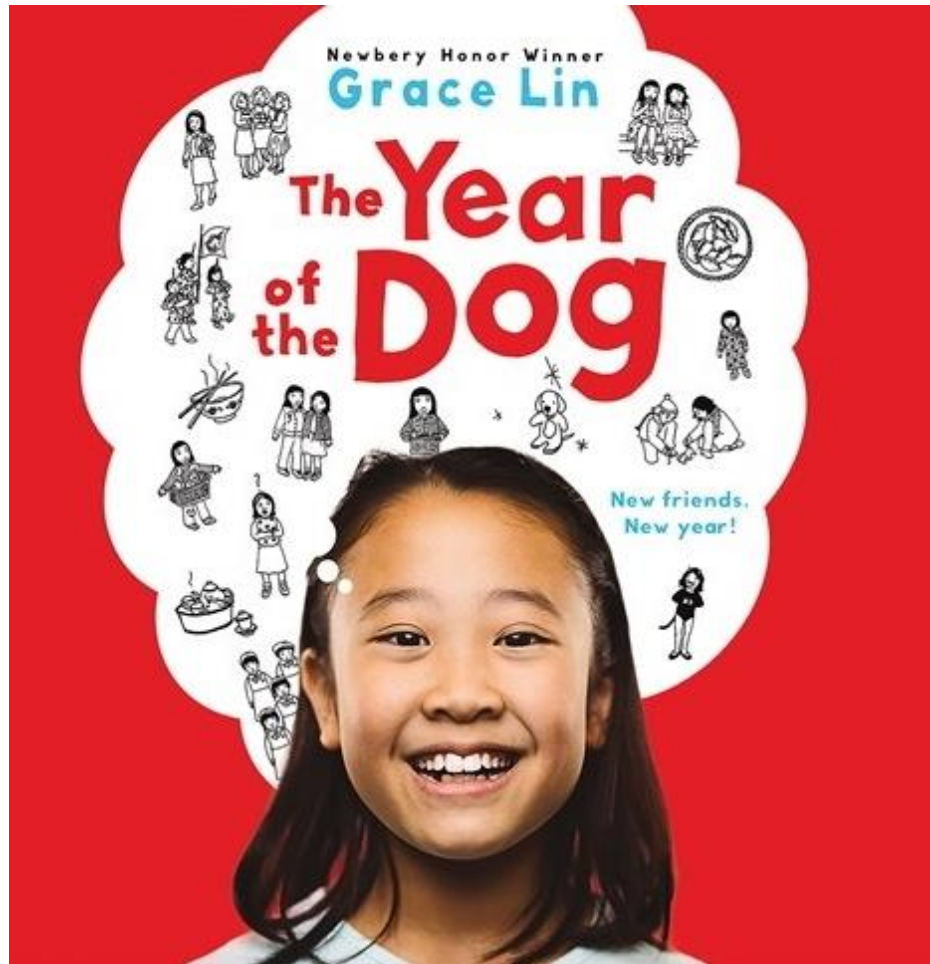


# The Year of the Dog

By Grace Lin



Designed by Lia Mazzei

Students in EDUC 2311, Children's Literature

For the University of Colorado-Boulder Book Festival, Nov 2020.

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Grace Lin is an award-winning and NY Times bestselling author and illustrator of picture books, early readers and middle grade novels. Many of her books are based around her experiences as the only Asian girl (except for her sisters) at her elementary school. She has won many awards for her books, including: the Newbery Honor for *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*, the Geisel Honor for *Ling & Ting*, and the Caldecott Honor for *Big Mooncake for Little Star*.

Because of her experiences in school, Grace is also a big advocate for diversity in children’s literature. She is an occasional commentator on New England Public Radio, and a TEDx speaker. She currently hosts two podcasts: “Book Friends Forever” and “Kids Ask Authors”. In 2016, Grace’s art was displayed at the White House and Grace, herself, was recognized by President Obama’s office as a Champion of Change for Asian American and Pacific Islander Art and Storytelling.

For more information on Grace Lin visit her website at [www.gracelin.com](http://www.gracelin.com)

# QUESTIONS FOR READERS

1. Does your family have a traditional meal that you eat on a special occasion like Grace’s family does on Chinese New Year? What is it? What’s your favorite part of the meal?
2. Grace makes up a day of the unicorn with her friends. If you could celebrate a day dedicated to your favorite animal, what would you choose? What activities would happen on that day?
3. Grace goes by Pacy at home and Grace at school. Why do you think that is? Do you

think this makes sense?

4. Why did Grace decide not to try out for the part of Dorothy in the school play? Do you think she should have tried out anyway? Why or why not?
5. When Grace and her mom are gardening, Grace remembers that she used to think her mom's 'ugly' Chinese vegetables were gross until she tried her mom's soup made with them. Why do you think she would think that? Would you try Grace's mom's soup?
6. In the art class at the TAC camp, Grace is called a "twinkie" by the other kids. Why do you think this was so upsetting to her?
7. On Halloween, why did Grace tell Melody that she wasn't lucky at all?
8. Grace gets \$400 for winning fourth place in the book contest with her book *The Ugly Vegetables*. What would you do with \$400 if you won?

# ACTIVITIES

## Holiday Traditions

Grace's family has a lot of special holiday traditions. Draw the table that your family sets for a special holiday meal. Make sure to include all of your favorite dishes!

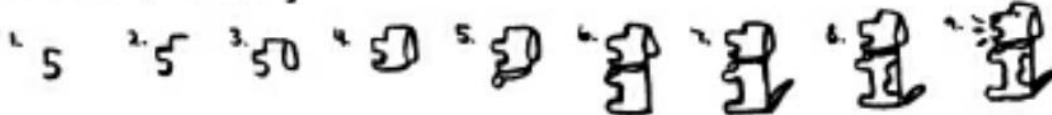
## Book Contest

Imagine you are writing a picture book for the contest. Design the cover and title of the book you would write. If you're feeling inspired, go ahead and write the whole book!

## Year of the You

Look up the year you were born in the Chinese Zodiac and make a picture of that animal, just like Grade did for the dog. You can find the Chinese Zodiac at <http://www.chinatoday.com/culture/zodiac/zodiac.htm>. You can also draw Grace's dog along with her at <https://youtu.be/nylo59l RTs>.

How to draw a dog



## Even More Fun!

Recipe for Grace's favorite Ugly Vegetable Soup can be found on Grace Lin's website:

[https://www.gracelin.com/media/book/activities\\_souprecipe.pdf](https://www.gracelin.com/media/book/activities_souprecipe.pdf)

Explore Grace's "Chinese Sunday School" Blog to learn Chinese words and pronunciations:

<http://www.gracelinblog.com/search/label/sunday%20chinese%20school>