



# EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

## BENEATH *the* SAME ROUND MOON: A MOONCAKE FESTIVAL STORY

*Written by* **Jasmine Fang**

*Illustrated by* **Ròng Phạm & Vinh Nguyễn**

**AGES 4-8 • GRADES PRE-K-3**

### THEMES:

**Family • Culture • Gratitude • Change • Intergenerational • Grief • Holiday**

For the full educator's guide including extended activities and discussion questions,  
or to inquire about school visits, visit [jasmineifang.com](http://jasmineifang.com).

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## ABOUT THE BOOK

On a glowing autumn night, Pearl is excited for the Mooncake Festival, but this year, her family is spread apart. Baba is working overseas, JieJie is away at college, and YeYe has passed on. As Pearl and her pregnant Mama wait for NaiNai to arrive, Pearl wonders: *Will the Mooncake Festival still be the same?*

When NaiNai comes with arms full of ingredients and a heart full of memories, Pearl discovers that even as families change—growing, stretching, and sometimes losing loved ones—their love endures. Through making mooncakes, crafting lanterns, and chatting with distant family members, Pearl learns that everyone she loves is connected beneath the same round moon.

Inspired by the author's own experience celebrating the Mooncake Festival across continents, the last one shared with her grandfather, this tender story explores how families hold love close even as they change.



## ABOUT THE CREATORS

**JASMINE FANG** is a Taiwanese American author who grew up celebrating the Mooncake Festival with family spread across the world. She spent a decade working in international affairs, higher education, and leadership development, experiences that taught her the best stories connect us across distances. Drawing from her multicultural background and love of the outdoors, Jasmine creates books rooted in heart and wonder. When not writing, she enjoys playing tennis and creating red bean desserts. Jasmine lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her husband and two kids. This is her debut picture book. You can find her online at [jasmineifang.com](http://jasmineifang.com) or on social media [@jasmineifang](https://www.instagram.com/jasmineifang).



**RÔNG PHẠM** and **VINH NGUYỄN** are an illustrator duo from Saigon, Vietnam. With years of experience in publishing and advertising, they focus on children's picture books and cover art. Their work blends digital and mixed-media techniques, often inspired by nature, family, and the connections that shape everyday life.



# GLOSSARY OF MANDARIN CHINESE TERMS

| TERM           | PRONUNCIATION        | MEANING                                      |
|----------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Baba</b>    | <i>BAH-bah</i>       | Dad / Father                                 |
| <b>JieJie</b>  | <i>JEE-eh JEE-eh</i> | Big sister / Older sister                    |
| <b>YeYe</b>    | <i>YEH-yeh</i>       | Grandpa (paternal grandfather)               |
| <b>NaiNai</b>  | <i>NYE-nye</i>       | Grandma (paternal grandmother)               |
| <b>Chang'e</b> | <i>CHAHNG-uh</i>     | The Chinese Moon Goddess from ancient legend |

## BEFORE READING

### BUILD BACKGROUND & SPARK CURIOSITY

- Look at the cover together. What do you notice about the moon? The people? What do you think the girl is holding? What feelings do you see in the characters' faces?
- Ask: *What is a tradition your family celebrates every year? What makes it special?*
- Introduce the Mooncake Festival (also called the Mid-Autumn Festival): a celebration held in autumn when the moon is at its fullest and brightest. Families gather to eat mooncakes, make lanterns, and appreciate the moon together.
- Preview vocabulary: mooncake, lantern, pomelo, reunion.
- Ask: *Has your family ever been apart during a holiday? How did it feel? How did you stay connected?*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### GRADES PRE-K–1 (AGES 4–6)

**Focus:** Feelings, Family, & the Five Senses

1. Pearl seems sad at the beginning of the story. Why? Can you show me a sad face? When have you felt that way?
2. When NaiNai (grandma) arrives, how does Pearl feel? What clues in the pictures tell you her feelings changed?
3. Close your eyes. Imagine you are in Pearl's kitchen. What do you smell? What do you hear? What do you feel with your fingers?
4. Pearl makes mooncakes with NaiNai. What is something special you make or cook with someone in your family?
5. Pearl's family talks on a screen. Have you ever talked to someone far away on a phone or tablet? How did it feel to see their face?
6. Pearl looks up at the moon at the end. Why does looking at the moon make her feel better?



# BENEATH THE SAME ROUND MOON

## CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

### PAPER LANTERNS (ALL AGES)

**Curriculum Connections:** Art, Fine Motor Skills, Cultural Studies

Pearl creates bird, fish, and pomelo lanterns with her family. Students can make their own paper lanterns inspired by the Mid-Autumn Festival tradition.

- **Pre-K–1:** Provide pre-cut paper strips in warm colors (red, gold, orange). Students decorate strips with crayons or stickers, then fold and staple into simple accordion lanterns. Hang around the classroom.
- **Grades 2–4:** Following the paper-cut lantern example (included in the book’s backmatter), students design and create their own lanterns. Encourage them to create animal or fruit shapes like Pearl. Students can write a wish or gratitude note inside.



### GRATITUDE MOONCAKES & MOONCAKE FESTIVAL DISPLAY (ALL AGES)

**Curriculum Connections:** SEL (Gratitude), Art, Writing

The Mooncake Festival is about appreciation and gratitude for loved ones, harvest, and the beauty of the moon.

1. Give each student a round paper “mooncake” (see next page, or cut a circle out of cardstock, roughly 6 inches across).
2. Students draw or write something they’re grateful for inside their mooncake circle. Decorate the mooncake and share with the class.
3. Display all mooncakes together on a bulletin board around a large paper moon, creating a class “Mooncake Festival” display.



*For the full educator’s guide including extended activities and discussion questions for Grades 2-6, literary analysis activities, points of view writing exercises, cross-cultural comparisons, and a Moon Map project, or to inquire about school visits, visit [jasmineifang.com](http://jasmineifang.com) or contact [jasminefangwrites@gmail.com](mailto:jasminefangwrites@gmail.com).*



# DESIGN YOUR OWN GRATITUDE MOONCAKE

