

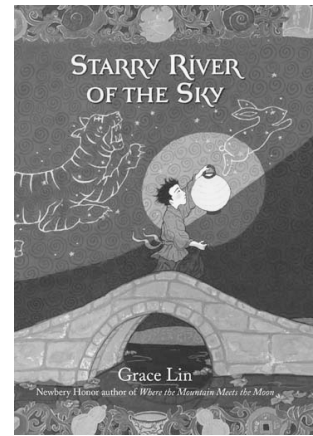


# CARRY FORWARD THE LIGHT

Hidden Meanings 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](http://www.GraceLin.com).

## HIDDEN MEANING OF NAMES

In Grace Lin's Author's Note, she said that while she wrote *The Starry River of the Sky*, Chinese myths "permeated my soul and consumed my thoughts." She was mesmerized by the hidden meanings of words, symbols, names, and even animals in Chinese culture. In creating her own stories, Grace Lin hid meaning in her own words, symbols, names, and even animals. Even the names of her characters have secret meanings.

On the left you will see the characters names. Each name is a word or phrase in Chinese. Can you draw a line from the character's name to a meaning that would suit them? Look for a hint on the next page to get you started!

Rendi	Carry Forward the Light
Peiyi	Mountain
MeiLan	Exceed, Surpass
Jiming	Enlightened by Benevolence
Master Chao	Moon Lady
Widow Yan	Strict, Stern
Mr. Shan	Upholding Friendship
Madame Chan	Pretty Orchid





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Need a hint to get you started on matching character names to Chinese words or phrases?

This picture may show you which character has a name that means "Enlightened by Benevolence." Who was changed by the kindness of the people around him?

## The Meaning of Your Name

Names have meaning in most cultures. Can you look at a name dictionary at the library or a baby name website online and discover the origin and meaning of your name? Ask a family member why you were given your name. What they tell you may say something about where your ancestors came from, what your family hoped you would become, or simply the sweet sound of the language the name comes from. Think about nicknames you have heard and where they came from. There is hidden meaning wherever you look!

Answers: Rend=Enlightened by Benevolence, Peiyi=Upholding Friendship,  
MeiLan=Pretty Orchid, Jiming=Carry Forward the Light, Master Chao=Exceed, Surpass,  
Widow Yan=Strict, Stern, Shan=Mountain, Madame Chang=Moon Lady

