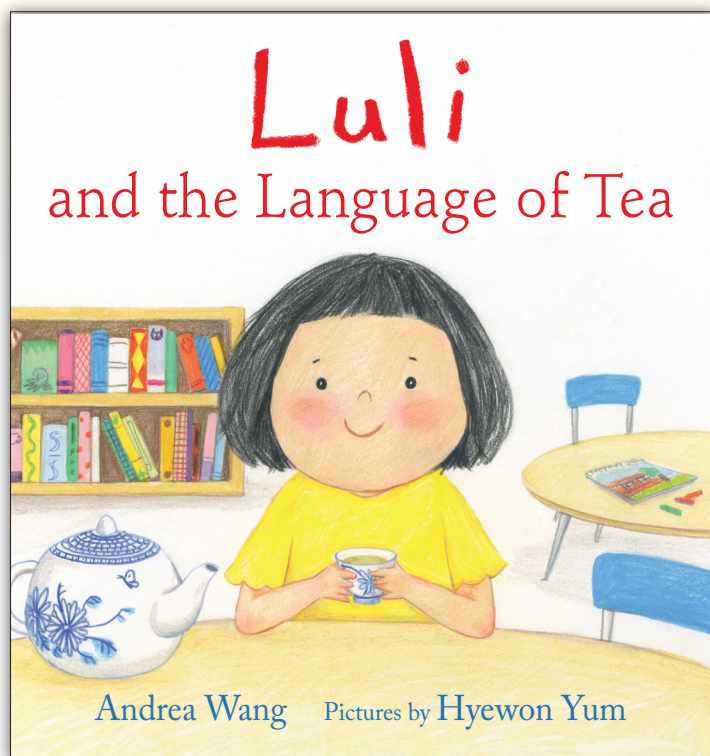


HOLIDAY HOUSE EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



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Luli and the Language of Tea

by **Andrea Wang**

illustrated by **Hyewon Yum**

★ “[A] gladdening picture book.”
—*Shelf Awareness*

★ “A rewarding read-aloud choice.”
—*Booklist*

ABOUT THE BOOK

Though they may speak different languages, kids from all over the world come together to enjoy the shared pastime of tea in this delicious book for young readers.

When five-year-old Luli joins her new English as a Second Language class, the playroom is quiet. Luli can't speak English, and neither can anyone else. That's when she has a brilliant idea to host a tea party and bring them all together.

Luli removes her teapot, thermos, and teacups from her bag and calls out “Chá!” in her native Chinese. One by one, her classmates pipe up in recognition: in Russian, Hindi, Turkish, Persian, Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese, and Swahili. Tea is a tasty language they all know well, and it gives them a chance to share and enjoy each other's company. When all the tea is gone and it's time for dessert, Luli gets to use her favorite English word: cookie! After that, the playroom isn't so quiet.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Setting is where a story takes place. Study the front and back cover of the book and discuss where the book is set. Point out Luli.
- Take a close look at the title page. Luli is peeking in a door. How does the illustration on page 3 hint at what's inside the door? What do you think Luli is thinking and feeling?



- Turn to the first double-page spread (pp. 5 & 6) Describe the classroom. What is unique or different about Luli's new class? Why is each student playing alone? Look at the girl sitting in the blue chair. What do you think the teacher is saying to her? Why does the boy in the green striped shirt have his head on the table?
- Luli has an idea that might bring the students together. How does she know that Miss Hirokane, her teacher, will understand her plan if she draws it? Luli makes tea and calls out "Chá!" How is the Chinese word for tea similar to the word for tea in other languages? Explain how this explains the title of the book.
- Describe Luli's tea ceremony. She serves so much tea that there is none left for her. Pedro takes Luli's empty teacup. What happens when he passes it around the table? Discuss the changes in the classroom after the tea ceremony.
- Study the map at the end of the book. How is tea-drinking different in each county? Match the teacups on the end pages to each country represented in Luli's classroom. Practice pronouncing each student's name (pp. 18–20), then turn back to the picture where the students are seated at the round table sharing tea (p. 11–12) and name each student.

Guide created by Pat Scales, retired school librarian and independent consultant, Greenville, South Carolina.

ABOUT THE CREATORS



Andrea Wang is the Newbery Honor-winning author of *Watercress*, illustrated by Jason Chin, which received the 2022 Caldecott Medal, among numerous other accolades. She is also the author of *The Nian Monster* and *Magic Ramen: The Story of Momofuku Ando*, as well as the forthcoming middle grade novel *The Many Meanings of Meilan*. Andrea holds an M.S. in Environmental Science and an M.F.A. in Creative Writing for Young People. She lives in Colorado with her family.



Hyewon Yum is the author and illustrator of many acclaimed books for children, including *Not Little*, written by Maya Myers (Neal Porter Books). Other books include *This Is Our House*, *The Twins' Blanket*, *There Are No Scary Wolves*, and *Last Night*. Her book *Mom, It's My First Day of Kindergarten!* received the Ezra Jack Keats New Illustrator Award. She lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her family.

