

RUBY LU, BRAVE AND TRUE

Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award Nominee 2007 Grades 3-5

Submitted by Maletta Payne, Graduate Student at School of Library and Information Science, LSU (Professor: Dr. Margie Thomas); and Joannie Barras, Student at University of Louisiana at Lafayette (Instructor: Dorothy Grimsley)

Ruby Lu, Brave and True by Lenore Look. Illustrated by Anne Wilsdorf. Simon & Schuster (Atheneum Books), 2004. 112 p.

Summary

Ruby Lu, Brave and True is a delightful story of the daily life of an almost eight-year-old Chinese-American girl. This beginning chapter book has a large font, plenty of white space and lively illustrations that will make the book attractive to reluctant readers. Ruby Lu is a vivacious heroine, who embraces her life with enthusiasm. Each chapter is a separate episode about Ruby's adventures at home and school. She tries to teach her baby brother to talk, stars in her own backyard magic show, drives a car with her little brother along for the ride, goes to Chinese School and adjusts to living with a cousin who arrives from China. Special features of the book include a glossary of Chinese terms.

Awards

ALA Notable Children's Book

CCBC Choices

NCTE Notable Children's Books in the Language Arts

Author's Biography

Lenore Look, a graduate of Princeton University, lives in Randolph, New Jersey with her husband and children. She loves spending time with her two children. This is her third book for children. *Ruby Lu, Brave and True* is Lenore Look's first chapter book.

Web sites by or about the author

<http://www.asianamericanbooks.com/books/2997.htm?Lenore+Look#author>

<http://www.simonsays.com/content/destination.cfm?sid=33&pid=355071>

Other Titles by Lenore Look

Henry's First Moon Birthday illustrated by Yumi Heo.

Love as Strong as Ginger illustrated by Stephen T. Johnson.

Ruby Lu, Empress of Everything (to be published April 2006).

Uncle's Peter's Amazing Chinese Wedding illustrated by Yumi Heo.

Illustrator's Biography

Anne Wildorf was born in 1954 in Luanda, Angola. She is a Swiss illustrator who has written and or/illustrated numerous children's books, many of which have been published in Europe. She illustrated *Alligator Sue* by Sharon Arms Doucet, which is the Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award book for 2006. She regularly contributes stories to several children's magazines. She presently lives in Lausanne, Switzerland where she also teaches illustration at the French School of the Graphic Arts.

<http://www.simonsays.com/content/destination.cfm?sid=183&pid=343281>

<http://www.publishersweekly.com/PWdaily/CA6271375.html>

Related Titles

Asian Americans

Apple Pie and the Fourth of July by Janet S. Wong. Illustrated by Margaret Chodos-Irvine.

Celebrating Chinese New Year by Diane Hoyt-Goldsmith.

Chinese in America by Alison Behnke.

Dear Juno by Soyung Pak. Illustrated by Susan Kathleen Hartung.

Exploring Chinatown: A Children's Guide to Chinese Culture by Carol Stephanchuk and Leland Wong.

Fortune Cookie Fortunes by Grace Lin.

How My Parents Learned to Eat by Ina R. Friedman. Illustrated by Allen Say.

The Imp That Ate My Homework by Laurence Yep.

Later, Gator by Laurence Yep.

Lion Dancer: Ernie Wan's Chinese New Year by Kate Waters and Madeline Slovenz-Low. Photographs by Martha Cooper.

Mei-Mei Loves the Morning by Margaret Holloway Tsubakiyama.

The Moon Lady by Amy Tan. Illustrated by Gretchen Schields.

My Chinatown: One Year in Poems by Kam Mak.

Raymond's Perfect Present by Therese On Louie. Illustrated by Suling Wang.

This Next New Year by Janet S. Wong. Illustrated by Yangsook Choi.

Sam and the Lucky Money by Karen Chinn. Illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu.

Similar Beginning Chapter Book Series

Fudge by Judy Blume.

Gloria by Ann Cameron.

Julian by Ann Cameron. (*The Stories Julian Tells*, etc.)

Junie B. Jones by Barbara Park.

Marvin Redpost by Louis Sachar.

Ramona by Beverly Cleary.

Russell and Elisa by Joanna Hurwitz.

Classroom Connections

Shoebox or (Paper Bag) Biography: Getting to Know Each Other

- The teacher may start off this activity by putting some items that represent Ruby Lu into a box. Have students bring 5 or 6 items that represent something about themselves. The items must fit into the shoebox. Each student explains the items. This is a great way to get to know each other. Have the students do graphing activities about items brought.

Social Studies: Chinese Americans.

- See the site: <http://t3.pacific.edu/teams/M009505/ED407multiculturaluunit.htm>
- This includes an extensive lesson plan about understanding the Chinese American culture with emphasis on the books *Love as Strong as Ginger* by Lenore Look and *Chinese in America* by Alison Behnke.

Social Studies: Chopsticks

- Read the book *How My Parents Learned to Eat* by Ina R. Friedman. Illustrated by Allen Say.
- Have the students research chopsticks and learn to use them.

Arts and Crafts: Zodiac Necklace

- Have children create Chinese Craft. Go to the website: <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/asian-american/print.htm>, Asian Art and Crafts and print out the zodiac sign for the year and have children color and design a necklace.

Language Arts

- Discuss the Chinese American vocabulary used in the story. Refer to the glossary in the book. Have each child pronounce a word that is in the glossary.

Social Studies

- Have the students research Chinese Americans. Students can prepare a Power Point presentation with the most interesting facts. As a concluding activity, have a luncheon with Chinese foods and invite guests to view the Power Point presentation.
- Have the students research the Chinese calendar and the Chinese New Year. Compare/contrast the Chinese Calendar with the calendar that we use. Participate in a Chinese New Year's Parade.

Web Links**Author and Illustrator****Asian American Books: Lenore Look**

<http://www.asianamericanbooks.com/books/2997.htm?Lenore+Look#author>

This site includes a short biography of Look.

Simon Says: Simon and Schuster

<http://www.simonsays.com/content/destination.cfm?sid=33&pid=355071>

List of Lenore Look's books and a very short biography.

Simon Says: Simon and Schuster

<http://www.simonsays.com/content/destination.cfm?sid=183&pid=343281>

List of Anne Wilsdorf's books and a very short biography.

Asian Americans**Asian American Books: Asian American Curriculum Project**

<http://www.asianamericanbooks.com>

This site includes booklists and links about Asian Americans.

Celebrating Diversity from TeacherLink

<http://64.233.179.104/search?q=cache:qC56s5jfj1AJ:teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlresources/units/socjust/ReneeNeilsen.PDF+chinese+americans&hl=en&gl=us&ct=clnk&cd=10>

This pdf file is a social studies unit for primary grades that explores physical and cultural similarities and differences.

Chinese Culture

<http://www.wku.edu/~yuanh/China/culture.html>

Includes information and links about the Chinese culture, including Chinese fables, myths, and legends.

Scholastic: Asian Pacific American Heritage – Notable Asia Pacific Americans

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/asian-american/notables.htm>

Includes interesting facts about Asian Americans and the impact they have made in the United States.

Scholastic: Asian Pacific American Heritage – Printable Activities

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/asian-american/print.htm>

Includes a zodiac sign for each year. Directions for making the zodiac necklace are included on the website.

University of Washington Libraries – Asian History

<http://www.lib.washington.edu/subject/History/tm/asian.html>

Lists different Chinese/Asian web sites for adults.

Wikipedia – Culture of China

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_culture

Includes background information about the Chinese culture, including art, language, cuisine, clothing, and other interesting information.