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In The Year Of The Boar And Jackie Robinson



Synopsis

The hilarious and timeless story about an immigrant's girl inspired by the sport she loves to find her own team and to break down any barriers that stand in her way. Shirley Temple Wong sails from China to America with a heart full of dreams. Her new home is Brooklyn, New York. America is indeed a land full of wonders, but Shirley doesn't know any English, so it's hard to make friends. Then a miracle happens: baseball! It's 1947, and Jackie Robinson, star of the Brooklyn Dodgers, is everyone's hero. He proves that a black man, the grandson of a slave, can make a difference in America. By watching Jackie, Shirley begins to truly feel at home in her new country, and that America really is the land of opportunity both on and off the field.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 730L (What's this?)

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; English Language edition (September 2, 2003)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 5.2 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 126 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #19,529 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Chinese New Year #10 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Asian & Asian American #15 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Moving

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

Customer Reviews

Grade 3 Ten-year-old Bandit is excited when her grandfather announces to the family that she will be going with her mother to join her father in America. She must leave her clan and the only life she has known in China, but she is sure that moving to America will be an adventure. To celebrate, she chooses a new name Shirley Temple Wong. Life in America is not easy because everything is new and Shirley doesn't speak English. She is ignored by her classmates until she gains the respect of the toughest girl in class. Shirley learns to love baseball

and begins to play stickball. It's 1947, and Jackie Robinson of the Brooklyn Dodgers is everyone's hero, proving that a black man can play baseball as well as anyone. Slowly Shirley learns about the opportunities available to her in America and begins to make true friends. Bette Bao Lord's wonderfully humorous story (Harper, 1984) shows what it means to be an American from the eyes of a spunky young immigrant. It will touch the hearts of listeners. Melissa Hughes authentically narrates all the voices, including many accents and ages. This story will be enjoyed on many levels.

—Teresa Wittmann, Westgate Elementary School, Edmonds, WA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

“Poignant but outrageously humorous.” (School Library Journal)
“Lord writes with a warm authenticity and sparkling humor.” (ALA Booklist)

This is an incredible children's book!!! I cannot stress enough how much I loved it. I ordered this for my mom because she is an elementary English teacher. She bought this as one of the books to read with her class and is so glad she did. She has just adored this book! It is so cute and very accurate. She has been able to plan lots of fun activities with her students including a rewards system with candy and baseball cards, just like from the story. She also was able to bring fortune cookies to class and the kids enjoyed that, too. She has had so much fun with this book and it has been really cool for her to see the students enjoy the book and have some fun reading and learning about a girl their age from a different culture and time. She also got to talk with the students about the Chinese zodiac and explain to them what that is and what it means. She has had a blast with the book and so have the kids! If you're considering getting this for your child or someone you know, I highly recommend it!! It is so cute and this book is great. Very well written and very appropriate for elementary school kids! Give it a shot! You won't regret it :)

My daughter needed this book for a class she is taking in college. I started to look at the book and before I knew it I was engulfed in Shirley's new world. See, Shirley is from China and had to learn how to adapt to the American ways while struggling to keep with her Chinese traditions. My daughter has now finished the book and gives it a thumbs up as well. It was a good read!

I FRIST READ THIS DELIGHTFUL FUN BOOK A LONG TIME AGO. I JUST LOVED IT. I HAVE A NEW HARD BACK COPY OF IT. THAT IS IF I GET IT BACK FROM THE LADY WHO WORKS

HERE WHO CAME IN TO ASK IF I HAD IT. SO HER SON COULD READ IT FOR A BOK REPORT. I DON'T THINK HE WILL LIKE IT VERY MUCH IT IS ABOUT A LITTLE CHINESE GIRL SHIRLEY TEMPULE WONG. SORRY FOR MISSPELLING OF NAME. ANYWAY IT IS A WONDERFUL BOOK FOR LITTLE GIRLS I DON'T THINK LITTLE LIKE IT AT ALL. NOT ABOUT BOYS WILL HOPE AND PRAY IG ET IT BACK ORDERD PAPERBACKCOPY OF IT SO I WILL HAVE IT I LOVED THE BOOK.

The other reviews that said this is a bit boring were right. There was a lot of side bits that came and went with seemingly little connection to the story. Since I was reading this out loud to a language learner that was tedious. However, it was useful for my two kids adopted from China (at 4 and 12 years of age). It was a useful tale to explore the feelings of being different, having to learn a new culture, etc. It provoked some good conversation. We used in in conjunction with a Progeny Press literature guide and it was worth the time.

Loved it! The story brought me back to my youth when my family came to America from Germany...all the fears, adjustments, language, people making fun of us, telling my sister and I to go back to where we came from. Laughing at your speech (no English spoken), our clothes, mannerisms, hair styles....they are not pleasant memories for me. But good for Shirley! Great story! Loved the end where she meets Jackie Robinson.

With immigrant bashing for fun and profit the latest rage, it's good to remember that most of us and our families came from somewhere else. The lesson of baseball is that the only question that matters is "can you play the game."

A vary delightful book for early readers who are baseball fans. It broadens horizons with immigration and baseball history. The book contains warmth and humor. recommend it.

I used this book as a second grade teacher years ago. It has so much to offer children. Now I'm proud to give it to my 6 year old son who loves baseball. It's a perfect avenue for positive messages.

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