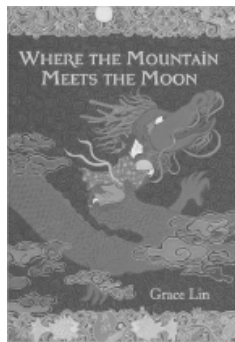




# Minli's Journey:

An Event Kit to Introduce Readers to the Book,  
WHERE THE MOUNTAIN MEETS THE MOON

## The Book & Event



### ***Where the Mountain Meets the Moon***

by Grace Lin

Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

ISBN-13: 9780316114271

Age Range: 8 to 12

In the chapter book, ***Where the Mountain Meets the Moon***, Minli goes on a journey to find the Old Man of the Moon in hopes of improving the fortune of her family. Many people and creatures help her on her way, including her dragon companion. But what gets Minli through her journey is her ability to listen to others and solve a series of problems or puzzles. It is no surprise that her name means "quick thinking."

For the event, pairs of readers are given a tool bag of items that they will take with them on their journey from puzzle to puzzle. Each puzzle will require the readers to leave behind an item in their tool bag or to take a new item for their tool bag. At the end of the series of puzzles, the readers are rewarded with a mysterious gift. The meaning of that gift can only be revealed by reading ***Where the Mountain Meets the Moon***.

This event can be done with large groups or smaller groups like mother-daughter book groups.

## Event Purpose

For readers of the book, the event allows them to relive the story of Minli's journey and mimic her problem-solving. For readers who have not yet read ***Where the Mountain Meets the Moon***, it allows for many elusive "teasers" to encourage them to read the story.



## Event Space

This event can be held anywhere. Make sure the space has 10 chairs or tabletop space enough for 10 grocery bags. The event will be done by teams of two. It is great to have enough space so that one team cannot see what another team is doing or deciding. It is also great if the space has room for an activity to keep the waiting team members busy and away from the active teams.

## Preparing for the Event: Send Invitations

Timing: 6 weeks or more before the event

You may wish to use the invitation in this packet to announce the event. Some groups have invited children to attend in their favorite Chinese dress.

## Preparing for the Event: Get Volunteers

Timing: 6 weeks or more before the event

It is best to have at least 3 people working this event. If you plan to hold other activities, you will need more.

## Preparing for the Event: Order the Books

Timing: 4 weeks or more before the event

After completing this event, past participants have been very eager to read the book. If you are able to arrange book sales through a local bookseller, book wholesaler, or through the publisher directly at 800-759-0190, you may very well have healthy sales.

## Preparing for the Event: Decide on the Numbers

Timing: 3 weeks or more before the event

You will need a rough guess on the number of attendees to be able to gather supplies. The event is best done in teams so you can halve your participant number for the quantity of supplies (except for the marbles, which you will need one of for every participant). If you guess incorrectly and run out of supplies for the teams--no worries. Your teams will be leaving behind most of their supplies as part of the event, so you can always stop and gather supplies from previous teams.

## Your Notes:

## Preparing for the Event: Gather Supplies

Timing: 3 or more weeks before the event

\_\_\_ Book: Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin

Quantity: At least one copy to read aloud or more if you plan to sell or give away the books.

Suggested Vendor: Bookseller

\_\_\_ Jumbo Marble

Quantity: 1 for each participant. Order extra as this is a take-home item for each participant.

Suggested Vendor: <http://www.moonmarble.com/>

Item Name: Oily Jumbos, <http://www.moonmarble.com/p-819-oily-jumbos.aspx>

Item Note: If you do not get this specific marble, look for Jumbos that are milky. They are supposed to look like a pearl of any color.

\_\_\_ Plastic Goldfish

Quantity: 1 for each team

Suggested Vendor: Oriental Trading Company

Item Name: Vinyl Goldfish

\_\_\_ Plastic Knife

Quantity: 1 for each team

Suggested Vendor: Grocery store or your household

\_\_\_ Netting from an Onion, Garlic or Citrus Bag

Quantity: 1 for each team

Suggested Vendor: Grocery store or your household

\_\_\_ Paper Bag (Standard Size)

Quantity: 10

Suggested Vendor: Grocery store or your household

\_\_\_ Paper lunch bag or paper bag twice that size

Quantity: 1 for each team

Suggested Vendor: Grocery store or your household

\_\_\_ I-Ching Coin

Quantity: 1 for each team

Suggested Vendor: Asian Gift or Grocery

Item Note: You could also use a penny or plastic coins

\_\_\_ Chopsticks

Quantity: 1 pair for each team

Suggested Vendor: Asian Gift or Grocery

\_\_\_ Scrap of Chinese fabric

Quantity: 1 for each team

Suggested Vendor: Craft Store

\_\_\_ Pocket mirror

Quantity: 1 for each team

Suggested Vendor: Craft Store

Item Note: These stores often have thin plastic mirrors that can be cut with scissors

\_\_\_ Red Embroidery Thread

Quantity: 4 feet per team

Suggested Vendor: Craft Store

Preparation Note: fold and tie 3 feet of the thread so it will not get tangled with other bundles of thread. Keep the extra for a later purpose.

\_\_\_ Card Stock 8 1/2 " x 11"

Quantity: 1 sheet per team

Suggested Vendor: Office Store or Household

Preparation Note: Cut the paper into a 8" square and fold in half diagonally

\_\_\_ Scotch Tape

Quantity: 1-2 dispensers

Suggested Vendor: Office Store or Household

Your Notes:

## Preparing for the Event: Assign Tasks to Volunteers

Timing: 1 week or less before the event

**Volunteer 1: The Host:** This volunteer will meet readers at your gathering place, read the script (and complete the actions in the script), and then read from ***Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*** to pass the time while the teams wait for their turn.

Volunteer 1 will need:

\_\_\_ A copy of ***Where the Mountain Meets the Moon***

\_\_\_ A copy of the script (in this packet)

**Volunteer 2: The Tour Guide:** This volunteer will travel to each puzzle bag with readers, helping them if they get stuck. This event is about readers solving puzzles themselves, so this volunteer should only step in if the reader gets frustrated. At the final puzzle, have them hide their gift (the marble) from the other teams until the event is through. This is noted on the cheat sheet.

Volunteer 2 will need:

\_\_\_ A copy of the cheat sheet (in this packet)

**Volunteer 3: The Tour Director:** This volunteer should be in control of releasing each new team. It is best to not to release the new team until the previous team has completed the kite making task at Puzzle 9.

## Preparing for the Event: Prep the Materials

Timing: 1 week or less before the event

\_\_\_ Print Posters in Color  
Quantity: 1 each (in this packet)

\_\_\_ Print Out Script

\_\_\_ Print Out Cheat Sheet

\_\_\_ Prepare Puzzle Bags

What you are creating is a place where the teams can reach in and leave items or take items without being able to easily see inside.

- Tape or glue a poster on one side of the grocery or shopping bag with the bottom of the poster close to the bottom of the bag.
- Cut a letter slot sized hole (8 1/2 " W x 2 1/2 " H) in the top of the bag above the poster.

Your Notes:



## Preparing for the Event: Prep the Materials (cont.)

### \_\_\_ Stuff the Puzzle Bags

Each poster is marked with a number, 1-10, so you should now have ten bags marked 1-10. Stuff the following bags with the following items:

- Bag 5 - Card Stock (cut and folded)
- Bag 6 - Red Embroidery Thread (folded and tied so they won't tangle)
- Bag 10 - Marbles (you might need to reinforce the bottom of this bag)

### \_\_\_ Stuff the Tool Bags

Each tool bag should get:

- Plastic Goldfish
- Plastic Knife
- Netting
- I-Ching Coin
- Pair of Chopsticks
- Scrap of Chinese fabric
- Pocket mirror

Put these all in the bag, gather the top of the bag in your fist, scrunch it, and tie it off with extra red string or other string. Mark each bag with a number. This will determine team order.

## Preparing for the Event: Set Up on Day of the Event

### \_\_\_ Place the Puzzle Bags

You will want to place the puzzle bags so that one team's decision cannot be seen or heard by another. You can accomplish this by spacing the bags far apart, or better yet, releasing the teams one at a time. The bags must, though, be placed in order. Bag 1 can be placed at your gathering place as a demonstration.

## The Event: What Happens When the Readers Arrive

### \_\_\_ Read the Script & Steps Including:

\_\_\_ Have the Readers Choose a Partner for a Team

\_\_\_ Hand Out the Tool Bags to Teams

\_\_\_ Have the Teams Look at the Number (this is their team number and order they will do the event in)

\_\_\_ Demonstrate How the Event Works by Having Everyone Place Goldfish in Puzzle Bag 1

\_\_\_ Release the Teams One by One

\_\_\_ Hold the Reading as the teams go through.

## The Script

Welcome to Minli's Journey, an event for readers of great Chinese stories that include dragons, quests, fortune (both good and bad), and brave heroes and heroines.

Today we will hear a little bit about the heroine, Minli, whose complete story appears in the chapter book *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin.

Minli lives with her mother and father in a small, poor, colorless village below Fruitless Mountain. Her family toils in the rice fields all day, but despite their hard work, they are still very poor and have barely enough to eat. Minli is so determined to change her family's fortune that she spends one of the two coins given to her at birth on a goldfish. A goldfish? Yes, she does this because the goldfish man that comes to her village says a house with a goldfish will attract gold and jade.

Minli's mother is angry with her for spending her coin on a useless fish, but Minli's father says that fortunes can be changed. He tells Minli the story of the Old Man of the Moon, who is the guardian of the Book of Fortune that holds all the knowledge of the world--the past, the present, and the future. If you can find the Old Man of the Moon on his mountaintop, he will answer any question you ask.

Minli, of course, wants to ask the Old Man of the Moon how to change her family's fortune. It is an impossible task, though, for no one knows the way to Old Man of the Moon's mountaintop...Or do they?

Minli discovers the path to the mountaintop from a very unlikely creature. The directions she receives, though, are very much like a puzzle, and she will need all of her intelligence, bravery, and ability to make friends (with both people and creatures) to solve the puzzle and find the mountain.

Now, I know that many of you in the room are intelligent, brave, and make friends easily. Would you like to try and solve the puzzle and receive good fortune from the Old Man of the Moon?

Yes?

Well, first I need you to find a partner or companion to take on the journey with you. Choose someone in the room. It is okay to choose someone you have never met before. Minli herself makes friends along her journey. [HELP WITH PAIRINGS]

## The Script (cont.)

Now you are a team looking for your fortune just like Minli and her companion. Can anyone guess who her companion is?

No? I will tell you this one secret from the book--her companion is a dragon. One of you can be Minli and one can be a dragon.

Now each team will receive a bag of tools to help them on the journey [HAND OUT THE TEAM BAGS].

Look inside the bag and look at the items together. Study them closely. [PAUSE WHILE THEY LOOK]. What do you have to take on your journey?

You will be asked to solve 10 puzzles. You will need one of these items to solve each puzzle. At each puzzle, you will decide which item will solve the problem and leave it behind. We will do the first one together. [PICK UP PUZZLE BAG 1]

"Release your goldfish to the Jade River to be given directions for your journey." What shall we leave behind here? Yes, we will leave the goldfish behind. [HAVE THEM EACH PLACE THEIR GOLDFISH IN THE BAG]

You will also be given things on your journey. Look closely at each puzzle. Some may ask you to reach in the bag and take something. That item you take may be needed later.

Questions? There will be guides along the way to help you if you get lost.

There is a number on your bag that tells you what order you will go in. Who has number one? You will go first.

The rest of you will stay with me and we will learn more about Minli's story until your turn comes. [BEGIN READING FROM BOOK].

## The Cheat Sheet

### Puzzle Bag 1

POSTER TEXT: You must release the goldfish into the Jade River to start your journey.

ACTION: Leave the goldfish.

### Puzzle Bag 2

POSTER TEXT: Cut the ropes that bind the weeping dragon and you will have a traveling companion.

ACTION: Leave the knife.

### Event Station 3

POSTER TEXT: You must get by the greedy monkeys blocking your path. Leave something behind that they might get caught in.

ACTION: Leave the net.

### Event Station 4

POSTER TEXT: You must speak with the King. The Beggar might lead you the King. Give the poor Beggar something from your bag.

ACTION: Leave the coin.

### Event Station 5

POSTER TEXT: The King wants to give you something to help you on your journey. Reach inside this bag and take what the King offers.

ACTION: Take folded card stock.

### Event Station 6

POSTER TEXT: The lions of the gate also have a gift for you. Reach in this bag and see what mysterious thing they have given you.

ACTION: Take the embroidery thread.

### Event Station 7

POSTER TEXT: If the tiger sees you, he may attack you! Leave behind something that will distract him with his own reflection.

ACTION: Leave the mirror.

### Event Station 8

POSTER TEXT: The mountains you must cross are cold and windy. Someone will make you a warm jacket if you give them something for the jacket's creation.

ACTION: Leave the scrap of cloth.

### Event Station 9

POSTER TEXT: You have come to the bottom of the mountain where the Old Man of the Moon lives. With the items you have left, build something that will journey above the clouds to tell the Old Man of the Moon you have arrived.

ACTION: They will have paper, thread, and chopsticks left to build a kite.

### Event Station 10

POSTER TEXT: The Old Man of the Moon has answered your question and granted you a gift. Both of you, reach in to take your mysterious gift. What could it be? Read Grace Lin's ***Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*** to understand what wonders lie in your hand and in your future.

ACTION: **Each team member gets a marble and a flyer. Tell them to keep the gift secret from the other teams until the event is done.**

## What Happens Next?

After your readers have read ***Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*** by Grace Lin, visit **[www.gracelin.com](http://www.gracelin.com)** for an activity guide for the book that includes:

- Finding Your Way to the Never-Ending Mountain (or Anywhere): A Compass Making Project
- Drawing Dragons into Life: An Art Activity
- Determining the Age of a Dragon (One Peach Tree at a Time): A Math Activity
- Follow the Red Threads and Map Your Connections: A Genealogy Activity
- Coming to Journey's End: Book Discussion Questions
- Food Fit for A King: A Cooking Activity



You are Invited to Attend:

# MINLI'S JOURNEY

An Event Based on Grace Lin's  
New Novel for Young Readers  
That Honors Chinese Legends,

WHERE THE MOUNTAIN MEETS THE MOON

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Date:

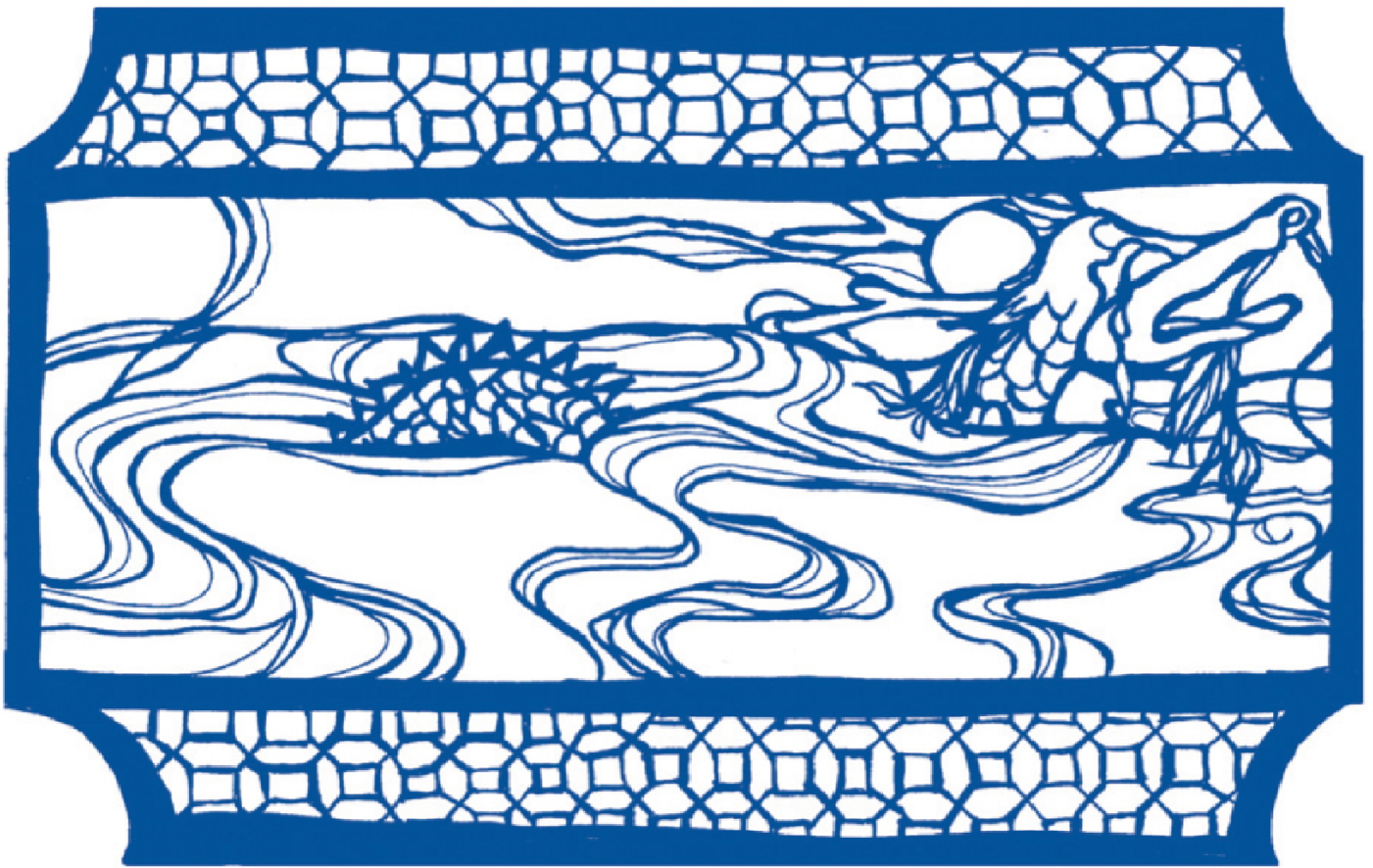
Time:

Location:



You must release the  
goldfish into the Jade River  
to start of your journey.





Cut the ropes that bind the weeping dragon and you will have a traveling companion.

Minli's Journey: Puzzle 2





You must get by the greedy monkeys blocking your path. Leave something behind that they might get caught in.



You must speak with the King.  
The Beggar might lead you to  
the King. Give the poor Beggar  
something from your bag.



The King wants to give you something to help you on your journey. Reach inside this bag and take what the King offers.

Mínlí's Journey: Puzzle 5



The lions of the gate also have a gift for you. Reach in this bag and see what mysterious thing they have given you.





If the tiger sees you, he may attack you! Leave behind something that will distract him with his own reflection.

Minli's Journey: Puzzle 7



The mountains you must cross are cold and windy. Someone will make you a warm jacket if you give them something for the jacket's creation.



You have come to the bottom of the mountain where the Old Man of the Moon lives. With the items you have left, build something that will journey above the clouds to tell the Old Man of the Moon you have arrived.

Minli's Journey: Puzzle 9





The Old Man of the Moon has answered your question and granted you a gift.

Both of you, reach in this bag to take your mysterious gift. What could it be?

Read Grace Lin's *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* to understand what wonders lie in your hand and in your future.