



Chinese Fairy Tale Feasts: A Literary Cookbook

By Paul Yee, recipes by Judi Chan, introduction by Jane Yolen

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A FUN BOOK FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN TO ENJOY AND TREASURE

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The fairy tales and folklore of China - like stories told throughout the ages everywhere - bring the fantastic world of ghosts and demons into our everyday lives. So it is not surprising that food makes an appearance here - each story is followed by a simple recipe.

Chinese Fairy Tale Feasts is a creative book which folds fairy tales into a cookbook of kid-friendly recipes. Most of the thirteen fairy tales included in the book have been adapted and retold from original sources by master storyteller, Paul Yee - a few are original to this text, but remain true to the spirit of the collection. They are accompanied by an introduction by Jane Yolen, one of our most celebrated folklorists. The splendid illustrations by Shaoli Wang bring the collection to life.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 4 Up—This is a fine collection of quintessential Chinese fairy tales and recipes. The stories are told with tangy and intriguing details that invite American readers to consider the Chinese perspective. The symbiosis between the recipes and the stories is impressive; paired with each dish is a traditional tale. Yee and Wang share the Chinese characters that go with proverbs that pair traditionally with dishes. The stories are short, requiring only 15 or 20 minutes to read aloud. The renditions of the tales are impressive and will be appreciated by a wide age range; they are easy to read but not oversimplified. While this work has the potential for broad appeal, it does not have an obvious niche in most K—12 collections; librarians would be wise to promote and display this unique offering in order to get it into the right hands. VERDICT Educators may find this valuable for geography units or lesson plans involving Chinese culture.—Amy Thurow, New Glarus School District, WI

Review

Wang's cartoons, a mix of full-page illustrations and spot art, evoke Chinese folk art with bright colors, ornamental prints, and naive figures. In addition to the recipes and details about cuisine, Yee includes proverbs, information about the origins of the stories, and brief insights into Chinese history and culture, making this a collection to feed the mind and the body. --Publishers Weekly

Chinese Fairy Tale Feasts: A Literary Cookbook ... combines a brief collection of these stories with a Chinese food recipe of equal cultural relevance. The result is a charming and fast-paced book that takes young readers on a cultural journey of delicious proportions. Each of the thirteen tales demonstrates how folktales shape a culture's identity and values, just as each of the accompanying recipes outlines a unique cuisine appreciated by those people. A wonderfully illustrated book that can be shared before bedtime, or before a snack, *Chinese Fairy Tale Feasts* is a great way to introduce young people to a new culture and new flavors alike. --Dumpling Magazine

About the Author

Paul Yee is one of North America's finest writers for young people. His first book for Crocodile Books was *The Jade Necklace* (illustrated by Grace Lin), followed by *Bamboo*, (illustrated by Shaoli Wang). *Dead Man's Gold and Other Stories* was a Kiriyama Prize Notable Book. *Ghost Train* won Canada's Governor General's Award. Paul Yee lives in Toronto.

Born and raised in Qing Dao, China, Shaoli Wang now lives in British Columbia where she teaches art to children. Her first book for children, *Bamboo*, also written by Paul Yee, was short-listed for the BC Book Prize.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

David Bergeron:

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