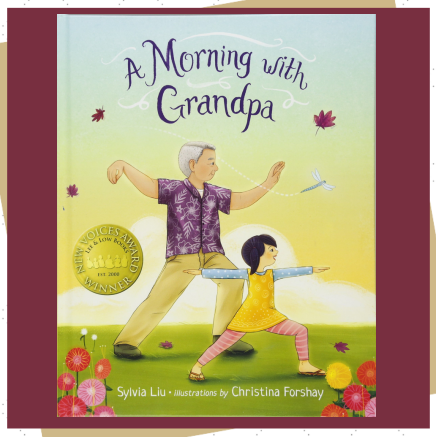


BEYOND THE BOOK GUIDE

A Morning with Grandpa by Sylvia Liu

Book Summary

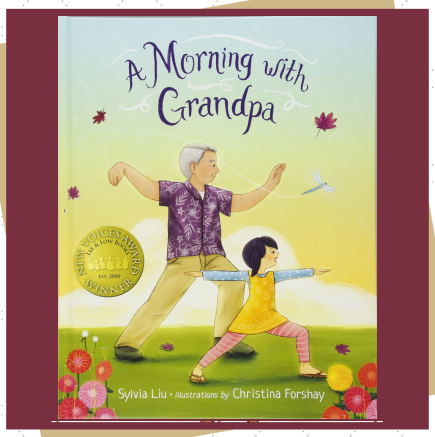
Mei Mei's grandpa is practicing tai chi in the garden and Mei Mei is eager to join. As Gong Gong teaches her the slow, graceful movements, Mei Mei does them with her own flair. Then she tries teaching Gong Gong the yoga she learned in school. Will Gong Gong be able to master the stretchy, bendy poses? A Morning with Grandpa shows, with lively energy and humor, the special bond between grandparent and grandchild and the joy of learning new things together.

Before Reading the Story

- Discuss what you see on the cover of the book.
- Make predictions on what the story may be about.
- Let's talk about some of your favorite things you've learned at school.
- On YouTube, look up a video of tai chi to learn about the practice.
- Now, look up a video about yoga on YouTube and discuss how tai chi and yoga are similar and how they are different.

Target Vocabulary

- **martial art:** a form of fighting and self-defense
- **tai chi:** a Chinese form of exercise that uses very slow and controlled movements
- **complicated:** hard to explain or do; having many steps
- **frisky:** very playful or lively
- **serenading:** to sing or play a song for someone
- **wobbled:** to move with an unsteady side-to-side motion



BEYOND THE BOOK GUIDE

During the Story

- Read the book aloud with the pictures facing your child.
- Make predictions about the story based on the pictures.
- Provide definitions and connections for any of the target vocabulary words that may be unfamiliar.
- Have your child repeat the words that they do not know.
- Relate the details in the story to events and experiences in your everyday life.
- Ask questions throughout the story to help your child understand what's being read.

After Reading the Story

- Have your child retell the story in their own words using the pictures.
- Discuss which exercise you like more: Gong Gong's tai chi or Mei Mei's yoga. Try one move from the story.
- The crane and the lute were mentioned in this book. Let's do a Google image search and find out what this animal and what this instrument look like.
- Talk about the different animals and plants Mei Mei and Gong Gong were described as in the story.

Example Questions to Ask

- Complete the **simile** from the story: Gong Gong moved like _____, brushing the ocean floor.
- Why was Mei Mei's attempt at tai chi "not quite right"?
- What did Gong Gong tell Mei Mei to use to move her energy while trying tai chi?
- Which yoga pose in the book is your favorite? Try it with a partner!
- If you could teach Mei Mei and Gong Gong an exercise, what would it be?
- **Simile** or **Metaphor**? "He was a warm summer breeze gently blowing through the trees"
- **Simile** or **Metaphor**? "She stood like a guard dog: strong and steady."