



THE GATE, THE GIRL AND THE DRAGON: BOOK CLUB GUIDE

From award-winning and bestselling author of *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* Grace Lin comes a gorgeously full-color illustrated story about a lion cub and a girl who must open a portal for the spirits, based on Chinese folklore.

Use these questions to guide your book discussion after you read the book!



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1. Gongshi are tasked with caring for people. If you were a Gongshi, who or what would you want to look after? How do characters care for one another over the course of the story? What do you think it means to be part of a community?
2. Throughout the book, characters tell stories within the larger story. Which one of these stories was your favorite? What did you learn from it? How do these shorter stories relate to the story of Jin, Lulu, and the Sacred Sphere? Why are stories important?
3. Ba tells Jin that “each thread of connection is important” (p. 16). What do you think Ba means by this? How does this idea of connectivity appear in the rest of the book?
4. At the start of the book Jin and Ba have different ideas about what is most important. Who do you agree with? Do you think parents and children see the world differently? Why?
5. Jin and Lulu both want their fathers to see them, but not in the same way. What does it mean to be seen? What does it mean to believe in someone or something? What does it mean to have hope?
6. The Worm tells Jin that “the goddess smiles down upon the one who takes care of a bridge so it never had a hole in the first place” (p. 128). How can you take care of the world around you?
7. How are the Dragon and the Worm different from one another? How do they treat other characters differently? Who would you be more likely to trust? Why?
8. In the end, the Worm says, “there is no end...there is only change” (p. 329). What does it mean to change? How do Jin and other characters change throughout the book?
9. Who was your favorite character? What did you like most about them?
10. In her Author’s Note, Grace Lin talks about growing ideas and how she “combined ideas together to create this new story” (p. 340). Where do your ideas come from? How do you think you can grow them into something new?