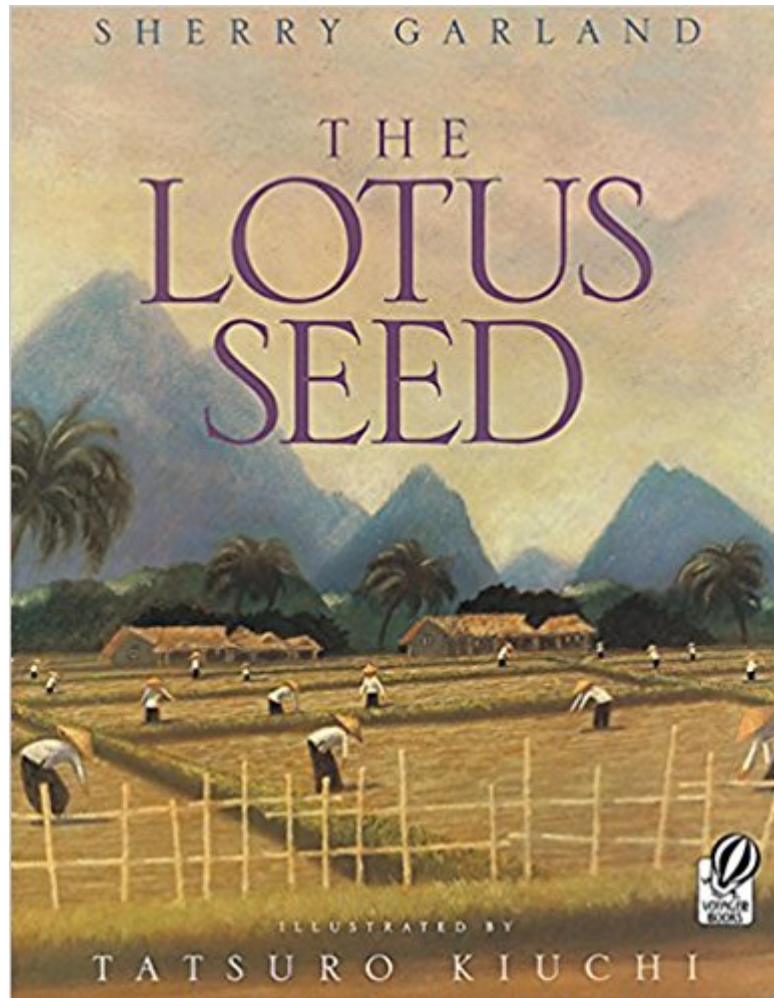




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The Lotus Seed



Synopsis

When she is forced to leave Vietnam, a young girl brings a lotus seed with her to America in remembrance of her homeland. "Exquisite artwork fuses with a compelling narrative--a concise endnote places the story effectively within a historical context--to produce a moving and polished offering."--Publishers Weekly

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 810 (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (February 15, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0152014837

ISBN-13: 978-0152014834

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.2 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 24 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #33,195 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Asian & Asian American #28 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Asia #77 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews

The "spare simplicity" of this tale about a Vietnamese refugee is "richly amplified by arresting, light-filled paintings," said PW in a starred review. Ages 6-10. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 2-5-- A nameless Vietnamese narrator tells of her grandmother who, as a girl, accidentally sees the last emperor cry on the day of his abdication. She surreptitiously enters the palace gardens and takes a lotus seed as a remembrance of that day and her ruler. She keeps the seed with her through vicissitudes of war, flight, and emigration until one summer a grandson (the narrator's brother) steals it and plants it in a mud pool near the family's American home. Grandmother is inconsolable when the exact spot cannot be found. The following spring, a lotus grows from the mud

puddle and in time the elderly woman gives a seed to each of her grandchildren, reserving one for herself. The narrator vows to plant hers one day, give the seeds to her own children, keep the tradition, and share her grandmother's memories. This tale of hope and continuance is told with disarming simplicity. Interesting oil paintings, largely in earth tones, are slightly mannered, yet culturally accurate, and often moving in their amplification of the text. A warm addition to school and public library collections. --John Philbrook, San Francisco Public Library Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Visuals and narrative are captivating to my 5th grader.

As I look at this book through the eyes or ears of a child, I could easily become baffled about what this book is about. In order to understand the meaning behind the text, I would have to know more than I am given by the author. I would have to know about the Chinese culture in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, who Emperor's were and what were their powers, and what events led to the end of the Emperor's reign. Further, I would have to know what a lotus is and why it is so magical. With all of that safely in my mind, I could then begin to read a very quiet, spare, and thoughtful book about another time and another place. A book that could be called historical fiction, but is so much more than that sterile label. I highly recommend this book but only if you do some prep work before opening the cover.

I use this book as part of my curriculum to teach comprehension strategies. This book works well for questioning before, during, and after the story. There is an authors note that will help answer some of the generated questions. The story of a young woman having to leave vietnam when war breaks out would also go nicely with a social studies unit on immigration. Using this book helps to build a multi cultural classroom. I sometimes have Vietnamese students who's families have a similar story. Its nice for children to see themselves represented in books.

I use this book to talk about multiple perspectives in history with my class. It has lovely pictures and a good story line.

Excellent text! Used to model inference skills with my students (grade 4) , also good for introducing immigration

Good book

What a nice book for our children in the elementary school, for teachers to read to them. thanks so much for finding me such a nice copy of this book.

This is a very good story, and it appropriate for younger kids.

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