



2020

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon

Cynthia Frazier

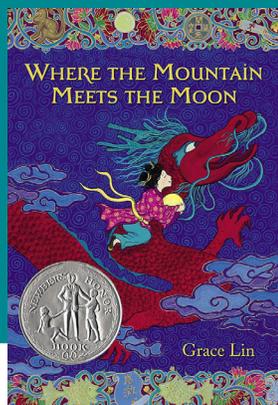
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Book Review

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon

Author

Grace Lin

Illustrator

Grace Lin

Reviewer

Cynthia Frazier

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Rating

Outstanding

Level

Primary

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Pages

282

Year

2009

ISBN

9780316114271

Publisher

Little, Brown Books for
Young Readers

Minli lives with her mother and father, Ma and Ba, in the shadow of the Fruitless Mountain, a desolate place where they eke out a living by working in muddy rice paddies from dawn until dark. The only bright spot of Minli's day is hearing one of Ba's stories before she goes to bed each night. The stories fill her heart with wonder and hope, so she decides to find the Old Man of the Moon, a character in one of Ba's stories who lives far away in the Never Ending Mountain, to ask for help for a better life for her family. Minli meets talking fish, a dragon that cannot fly, a buffalo herder, a King, and brave twins who trick a wicked green tiger on her journey. She is given gifts, offered advice, and has experiences that help her on her quest. Meanwhile Ma and Ba also take a journey, trying to find their missing daughter. Both journeys end with an understanding of the true meaning of wealth and happiness.

Grace Lin has woven Chinese folklore into the storyline of this book, creating stories within the story of Minli's family and her quest. These fables often connect with Minli's journey and add clues that help her find her way. The deep connections to Chinese legend are apparent through the prose and the lovely full-page color illustrations created in the traditional Chinese style. These depictions add this cultural atmosphere to the story. The chapters are short, easy for children to read, and appropriate for reading aloud. Like most fables, this book has a moral that would encourage discussion about friendship, honor, kindness, and priorities. Where the Mountain Meets the Moon is a Newbery Honor award winner.