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Celebrating The Mid-Autumn Festival (Chinese Festivals)



Synopsis

In these charming volumes, Little Mei asks her grandfather about each of the four different Chinese celebrations represented. He tells her the stories of Nian and the monster Xi (Chinese New Year); Qu Yuan, a patriotic poet who loved his kingdom (Dragon Boat Festival); the Jade Emperor of Heaven who ordered the earth to be destroyed by fire (Lantern Festival); and Hou Yi who shot down the suns (Mid-Autumn Festival). In Celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival Little Mei wants to know why her family members have all come together this evening. Grandpa tells her the story of Hou Yi who shot down the suns and his wife, Chang'e, who floats to the moon. Includes a quick recipe for moon cakes.

Book Information

Series: Chinese Festivals

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Non-religious

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

This book explains the Mid-Autumn or Moon Festival in simple, accessible language for young children. It was perfect for my three year old, and her five year old sister enjoyed it as well. The story follows little Mei as she celebrates the evening with her family. Her grandfather tells the story of Hou Yi, who shot down the nine suns. We have several different children's books about the Moon Festival, and this story varies from book to book. In this book, they tell the more upbeat tale where Hou Yi's wife Chang'e takes his potion of immortality to save it from the hands of a wicked warrior.

In some versions of this tale, she steals it because she is jealous. At the end of the book, the family makes mooncakes together and walks through the steps. But, it's not really a "quick recipe" as it says in the description. There are no portions, and quite honestly, making mooncakes is anything but a "quick" project. Still, it was fun to read the steps as we ate our mooncakes (picked up from the local Ranch 99 market). We'd definitely recommend this book to others, whether or not you are Chinese or know anything about this holiday to start with. It's a great way to introduce the holiday to young ones.

My six year old likes this book.

Easy to read, a great book for teaching Chinese culture. My toddlers and I enjoy reading it a lot. I highly recommend it to others.

I would like to point out that the Mid-Autumn Festival is not on the fifth day of the eighth month as stated in this book. It is probably a typo. The Mid-Autumn Festival is actually on the 15th day of the 8th month in the lunar calendar.

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