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Chinatown
Synopsis

Chinatown. City within a city. Home to street cobblers and herbalists, tai chi masters and kung fu students, outdoor fish markets and lots and lots of restaurants. And best of all, when the Chinese New Year begins there's a New Year's Day parade, complete with a lion dance. Young readers will be equally fascinated by the tour of this colorful neighborhood—and by their tour guide and his grandma who live there.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In this story, with beautiful jewel-toned illustrations reminiscent of Hopper's paintings, a young child, accompanied by his grandmother, shows the reader various aspects of his life in an urban Chinatown. The busy urban setting takes on the elements of smalltown life as the pair cross a street, watch tai chi practitioners, greet the street cobbler, and visit the produce market, the fish market, the herbalist, a kung fu class and other fascinating places. The story culminates at a parade celebrating Chinese New Year. The colorful pictures, rich with detail, and simple, informative text give lots of opportunities for discussion. My two-year-old son has loved this book from the first time
we read it, and requests it over and over again.

I live in San Francisco and used to teach second grade . . . I read this book to my class every year before our annual Chinatown field trip and it was always a smashing success. It's a beautifully written, beautifully illustrated story, that really immerses children in a cultural world that is different from the one in which most of them live. It inspires a lot of wonderful conversation about Chinese history and Chinese-American culture, but doesn't other-ise it . . . it's very approachable and welcoming.

We love this book. My eight year old son, who is Chinese American, loved learning about Chinatown, Little Italy, disputes between cultures and neighborhoods and how they can be solved, and much much more while looking at the lovely illustrations. This is a treasure of a book.

good

The words are simple for a young kid. I think that it’s a good book for kids 6-9. The details and dialogue could be a little better though. All in all it’s a really good book!

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