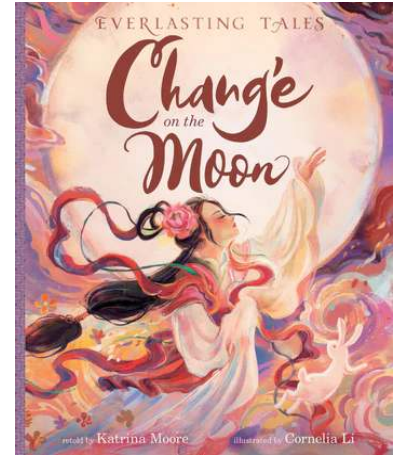


FOLKLIFE READING KIT: *CHANG'E ON THE MOON*

RETOLD BY KATRINA MOORE AND ILLUSTRATED BY CORNELIA LI

Before she was the famous goddess of the moon, she was simply Chang'e. Once upon a time, there lived a kind, beautiful woman named Chang'e. She and her husband, Hou Yi, were deeply in love and existed in peaceful harmony . . . Until, one day, ten blazing suns rose into the sky and threatened everything they knew. But while the two worked together to save the lands from burning up—someone else they trusted was plotting against them. This epic romance follows how Chang'e's bravery and selflessness saved her people and why, centuries later, they celebrate her and retell her story all over the world. - HarperCollins Publishers



You may be asking, “What is folklife”? Great question! First and foremost, **we all have folklife**. Folklife is the expression of our identity. This includes crafts, music, dance, stories, food, language, occupation, religious practices and more, which are passed on in families and communities.

FOLKLIFE THEMES IN *CHANG'E ON THE MOON*:

- **Stories:** Stories contain significant cultural knowledge, as well as information about important people, places, and values in a community or family. The legend of Chang'e is one of the oldest and most popular in China.
- **Oral Tradition:** Oral tradition is one of the oldest forms of storytelling, and it allows for the passing on of cultural information. The tale of Chang'e is still shared and told by people today and passed on to others.
- **Celebrations:** The unique ways in which we mark special occasions in our lives is folklife. The celebration of the Mid-Autumn Festival is an important celebration in China and to other families of Asian descent.
- **Language:** The language we speak, how we speak, and what we use language for, such as telling stories, are part of folklife. This story is translated into many languages to make it accessible to people all over the world.
- **Foodways:** Food is folklife! Foodways refers to the context and meaning around food: why and when we eat what we eat. This book reminds us how we can connect to other cultures, as well as our own through food. Mooncakes are made during the Mid-Autumn Festival to celebrate Chang'e, and fruit and pastries are laid out as offerings.
- **Material Culture:** The items we make are part of our folklife. Examples of material culture in this book include dragon dancers, lanterns and incense.

- **Community Values:** Folklife includes beliefs and values that are shared by a group of people. Chang’e represents values that are important to her people such as bravery, strength, and the power of love.

FOLKLIFE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Stories are an important part of our folklife. This book presents a version of a story that has been circulated throughout China and around the world. What are some stories that have been shared with you? These could be stories from family members, teachers, community members, or friends.
 - a. This story is an example of a legend. Legends are designed to teach a lesson and are passed on among communities. Do you know any other examples of legends and who shared the story with you?
2. What examples of folklife do you see in this book? For example, the clothing, food, stories, and material culture of the characters in the book, are all aspects of their folklife.
3. What are some of the foodways discussed in this book? Are they associated with any celebrations or day-to-day life? What foodways are important in your life? These can be examples specific to your family or community.
 - a. Mooncakes are an important part of the Mid-Autumn celebration. Are there any recipes that have been passed on to you? Who taught you how to make the recipe?
4. Chang’e cares for the animals and people on earth. This demonstrates her values and what is important to her. What are some things that are important to you? What are some of your values?
5. During the Mid-Autumn celebration, family and friends gather and give thanks to the moon for their harvest. Does your family celebrate Mid-Autumn or a similar celebration? What are some of your family's traditions on this day?

GENERAL FOLKLIFE TALKING POINTS:

- This story is an excellent example of how cultural stories are passed on through oral tradition by refreshing and preserving them for new generations.
- Great opportunity for students to learn about the legend surrounding Mid-Autumn Festival, and for students who celebrate Mid-Autumn Festival to share the stories they know and their families’ rituals surrounding the celebration.
- “The legend of Chang’e is one of the oldest and most popular in China. Many versions of the story have been told and passed down through generations. They differ depending on who you ask- even between family members.” -final page of book (note from the author)
- The author modernizes the two heroes and shines light on their strengths, demonstrating how people develop and alter stories over time, adding to the “lore” of the folklore

FOLKLIFE THEMED ACTIVITIES FOR *CHANG'E ON THE MOON*:

- [Activities](#) from the author's website (scroll to the bottom of the page for the activities)
- Design your own paper lantern (activity directions on the author's website)
- Celebration Venn Diagram:
 - Pair students off and have them create one venn diagram. Have students take a side and write down elements of a celebration, as many as they can list. Give them a few minutes to think and get their ideas down. Then have the students work together to see what they have in common and fill in the center of the diagram.
 - Do they celebrate Mid-Autumn?
 - Students could also do a version of this where they create a venn diagram exploring the similarities and differences in celebrations between themselves and components of the Mid-Autumn Festival.
- Draw your own image of Chang'e in the moon.
 - What symbols and colors are you using and why?
 - Be intentional with the choices you make and see if you can connect them to the story.

Folklife Reading Kit Themes:

*You may be asking, “What is folklife”? Great question! First and foremost, **we all have folklife**. Folklife is the expression of our identity. This includes crafts, music, dance, stories, food, language, occupation, religious practices and more, which are passed on in families and communities.*

Knowledge: What we know, as members of specific families and communities is part of our folklife.

Art: The things that we make in our everyday lives are part of our folklife. This includes art.

Stories: Stories contain significant cultural knowledge, as well as information about important people, places, and values in a community or family.

Foodways: Food is folklife! Foodways refers to the context and meaning around food: why and when we eat what we eat.

Clothing: What we wear is considered a component of our folklife.

Music: Playing instruments and singing songs connects people, creates community, and often continues for generations in families and communities. Music is folklife.

Poetry: Language is part of folklife, therefore what we use language for such as storytelling and poetry are considered folklife.

Community Values: Folklife includes beliefs and values that are shared by a group of people.

Dance: The things that we do are part of our folklife, this includes dance. Forms of dance and movement are an expression of ourselves and our cultures. Dances are often taught to others as a way of passing on the creative practice and tradition.

Identity: Folklife is the expression of our identity.

Oral Tradition: Stories we tell contain significant cultural knowledge, as well as information about important people, places, and values in a community or family. Oral tradition is one of the oldest forms of storytelling, and it allows for the passing on of cultural information.

Language: The language we speak, how we speak, and what we use language for, such as telling stories, are part of folklife.

Material Culture: The items we make are part of our folklife.

Celebrations: The unique ways in which we mark special occasions in our lives is folklife.

Myth: A myth is a genre of folklore which tells a traditional story, especially one concerning the early history of a people or explaining some natural or social phenomenon, and typically involving supernatural beings or events.