



2018

### Series Title: Cilla Lee-Jenkins This Book is a Classic

Katie Irion

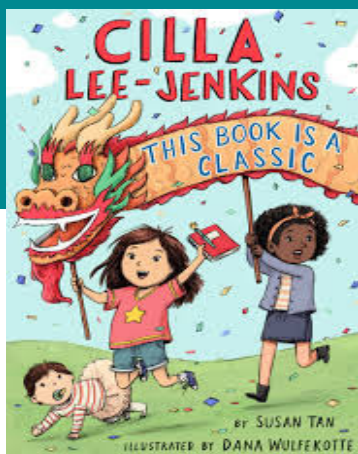
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## Book Review

# Series Title: Cilla Lee-Jenkins This Book is a Classic

### Author

Susan Tan

### Illustrator

Dana Wulfekotte

### Reviewer

Katie Irion

### Rating

Dependable

### Level

Primary

### Pages

256

### Year

2018

### Publisher

Roaring Book Press

### ISBN

9781626725539

Miss Cilla Lee-Jenkins is certain that the best traditions always involve cake. She discovers that there are many traditions to celebrate but not all of them are marked by special days. Cilla narrates the book and spends her journal pages describing her class frog, best friends, baby sister, and Auntie Eva's upcoming wedding. Throughout the book, Cilla learns some life lessons about friendship, traditions, culture, and family. She learns that while cake is certainly an important part of any tradition, the most important part is spending time with family and making new friends.

This whimsical tale is written in first person. There are a handful of instances where Cilla has moments of intense clarification and understanding about relationships, jealousy and friendship that honestly seem too mature for an eight-year-old. While it is admirable that Cilla is so introspective, it is jarring and slightly off-putting. The writing style is interesting, but the random capitalization of words and over-use of adjectives does take away from the narrative. The book does a wonderful job of capturing what a third-grader thinks and worries about and leaves the reader with new ideas to think about in terms of multiculturalism, friendship, and inclusion.

\*Contains a mild homosexual reference.