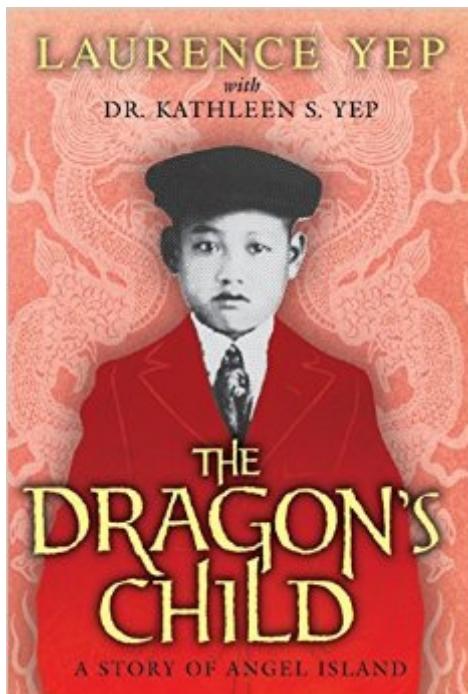


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The Dragon's Child: A Story Of Angel Island



Synopsis

Did you want to go to America? Pop: Sure. I didn't have a choice. My father said I had to go. So I went. Were you sad when you left your village? Pop: Maybe a little . . . well, maybe a lot. Ten-year-old Gim Lew Yep knows that he must leave his home in China and travel to America with the father who is a stranger to him. Gim Lew doesn't want to leave behind everything that he's ever known. But he is even more scared of disappointing his father. He uses his left hand, rather than the correct right hand; he stutters; and most of all, he worries about not passing the strict immigration test administered at Angel Island. The Dragon's Child is a touching portrait of a father and son and their unforgettable journey from China to the land of the Golden Mountain. It is based on actual conversations between two-time Newbery Honor author Laurence Yep and his father and on research on his family's immigration history by his niece, Dr. Kathleen Yep.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 640 (What's this?)

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Publisher: HarperCollins; Reprint edition (September 13, 2011)

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.3 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #553,948 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #233 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Asian & Asian American #873 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction #1374 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Parents

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

In 1922, 10-year-old Gim Lew Yep lives in a small village in southern China. His family owns a rice farm, but it doesn't produce nearly enough money to support them. So Gim Lew's father and older brothers work in other parts of the world and send money home. Gim Lew barely knows his Chinese-American father; he has only met him once, which was the last time his father came home

for a visit from San Francisco, two years ago. But then the family receives a letter announcing that his father is coming home again. Usually, he waits approximately seven years in between visits, so they suspect he has a big announcement to make. Gim Lew works extra hard on correcting his stuttering and using his right hand instead of his more natural left to please this man he doesn't know. When Gim Lew's father finally arrives back home in China, the family hosts a huge celebration with a feast and gifts. But the celebratory feelings quickly die off when they learn the motivation behind his early return: He wants Gim Lew to come back to America with him to work. Everyone knew it would happen eventually, but they didn't think it would come to fruition until Gim Lew had grown older. But new immigration rules forming would make entrance to America even more difficult, so he wanted to get him in while he still could. Gim Lew bids farewell to his mother, sister and homeland, with doubts of ever seeing them again. Gim Lew and his father board a ship bound for America. While packed tightly in the bowels of the ship, Gim Lew gets to know his father while they study for the exam that awaits them. Immigration officials intensely interrogate each returning Chinese American to confirm that he is indeed the same fellow who left. As a son, Gim Lew will undergo the same test.

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