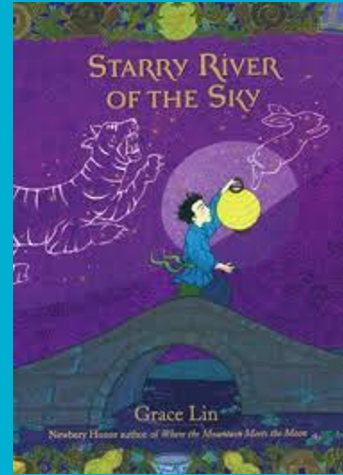
Grace has several different series of books:

Children's fairy tales series- these are fairytale stories inspired by ancient chinese beliefs and legends.

Ling & Ting series -Ling and Ting are twin girls who want to prove that they are not exactly the same like everyone thinks.

Pacy series- Pacy was Grace's nickname and the name she went by until first grade.

-Grace has written early readers, novels and picture books.



Where the Mountain Meets the Moon is an Asian inspired fantasy book and the story was inspired by *The Wizard of Oz*.

Stories and illustrations contain elements of fantasy and inspire the reader to use their imagination

BOOKS ARE...

MIRRORS



WINDOWS



SLIDING GLASS DOORS



“A book can show you the world. But here's the thing about your window, when the light hits it just right, you don't just see the world outside, you can also see your reflection.....A book can show you the world, but it can also show you a reflection of yourself.” –

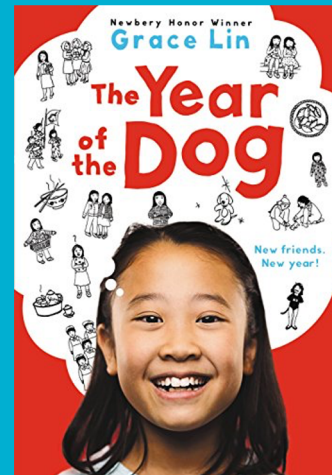
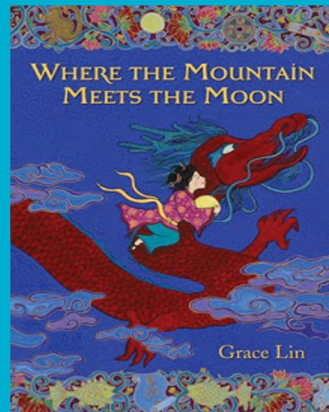
Grace Lin's Ted Talk

“Grace gets her ideas from everywhere. That's why she has to carry her sketchbook with her everywhere, just in case an idea comes to her when she's on the bus. She never really knows when a good idea will come to her.”

(quote from Grace's website where kids have asked her questions, the question was “where do you get your ideas?”)

AWARDS:

- 2010 Newbery Honor Book Mention - *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*
- 2007 Honorable Mention from the Asian/Pacific American Awards for Literature - *The Year of the Dog*
- 2019 - Caldecott Medal - *A Big Mooncake for Little Star*
- 2010 - Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Children's Literature - *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*



Common Themes in Grace Lin's books

- Family
 - Most of Grace Lin's books have a story that involves the main characters family. Both Mooncake for Little Star and Dim Sum for Everyone the main character is surrounded by their family.
- Innocence
 - Most of Grace's books don't deal with much hardship or big problems they mainly are about fun and lighthearted stories.
- Food
 - A very good amount of Grace Lin's books are about food! Both books we talk about in this presentation also are about food, we have moon cakes and dim sum.



Little Star! Her mama said,
shaking her head even though her
mouth was curving. “You ate the
Big Mooncake again didn’t you?”

Little Star looked up, her grin
reflecting mama’s smile.

-Grace Lin

We see that the three common themes moon phases, family, and bedtime are prominent in Grace Lin’s book A Big MoonCake For A Little Star. There is also a focus on tradition and quality time with your family as Little Star understands the importance of the MoonCake



A Big MoonCake For A Little Star

- Story showing the history of Dim Sum
 - Told through a little girl who is told to keep her Mooncake last.
 - Discussion of wanting something we should wait for.
- Repetition
 - “Little Star”, “A Big MoonCake” and “___ Little star___”
 - Eating of the Big MoonCake
- Illustrations
 - A great drawings with little use of color.
 - Multiple texturized images of a detailed moon.
 - Detailed patterns and shapes throughout the book
 - Colors and images portraying “inspiration” and “satisfaction”

“Would mama notice if she took another tiny nibble?”

“Your imagination will create many friends”

-Grace Lin

The book A Big MoonCake For A Little Star was written to celebrate Lin's "favorite Asian holiday", the Mid-Autumn Festival. Grace Lin created this story for her three year old daughter after they had exhausted traditional tales, such as those about the Moon rabbit, and her daughter demanded more. The story was then inspired after her daughter ate all the mooncakes for the year and learned that there would be no more until next year.

Themes of A Big MoonCake For A Little Star

- Innocence
 - Little Star shows us how kids view the moon and how fun and innocent their view of it is.
- Forgiveness
 - Even though Little Star isn't supposed to eat the moon cake her mom forgives her and makes a new moon cake, even knowing that Little Star will eat it again.

TedTalk

- Story showing the history of Dim Sum
 - Told through a little girl who is out to dinner with her family
 - Discussion of the upbringing of Dim Sum
 - Discusses what makes up these “little dishes”
- Repetition
 - “Little dishes” and “___ wants ___”
 - Family member choosing their desired dish
- Illustrations
 - A great deal of colors and shapes
 - All different types of foods/dishes
 - Detailed patterns and shapes throughout the book
 - Colors and images portraying “happiness” and “satisfaction”

“Most importantly, there was nobody that looked like me in the books that I loved”

- Grace Lin

“Have you ever been horrified by your own reflection in the mirror”

- Grace Lin

Grace published books that included Chinese culture and asian characters (*Dim Sum for Everyone*). She was writing what she wanted to know and what she wished she had read as a child.

Themes of Dim Sum for Everyone

- Community/family
 - In the book you can tell that eating Dim Sum is something you do with friends and family, everyone is able to get something they like to eat as well as company.
- Sharing
 - Everyone eats a little bit of every dish, even if it's not their own.
- Choice
 - The first thing the reader is learning about is all the choices that come with eating Dim Sum, everyone can find something they like.

Interview

- Grace Lin's books include accurate representation of Chinese culture and asian characters
- After children read these books it caused them to view and see things differently → in a more positive light
- These books should act as windows and reflections
 - It is important that children are reading books that represent both of these



Discussion Questions

1. Would you use a Grace Lin book in your classroom?
2. Do you think your students will be able to connect to the playful emotions that the illustrations evoke?
3. How do you think Grace Lin's books would help students be more aware of the cultures surrounding them?
4. Do you think your students will connect to these stories? In what way?

Sources

<https://www.gracelin.com/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grace_Lin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQ8wiV3FVo>

Images:

Slide 1: Image 1: <https://www.anunlikelystory.com/event/grace-lin>

Image 2: https://www.redandblack.com/culture/new-york-times-bestselling-author-and-illustrator-grace-lin-discusses-diversity-in-literature/article_eaeab266-ba1c-11e8-a117-bf41a7b4a940.html

Slide 2: Image 3: <https://twitter.com/pacylin> (Her twitter profile picture)

Slide 3: Image 4: <http://www.gracelinblog.com/>

Image 5: https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00J326LWC/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1

Image 6: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/a-big-mooncake-for-little-star-grace-lin/1127581253>

Image 7: <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/books/starry-river-of-the-sky-by-grace-lin/>

Slide 4: Image 8: <https://katytessman.home.blog/2018/11/21/building-a-diverse-book-collection/>

Slide 5: Image 9: <https://www.amazon.com/Where-Mountain-Meets-Moon/dp/B0896582RG>

Images:

Image 10: https://www.amazon.com/dp/B000SEW1Y6/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1

Image 11: <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/34362953-a-big-mooncake-for-little-star>

Slide 7: Image 12: https://www.amazon.com/dp/B077Y1YQCK/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1

Image 13: https://www.amazon.com/dp/B077Y1YQCK/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1

Image 14: <http://www.randomhouse.com/kids/interiors/0-375-81082-X.html>

Slide 10: Image 15: https://www.gracelin.com/content.php?page=book_dimsum

Image 16: https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/629849.Dim_Sum_for_Everyone

Image 17: <http://www.randomhouse.com/kids/interiors/0-375-81082-X.html>

Image 18: https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00J326LWC/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1

Image 19: https://www.gracelin.com/content.php?page=book_dimsum