



# Mooncakes

Written by Loretta Seto

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# Mooncakes

By Loretta Seto

## Mooncakes Near Me

Mooncakes is the lyrical story of a young girl who shares the special celebration of the Chinese Moon Festival with her parents. As they eat mooncakes, drink tea and watch the night sky together, Mama and Baba tell ancient tales of a magical tree that can never be cut down, the Jade Rabbit who came to live on the moon and one brave woman's journey to eternal life. With a gentle focus on the importance of family, Mooncakes is a perfect book for parent and child to read together, while its educational aspect makes it ideal for school libraries that wish to provide an insight into a unique cultural holiday.

A young Asian-Canadian girl celebrates the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival with her parents in this lovely picture-book from debut author Loretta Seto and veteran illustrator Renn  Benoit. As the girl describes this special night, in which her Mama and Baba let her stay up late with them, watching the moon, eating mooncakes, and telling stories, three traditional Chinese folktales are worked into her narrative, in the form of tales told by her parents. The first is the tale of Chang-E, who swallowed the elixir of immortality to keep it from her cruel husband, the archer Hou-Yi, and now lives on the moon\*\*. A young Asian-Canadian girl celebrates the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival with her parents in this lovely picture-book from debut author Loretta Seto and veteran illustrator Renn  Benoit. As the girl describes this special night, in which her Mama and Baba let her stay up late with them, watching the moon, eating mooncakes, and telling stories, three traditional Chinese folktales are worked into her narrative, in the form of tales told by her parents. The first is the tale of Chang-E, who swallowed the elixir of immortality to keep it from her cruel husband, the archer Hou-Yi, and now lives on the moon\*\*. The second is the story of Wu-Gang, a woodcutter who chops eternally at the cassia tree standing in the Jade Emperor's garden on the moon. The third is the narrative of Jade Rabbit, brought to the moon by three magicians, who were amazed at his willingness to sacrifice himself, to feed others...

Only the second children's story I have read that is devoted to the subject of China's Mid-Autumn Moon Festival - the other was Grace Lin's *Thanking the Moon: Celebrating the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival* - Mooncakes is a lovely little picture-book, one that pairs an engaging narrative with appealing artwork. I appreciated the way that Loretta Seto managed to spin a story about a contemporary young girl and her loving bond with her parents, while also including some moon-related folklore from the Chinese tradition. The illustrations by Benoit, whose work I know from such titles as *Lily and the Paper Man*, are just lovely, with a wonderfully subtle autumnal palette that felt appropriate, given the subject matter. Recommended to anyone looking for picture-books about the celebration of the Moon Festival, or for children's stories that address Chinese folk beliefs about the moon.

\*\*Folklore enthusiasts will be interested to know that this is just one version of the story. In others, Chang-E swallows the elixir, not to keep it from her husband, but to keep it from an unrelated thief. This variant of the story sees her choosing to live on the moon in order to be close to her husband, who begins the tradition of making offerings to the moon, in order to assure Chang-E that she is still in his

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heart. ...more

## Mooncakes San Francisco

In Mooncakes by Loretta Seto, follows the story of a little girl who is celebrating the Moon Festival with her parents. As her family eats mooncakes, her parents share stories/folktales about the moon and those who live on the moon. This book does a great job of sharing the Chinese culture by the stories the parents tell their daughter and what the moon festival is all about. Although book itself does not have a resolution to a problem, but the Chinese folktales that are shared do. The book has

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In this book, Mooncakes by Loretta Seto, a little girl and her parents are celebrating the Chinese Moon Festival. As they eat traditional mooncakes, her parents tell her stories about 3 different Chinese folktales about the moon. My favorite part of this book is the accurate portrayal of the Chinese culture and holiday. I think this would be a great addition to the multicultural book section of a library because it really gives an authentic view of the culture and aspects of it including traditi

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## Mooncakes Chinese New Year

I was reading up on the Mid-Autumn Festival since some of my ESL students celebrate it (and one of them brought me mooncakes!), and this one came up on the list. Very nice tale, although too long for storytime. I actually enjoyed the addition of the traditional tales in the body of the story. And the illustrations were lovely. Very nice.

I'm using this for a lesson about family traditions. While I like the stories within the story, I wish there was only one or two. I think there ends up being too many 'moon' stories and they end up taking away from the story of the girl and her family, which was the story I liked best of them all.

## Mooncakes Book

I visited the Lan Su Chinese Garden in Portland, Oregon recently. While there I tried mooncakes for the first time. And that's when I was introduced to Loretta Seto's Mooncakes book. What a simple, little kids book that teaches simple truths. I learned a little about Chinese culture; I learned about the Jade Emperor, Hou-Yi, and Chang-E; I learned about Wu-Gang, the selfish woodcutter; and I learned about the Jade Rabbit. Good little book. Great art.

Genre: Traditional

Published: 2013

This was a heart-warming book about the Chinese moon festival. The family shares stories and enjoy their time together during this tradition.

I could use this in my classroom during a festival of cultures unit!

## Mooncakes Online

This book was very cozy, explaining the Chinese moon festival from the point of a little girl and her parents. I would use this book around that time to teach the children about the festival, some students may not know it even exists.

Genre: Childrens

Copyright: 2013

Informative, adorable, and full of folk lore. What a lovely book. I particularly liked the tea pot ;).



## Mooncakes Comic

this book is beautiful, both in illustrious and depictions of a rich family and cultural celebration.

This book has lovely illustrations, and several stories in one. It would be very nice if the recipes for mooncakes and tea were included.

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## Mooncakes For Sale

it would be good for teaching about holidays around the world

A very sweet book about the legends told around the Mooncakes Festival. I would have appreciated a recipe or description of the mooncakes for better visualization as I have never eaten one.

## Mooncakes In Chinese

Has three simple, traditional stories told during the Mid-Autumn (Moon) Festival, and talks about the things that families do to celebrate the festival.

Coming from a Chinese family, I appreciate the existence of this book. It reminds me of my family traditions and the Chinese culture that have been forgotten.

## Mooncakes Recipes

This book shares the story of a girl who shares the celebration of the Moon Festival with her parents. They make moon cakes, drink tea, and watch the night sky together. The parents tell ancient tales of a magical tree that cannot be cut down, and a brave women's journey to eternal life. This book stresses the importance of family, and is perfect for a parent and child to read together.

Mooncakes by Loretta Seto is about an unnamed girl who is celebrating the Chinese Moon Festival with her parents. As parent of the celebration, the parents tell their daughter three Chinese tales that relate to the moon: A woman who gains eternal life to help others, an ancient tree that can never be chopped down, and of a rabbit that would give his life to help others.

The story is told in a very lyrical way. The words flow together as if singing a song. When read aloud it would help children to draw to the story. Mooncakes by Loretta Seto is about an unnamed girl who is celebrating the Chinese Moon Festival with her parents. As parent of the celebration, the parents tell their daughter three Chinese tales that relate to the moon: A woman who gains eternal life to help others, an ancient tree that can never be chopped down, and of a rabbit that would give his life to help others.

The story is told in a very lyrical way. The words flow together as if singing a song. When read aloud it would help children to draw to the story. The book also hopes to teach others about this festival and different Chinese tales that go with it. It tell how this festival is important from the eyes of a child and how she finds importance in her heritage.

The illustration in this story show a few different events that happen during this festival such as eating mooncakes, making lanterns, and gathering with family. The pictures also elaborate on what is happening in the three separate stories. The pictures also show the time difference of the tales. When telling about the family, the pictures show modern times, but once the tales start they switch, telling the story as if it were ancient China. During these illustrations they also show the little girls face. This shows how the daughter is reacting to the story. The girl is seen as amazed by the story and how she special this moment is between her and her parents. ...more