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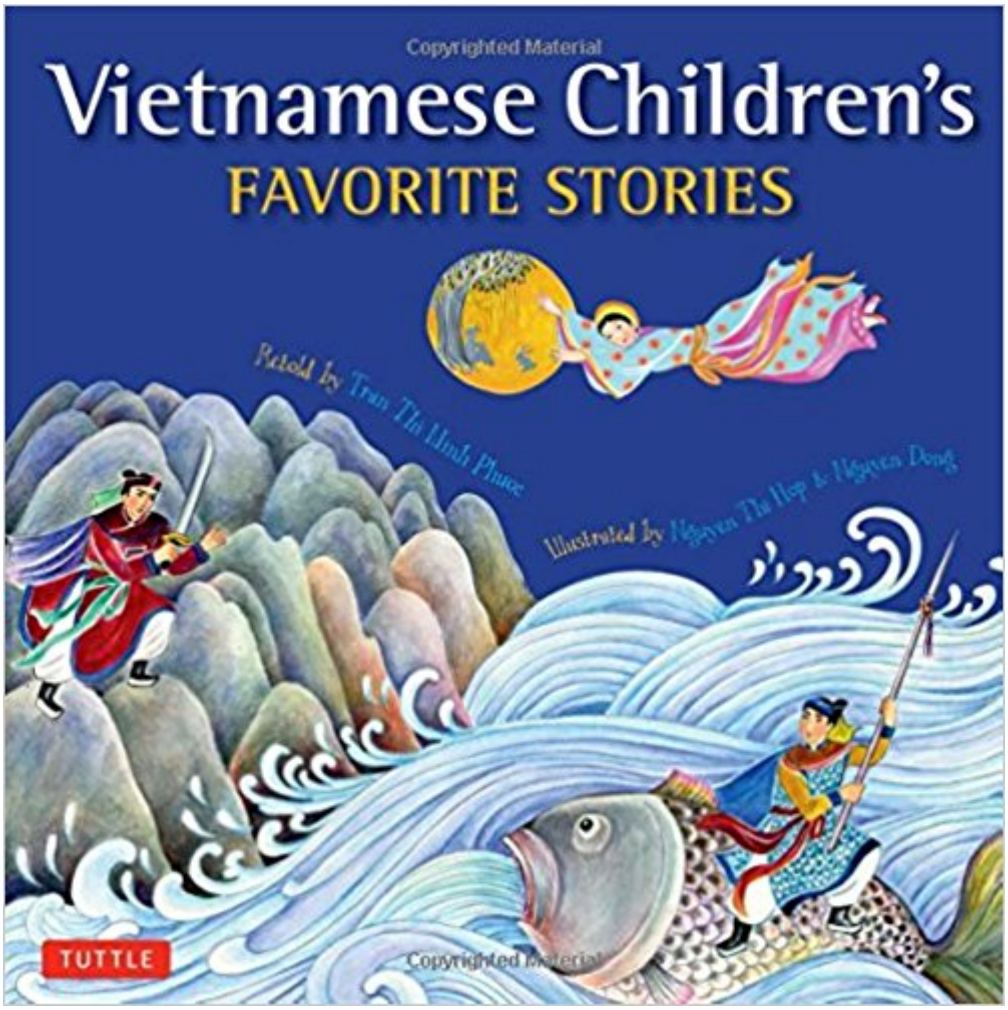
Vietnamese Children's Favorite Stories



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Synopsis

Winner of Creative Child Magazine 2015 Book of the Year Award**Winner of Moonbeam Children’s Book Awards 2015 Gold Medal**This colorfully illustrated multicultural children’s book presents Vietnamese fairy tales and other folk storiesÃ¢â ¬â •providing insight into a rich literary culture.Vietnamese Children’s Favorite Stories, is a charming collection of fifteen tales as told by prominent storyteller Tran Thi Minh Phuoc. In it, TranÃ¢â ¬â •Minnesota’s first Vietnamese librarian and an active member of the Vietnamese-American communityÃ¢â ¬â •recounts cherished folktales such as "The Story of Tam and Cam" (the Vietnamese version of Cinderella), "The Jade Rabbit," and "The Legend of the Mai Flower." With beautiful illustrations by veteran artists Nguyen Thi Hop and Nguyen Dong, children and adults alike will be enchanted by Tran’s English retellings. Stories in which integrity, hard work and a kind heart triumph over deception, laziness, and greedÃ¢â ¬â •as gods, peasants, kings and fools spring to life in legends of bravery and beauty, and fables about nature.The Children’s Favorite Stories series was created to share the folktales and legends most beloved by children in the East with young readers of all backgrounds in the West. Vietnamese Children’s Favorite Stories will keep Vietnam’s folktales alive for them and the legions of young readers who enjoy multicultural children’s books and stories set in faraway lands. Other multicultural children’s books in this series include: Asian Children’s Favorite Stories, Indian Children’s Favorite Stories, Indonesian Children’s Favorite Stories, Japanese Children’s Favorite Stories, Singapore Children’s Favorite Stories, Filipino Favorite Children’s Stories, Favorite Children’s Stories from China & Tibet, Chinese Children’s Favorite Stories, Korean Children’s Favorite Stories,Balinese Children’s Favorite Stories..

Book Information

Hardcover: 96 pages
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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 20 customer reviews
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Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Asia #118 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural

Age Range: 5 - 14 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 8

Customer Reviews

Gr 2Ã¢â ¬â œ4Ã¢â ¬â •This attractively illustrated collection features 15 traditional Vietnamese folktales. In her introduction, Phuoc describes the power of stories, explaining that Vietnamese children living in America can "learn about the land of their ancestors" from this compendium, and conveys "hope that these storiesÃ¢â ¬Â¦become a vehicle for bridging gaps between cultures." American children will recognize familiar elements in tales such as "The Story of Tam and Cam," a Vietnamese Cinderella story, and "Why the Sea Is Salty," an entry reminiscent of Tomie dePaola’s Strega Nona, wherein a greedy man learns a lesson. Much like European fairy tales, with which most readers will be familiar, these offerings reward men who are brave, loyal, and wise and women who are beautiful, clearly defined in one story as having "shiny black hair, smooth fair skin, and [a] graceful manner." While virtue is prized, violent punishments for evildoers are notably absent, with false friends being banished or losing their ill-gotten fortunes. Many of these stories are pourquoi tales, explaining the natural world or features of Vietnamese culture, such as "Why One Shouldn’t Sweep the House on Tet Nguyen Dan." The delicate and detailed watercolor illustrations elegantly enhance the appeal of this work. VERDICT A valuable and culturally authentic addition to folktale collections.Ã¢â ¬â •Toby Rajput, National Louis University, Skokie, IL

"Attractive watercolor illustrations by two Vietnamese artists are scattered throughout, and the appealing cover should invite readers. A welcome addition to any collection of folk tales." Ã¢â ¬â •Kirkus Review"This story collection provides an opportunity for children of Vietnamese origin to find out more about the beauty and depth of the culture of Vietnam, through stories full of self nation, and is an opportunity for families of Vietnamese origin and transmission of conservation treasure tales Vietnam for the next generation." Ã¢â ¬â •Nguoi Viet Daily News"Phuoc Tran’s stories remind us of the depth and beauty of Vietnamese culture. The folktales help heal us all from the tragic history of the Vietnam War and bring the deep enduring cultural traditions back into the light to be shared by all." Ã¢â ¬â •David Zander, Cultural Anthropologist, Co-Founder of Asian Storytellers Alliance"This well researched and lovingly written book is destined to be a children’s classic." Ã¢â ¬â •Wendy Woodfill, Senior Librarian at Hennepin County Library, MN; Chair of the

2014 ALSC Notable Children’s Books Committee"The stories reflect the traditions, myths, and history of Vietnam, with trees and flowers frequently serving symbolic purposes. Works such as The Story of Tam and Cam, an adaptation of Cinderella, will be familiar to readers, while a story about why the sea is salty (it’s due to a greedy man’s magical salt grinder at the bottom of the ocean) will be new to many. The husband-and-wife Nguyens’ modest watercolors include both spot illustrations and larger, ornamental images that fill pages and spreads, resulting in a graceful balance between text and pictures." Ã¢â ¬â •Publishers Weekly"Vietnamese Children’s Favorite Stories is a great example of what I often refer to as a parent’s ’snuggle book.’ This book with its magical stories provides the perfect invitation for parents to snuggle with their child to read and let their imaginations soar as they enter into a land and culture of untold Vietnamese generations." Ã¢â ¬â •Adoption Today Magazine"The delicate and detailed watercolor illustrations elegantly enhance the appeal of this work. VERDICT A valuable and culturally authentic addition to folktale collections." Ã¢â ¬â •School Library Journal"Vietnamese Children’s Favorite Stories is a rainbow sampling of a rich culture’s traditions for children, appealing to children of imagination everywhere." Ã¢â ¬â •Midwest Book Review

Awesome book for any curious mind that wants to know about the popular Vietnamese folktales. These are all of my favorite childhood folktales/fairytale that my mom had told me or I’ve read about! Brought back so much memories!!! The stories are very close to what I remember. The writings are beautiful and and illustrations are gorgeously detailed and colorful. Now I finally can read them to my non-bilingual kids who have very limited Vietnamese vocabulary.

I was born in Vietnam and moved to the US when I was 7. I remember these stories being told when I was younger. I’ve since forgotten them though so it was nice to read them again. I mainly got this book for my daughter who was born in the US. I do wish that there the book was divided in two sections - English and Vietnamese.

Good stories.

I loved how the stories are presented. The author is a librarian of Vietnamese heritage and wanted to find ways to preserve the Vietnamese storytelling tradition for an English speaking audience. I really enjoyed reading the stories from beginning to end.

Beautiful illustrations to go along with beautifully told stories. One of our absolute favorite books!

These are wonderful little stories and my five year old son has really enjoyed them. It's a nice collection. There are a few typos here and there but the overall cadence and the quality of the stories are well-written.

This book is full of beautiful illustrations. I am Vietnamese and there were some tales here that I've heard before, but a lot that were completely unknown to me. A great collection of classic Vietnamese folk tales. And nicely written in English too!

Very good and well written stories, excellent illustrations, superbly artistic.

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