

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon

Recommended for Grades 4-8

Book Summary: Where the Mountain Meets the Moon

In the small, poor village of Fruitless Mountain, all the villagers are dull and disheartened except Minli who is kept in good spirits by the stories her Ba tells her every night. She questions their poor circumstances and seeks to make things better for her parents. One day, a goldfish man comes and Minli, enchanted by the gold fish, buys it in the hopes of changing her family's fortune. That night, her Ba tells her the story of the Man in the Moon who can answer any question. When Minli releases her fish, it tells her how she can find the Man in the Moon. Determined to ask the Man in the Moon how she can better her family's fortune, Minli sets off to the mountain.

Along the way, she rescues Dragon, who also seeks advice from the Man in the Moon and together they share adventures as Minli follows the instructions the goldfish gave her.

While Minli is gone, her parents go to find her. They meet the goldfish man who takes pity on them and gives them a second goldfish that speaks to Ba. After a time, they decide they can only be patient and believe that Minli will find her way home.

[Spoiler]

Minli finally reaches the Man in the Moon and discovers that she can only ask one question. In the Man in the Moon's book, she finds the answer to her question and chooses to ask Dragon's question instead.

Ma, having scorned Ba's stories in the past, begins to listen to them more attentively. Then, she tells him one of her own about how her discontentment with their fortune caused Minli to run away and Ma begs Ba's forgiveness.

Minli returns to her parents and she discovers that the entire village is changed when the mountain and river are fruitful again.

Author Biography: Grace Lin

Grace Lin was born May 17, 1974 in New Hartford, New York. While her sisters excelled in science, Grace Lin proved to have an aptitude for art. She graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design and soon after published her first book, *The Ugly Vegetables*, which received positive recognition. In 2007, she received an honorable mention from the Asian/Pacific American Awards for Literature as well as a Newbery honor for *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* in 2009. She has written more than two dozen children's books.

She currently lives in Somerville, Massachusetts with her husband, Robert Mercer, and daughter.



Oswego Campus
32 W Jefferson Street
Oswego, IL 60543
www.oswego.lib.il.us

Montgomery Campus
1111 Reading Drive
Montgomery, IL 60538
(630) 978-1272

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon

Recommended for Grades 4-8

Discussion Questions: Where the Mountain Meets the Moon

1. Even though the rest of the village was brown and dull, Minli was not. Why do you think the stories her father told her affected her this way? Which kinds of stories do you find exciting?
 2. Minli spends one of her coins to buy the fish. The other villagers consider it foolish. Do you think Minli did a good thing? Why or why not?
 3. Why does Minli believe that The Old Man in the Moon will know how her family can change their fortune? What would you do to help your family if you were Minli?
 4. Minli strays from the path when she is intrigued by salt water and finds the dragon. Is curiosity a good thing? Why or why not? How would things have been different if Minli hadn't stopped to find Dragon?
 5. Within the story, there are many short stories. Did you find this format effective? Why or why not? What other ways could the author have used to share the information in the short stories?
 6. Minli tricked the monkeys with rice so she and Dragon could pass through the peach grove. Why did the monkeys refuse to give up the rice? How did Minli know her plan would work?
 7. Why do Minli's parents conclude that they are not meant to find her? Should they have kept searching? What would you have done? Why?
 8. What are some qualities of a good friendship? Which of these qualities do you see in Minli and Dragon's friendship?
 9. How has the journey changed Minli? How has it changed Dragon? If you were journeying with them, how do you think you'd be changed?
 10. How did Minli's absence affect Ma's feelings about Ba's stories? Why does she seem to enjoy the stories now?
 11. Minli could only ask one question. Why did she choose to ask Dragon's? What would you do if you were Minli? Whose question is more important? Why?
 12. How did the Fruitless Mountain become the Village of Fruitful Mountain? How did Minli end up on changing her family's fortune? Do you think she found the answer she was looking for? Why or why not?
-



Oswego Campus
32 W Jefferson Street
Oswego, IL 60543
www.oswego.lib.il.us

Montgomery Campus
1111 Reading Drive
Montgomery, IL 60538
(630) 978-1272