



The Red Thread: An Adoption Fairy Tale

Grace Lin

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There is an ancient Chinese belief that an invisible, unbreakable red thread connects all those who are destined to be together. A king and queen rule a beautiful and peaceful land. They should be full of joy and contentment, but they both feel a strange pain that worsens every day. Then a peddler's magic spectacles reveal a red thread pulling at each of their hearts. The king and queen know they must follow the thread--wherever it may lead. Grace Lin's lovely adoption fairy tale is for all children--and the parents who would search the world to find them.

The Red Thread: An Adoption Fairy Tale Details

Date : Published January 1st 2007 by Albert Whitman Company

ISBN : 9780807569221

Author : Grace Lin

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Parenting, Adoption, Fiction

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From Reader Review The Red Thread: An Adoption Fairy Tale for online ebook

Amie says

If you've ever thought, prayed or talked about adoption, read this book! If you have adopted children, read it to them!

Laura says

This is a fairy tale that brought me to tears! It is about a king and queen who desired a child and eventually got one by following the red thread that was tied to their hearts and a baby awaits at the end. It is a Chinese fairy tale and would be an amazing thing to share with an adopted child, especially one that came from another country. You have to read this book and I will bring it to class on Saturday.

Louanne Mason says

This is one of our girls favorite picture books. They are all from China and this is the most precious telling of what parents go through to adopt and how deeply they love their children.

Becky B says

A made up folk tale/fairy tale based on a traditional Asian belief provides the basis for a story of a King and a Queen who must find the source of the red threads tugging on their hearts. It leads them on a long journey, and ends in a surprising place.

This is a sweet adoption story that can help families talk about what led them in reality to their forever match. Especially recommended for families who have adopted from Asia, but really any adopted family could use it.

Morgan says

Genre: Traditional Literature

Recommended Grade Level: Early Primary/ Primary

Based off an ancient Chinese belief, this book would be a perfect addition to any classroom as it shows that families can not only be formed in different ways, but also that they can look very different.

Samantha says

This story is a fairytale about a king and queen who are attached to a red thread. The king and queen have heavy hearts and they set out on a journey to find where the thread is leading them. They end up at a small bundle of blankets at the door of a house in a village far away. The bundle turns out to be a baby girl and the king and queen are joyful and their hearts feel full and happy again. I liked this book because it introduced adoption in an interesting way. It also had realistic qualities such as the parents traveling to a faraway land in hope to find a baby. Children would enjoy this story because of its fantasy appeal as well as the characters and emotions that are explored throughout the book. Young children can relate to the characters because they are familiar with feelings of sadness, love, and happiness. The book's illustrations depict castles, land, seas, and villages where the main characters travel. The images tell the story in a fluid and understandable way. The main characters travel to different lands and come across obstacles when they are in a land and do not know the language of that land. There is diversity introduced in the story as far as the main characters traveling to a different land. Ultimately it is more representative of one main culture. I do like that there are not any cultural biases in the book. This would be a good book to read students in the classroom because it has a fairytale element as well as an informational element as far as types of adoption.

Dan says

Such a cute picture book. I loved seeing this concept in picture book form. It really warmed my heart ❤?

Rebecca Stark says

Such a sweet tale! Great for teaching adopted children about their history (or even non-adopted children about adoption, should your family be called to it!)

Ashley says

Title / Author / Publication Date:

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Genre: Fiction**Format:** Picture Book – print**Plot summary:**

A story about adoption based on the ancient Chinese belief that an invisible, unbreakable red thread connects all those who are destined to be together. It follows a king and queen who rule a beautiful land. They should be happy and content, but they both feel a pain in their hearts. One day a peddler hears about their pain and uses magic spectacles to show them a red thread pulling at each of their hearts. The king and queen follow the thread to a distant land where they find a baby playing with the red thread. An elderly woman tells them that the baby belongs to them.

Review citation:

K-Gr. 3 An ancient Chinese belief "that an invisible . . . thread connects all those destined to be together" leads off this heartfelt story-within-a-story about destiny, love, and what really makes a family. A contemporary family reads a tale about a king and queen with aching hearts. A peddler explains their hearts are being pulled by a redthread, only visible with special glasses, which they must follow in order to ease their pain. The bespectacled pair follows the thread across the globe until they reach an Asian village where they find their hearts' connection: a child just for them. The straightforward narrative is enlivened by pattern-filled, color-saturated pictures, with the contemporary family set against a neutral background, while the characters in the fairy tale are surrounded by bright colors. Details in the modern pictures reference those in the make-believe tale: the last page shows the three readers wearing crowns. Adults may need to talk more about the connections between the two families, but this is a good tale to open adoption discussions. Pair it with Ed Young's *My Mei Mei* (2006). -- Rosenfeld, Shelle (Reviewed 10-15-2007) (Booklist, vol 104, number 4, p53)

Section source used to find the material: Book Display Idea: National Adoption Month. Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC)

Recommended age: Ages 3-9

Tess Armel says

I think it is important to include texts that are as representative as possible for as many students as possible. Knowing many people with adoption stories through my life, I know this is a segment of the population that is underrepresented. With such a beautiful loving story to encourage readers, I can think of no better addition to my classroom library.

Becca says

Didn't love the illustrations in this book, but that's my only disappointment. It was a sweet way to explain to an adopted child why their family just wasn't complete without them. Especially applicable if the parents had to travel to pick up the child.

Jennisen says

I absolutely love this story. We followed the red thread to our son, too, feeling him tug at our hearts without knowing where he was. Beautifully told!

Laura says

This is the most beautiful story!

Bethany Joy says

So disappointed in this book. We have loved most of Grace Lin's work and I was excited to have an accessible book for my little ones about adoption. Sadly this book was entirely Adoptive parent centric, and completely erased the child history.

Caitlin Wall says

The Red Thread is a fairy tale about a king and queen who adopt a baby. The king and queen experience much pain in their hearts, which a peddler identifies as being caused by the pulling of red threads that are coming out of the king and queen's hearts. When no blade can cut the thread, the two embark on a quest to find whatever is on the other side of the thread. They find a small village after a long journey, and a baby who is connected to the threads. The king and queen took the baby home. I chose this story for my families text set as a representation of adoption. The story would likely hold the interest of children, as it is a mystery as to why the threads are there and what they lead to. Children may wonder why the baby is alone, and it would be a great launching point for a discussion about adoption. The problem of the queen and king's pain is solved by the baby, they needed someone to care for and love. The illustrations are colorful and engaging, although there is one scene where the king and queen have some bloody scrapes from their travels. This may upset younger children, as well as the threads coming out of the king and queen's hearts. There are some different cultural groups represented, as the king and queen travel to a faraway land with unknown inhabitants. This story is a great way to introduce the idea of adoption.
