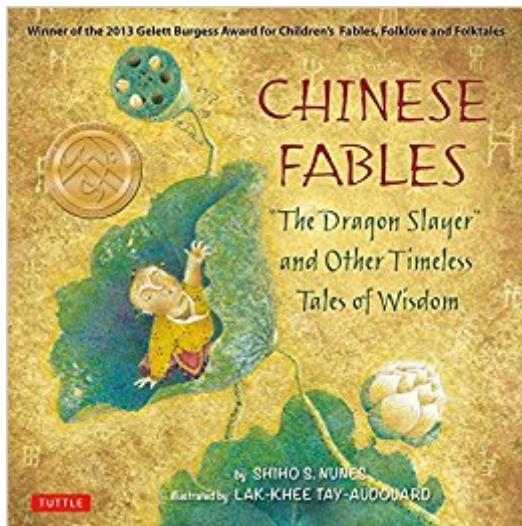


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Chinese Fables: The Dragon Slayer And Other Timeless Tales Of Wisdom



Synopsis

Winner of the 2014 Aesop Prize for Children's and Young Adult Literature**Winner of the 2013 Gelett Burgess Children's Book Award for Fables, Folklore & Fairytales****2014 Creative Child Magazine Book of the Year Award Winner**For thousands of years, Chinese storytellers have delighted listeners with stories about the value of virtues like honesty, respect, courage and self-reliance. Chinese Fables collects nineteen of these wonderful tales, some of them dating back to the third century BCE, and retells them in contemporary English for a modern audience. Each of these stories offers a nugget of ancient folk wisdom and shares aspects of Chinese culture and lore. All of the tales express the foibles and wisdom of human experience with great humor and affection. And although the lessons are universal, the wit and flavor are uniquely Chinese. Beautifully illustrated by a master Chinese artist using a patchwork of ancient tones and textures, with a deft touch of humor, this book will give great joy to children and adults alike. Chinese children's stories include: The Practical Bride, Stealing the Bell, Kwan Yin, the Goddess of Mercy, Cooking the Duck, Scaring the Tigers, The Dragon Slayer

Book Information

Hardcover: 64 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 14 customer reviews

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 6

Customer Reviews

Gr 2-5-This thought-provoking collection of 19 tales will resonate with readers familiar with more commonly known fables or parables such as those of Aesop or the Bible. Nunes draws upon

Chinese yu-yen, or cautionary tales; some of them date to the 4th and 3rd centuries BCE. She expands the original versions into brief (one to three page) tales accompanied by Tay-Audouard's enticing illustrations. A wry sense of humor runs through these selections, which point out the folly of arrogance, vanity, greed, and other common failings. Some tales celebrate virtues, such as "The Practical Bride" whose resourceful heroine solves her wedding-day dilemma of a poorly made sedan chair without mussing her elaborate wedding headdress. A grazing cow teaches an arrogant musician a lesson in "The Wrong Audience." Other standouts include "Sakyamuni and Lao-Tse" and "Scaring the Tigers

Nineteen tales about human folly caused by vanity, pride, dishonesty, and some less strident weaknesses maintain their centuries-old timelessness— but with a contemporary relevance achieved through language, tone, and illustration. In two- to four-page stories, readers are invited to laugh at the foolishness of Chán, who believes he can mute the cacophony of a huge bell he has stolen by plugging his own ears with rags. And readers will smile when the fox, as always, outsmarts the lion. Perceptive readers might notice a theme: animals are smarter than people, and women are smarter than men. Tay-Audouard's pencil-and-wash on bamboo rag paper complements the text perfectly: it is unmistakably, traditionally Chinese, and gentle caricatured facial expressions lend humor and whimsy, right down to the curve of a wily eyebrow or the O of an ignorant mouth. This will be a welcome addition to a classroom set of fables from around the world. Grades 3-6. --Amina Chaudhri

Beautifully crafted stories and illustrations.

Awesomely funny and cute!

The fables are slightly interesting and but the translation is terrible.

It was wonderful to see it published before the author Shiho Nunes, our friend passed away. We understood that it won the Folklore award. My husband and I had read several of the tales as they were first written and before the collection was sent for publication. My husband had done several drawings for it but Shiho said "it isn't Chinese enough". Also we understand that publishers have their own stable of artists. The page of acknowledgements was a surprise as the author thanked my husband for his help. She was a great story teller and witty woman. Karen SislerHonolulu, HI

Hope my 4 year old Granddaughter feels the same!

A jogging bride, a musician who woos a cow, a noisy thief, rambunctious religionists, mercenary monks, an unemployed dragon slayer: These are some of the characters vividly portrayed in Shiho Nunes' Chinese Fables. The one-to two-page tales, which date from 500 BCE to the 12th century CE, are reminiscent of currently popular flash fiction, rich in detail despite their succinctness. In fact the source for this book is a collection of story lines that Ms. Nunes has fleshed out brilliantly. Illustrations by Lak-Khee Tay-Audouard are at once charming and sumptuous, with exquisite elaboration. Chinese Fables is an ideal gift for either children or adults.

Beautiful book! Nice larger size, lovely images. Decent construction, not cheap break apart binding.

It gives an idea of what Chinese fables are like.

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