



2009

Happy Belly, Happy Smile

Gillian Streeter

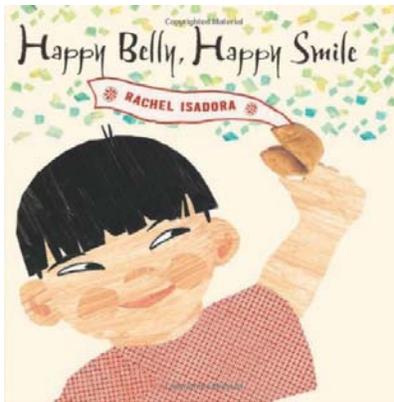
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Isadora, Rachel. *Happy Belly, Happy Smile*. Illustrated by Rachel Isadora. Harcourt Children's, 2009. ISBN 9780152065461. \$16.00. 32 p.

Reviewer: Gillian Streeter

Reading Level: Preschool, Primary

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Picture Books; Contemporary realistic fiction;

Subject: Restaurants--Juvenile fiction; Chinese Americans--Juvenile fiction; Grandfathers--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Louie loves Fridays because he goes out to eat dinner at his grandfather's restaurant in Chinatown. He knows all the people that work in the restaurant and the jobs they do. Louie and his grandfather order all sorts of dishes: egg rolls, chow mein, fish, dumplings, steamed crab, and lots of rice. Dinner ends with fortune cookies and orange slices, which Louie and his friend Franklin use to make silly happy smiles.

The collage illustrations are beautiful - while reminiscent of Eric Carle, they are less dreamy and have a greater sense of action. Some collage pieces have been painted and retain a strong brushstroke texture, while other pieces are made from origami paper, photographs (especially of different dishes of food), and are even trimmed from menus and labels. Bright vibrant colors and occasionally sharp angles of pieces make the clatter and motion of the Chinese restaurant come alive. Isadora is a Caldecott honor winner for her book *Ben's Trumpet*, and *Bring on that Beat* was a Parents' Choice Silver Honor book.

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