

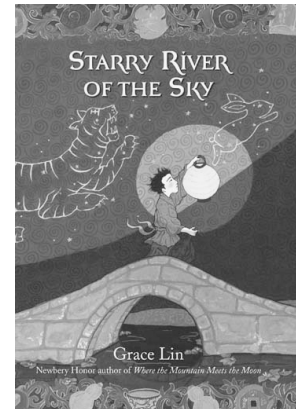


PALACE OF THE SUN & MOON

An Astronomy Activity for the Book, *The Starry River of the Sky* by Grace Lin

ABOUT THE BOOK

The Starry River of the Sky by Grace Lin (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers) is the story of the boy Rendi, who runs away from his family only to find himself in a village where the moon has disappeared. Each night, instead of seeing the moon, Rendi is troubled by mournful moans that only he can hear. The only thing that distracts Rendi are the stories of Madame Chang. Are there hidden meanings in these tales that will explain the moon's disappearance? Will Rendi discover them and restore the balance?



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Grace Lin is the author and illustrator of picture books, early readers and middle grade novels. Grace's 2010 Newbery Honor book *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* was chosen for the Today Show Kid's Book Club and was a NYT's Bestseller. *Ling & Ting*, Grace's first early reader, was honored with the Theodor Geisel Honor in 2011. An Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award nominee for the US, most of Grace's books are about the Asian-American experience because she believes, "Books erase bias, they make the uncommon everyday, and the mundane exotic. A book makes all cultures universal." More at www.GraceLin.com.

PALACE OF THE SUN & MOON

Madame Chang tells many stories about the sun and the moon at the Inn of Clear Sky, just as people throughout history have told stories to explain the rising and the setting of the sun and the waxing and waning of the moon. These ancient stories combine excellent observations of the skies with wonderful storytelling.

Can you use your knowledge of modern astronomy or read books from the library to explain what is happening in Madame Chang's stories?

1) In Madame Chang's "The Story of the Rooster's Song" (pages 43-46), the sun goes into hiding and only peeks out when it hears the friendly song of a rooster.

With your knowledge of the planet, can you explain why it looks like the sun is rising up from behind the hills to look at roosters and the rest of the world around us?





PALACE OF THE SUN & MOON

An Astronomy Activity for the Book, *The Starry River of the Sky* by Grace Lin

2) In Madame Chang's "The Story of WangYi's Wife" (pages 96-102), the wife who has been transformed into a toad leaps "higher than the palace rooftops and mountain peak--into where the sky turned into the Starry River."

Do you know a modern name in English for that "river" of stars?

3) In Madame Chang's "Story of WangYi's Dream" (pages 187-195), WangYi is sent to rule in the Palace of the Sun while his wife rules in the Palace of the Moon. WangYi is able to see his wife every 29 days when she is at her most beautiful. When WangYi leaves, his wife "worries that he may again lapse into bad behavior and will not be able to visit, so the moon wanes and fades."

Do you know what happens to the moon every 29 days and in between? Can you draw the cycles of the moon? Perhaps you can draw the Moon Lady's face on the moon when it is full!

