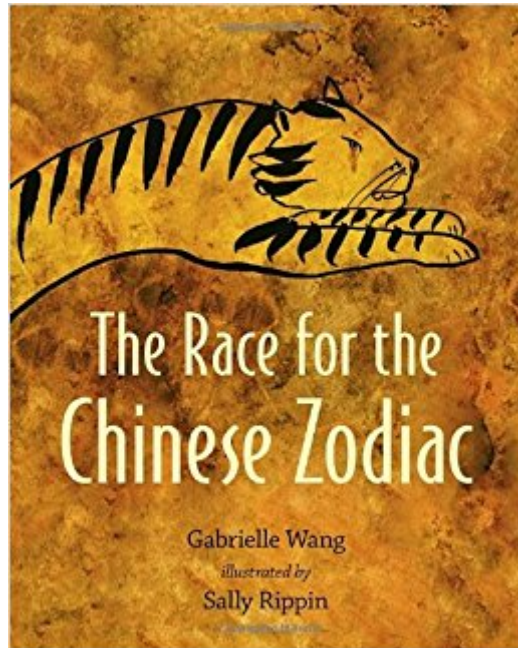




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The Race For The Chinese Zodiac



Synopsis

With gorgeous illustrations based on Chinese painting techniques, a lively retelling of the legendary animals' race that led to the twelve signs on the Chinese Zodiac. Long ago in ancient China, the Jade Emperor, ruler of heaven and earth, proclaimed a mighty race, saying that the first twelve animals to cross the river would have a year named after them. When the gong rings out, Tiger leaps in the river, followed by peaceful Rabbit clutching a log. Rat and Cat climb on Ox's back, and Dog splashes in the shallows while Rooster finds a raft and takes clever Monkey and gentle Goat on board. Snake hitches a ride in Horse's mane, powerful Dragon flies over the river, and Pig plays happily in the mud. But thirteen animals are racing for only twelve places on the Zodiac. Who will be honest, and who devious? Who will help friends along the way? Who will come first and who will miss out?

Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD640L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #752,243 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 in Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Chinese New Year #86 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Asian #536 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Asia

Age Range: 5 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 4

Customer Reviews

K-Gr 2-When the Jade Emperor summons the animals to a mighty race, Courageous Tiger, Peaceful Rabbit, and 11 other animals set out, eager to win a place in the Zodiac calendar. Charming Rat climbs aboard Kind Ox's broad back with his friend, Friendly Cat. Midway across the river, though, Rat pushes Cat overboard and wins first place. Powerful Dragon proves to be

kindhearted, pausing to make drought-ending rain and blow Rabbit ashore. Lucky Rooster, Clever Monkey, and Gentle Goat find a raft and help one another across. Happy Pig eats 'til her tummy is as big as a balloon, falls asleep, and floats across the river and receives the last place in the Zodiac. Poor Cat drags herself ashore and loses out, which is why cats still hate rats. The illustrations, created using Chinese ink, linocuts, and digital media, are in warm, earthy shades of brown, gray, and green with emphatic black lines. End material offers more description of the Chinese Zodiac. This high-spirited version of the story, with its large font and lively pace, will delight a large audience of young readers.-Marilyn Taniguchi, Beverly Hills Public Library, CA (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journal. LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

With elegant simplicity, Wang and Rippin tell the story of 13 animals competing for 12 spots in the Chinese zodiac, after the Jade Emperor challenges them to a race across the river. Each page spread presents one or a group of creatures as they race "some fast and some slow; some honestly and some with tricks" to reach the opposite riverbank. Rippin smoothly combines inky brushstrokes, linocuts, and earth-toned digital media to depict the creatures of the myth. Wang's text describes each animal's character and approach to responding to the Jade Emperor's challenge in large, engaging font that will likely quickly engage emerging readers. The lively story and the striking illustrations, reminiscent of traditional Chinese painting, point to fable-like lessons about friendship, laziness, trickery, and teamwork. Pair this with Ed Young's *Cat and Rat* (1995) and Marie Sellier's *What the Rat Told Me* (2009) for a Chinese-folklore-themed storytime, or share it with older students for an accessible and engaging model of fable writing. Preschool-Grade 1. --Francisca Goldsmith

Delightful illustrations accompany a well told legend of how the animals of the Chinese Zodiac were chosen. I used this book to compare/contrast with another excellent version of the legend, *The Great Race*. My third graders really enjoyed both books. I'm glad I bought the two of them!

Gabrielle Wang is a very well known award winning Australian author of Children's Books. She has written over 30 .

This is a must have for the new year!

Beautiful pictures and captivating story of the Race for the Chinese Zodiac. Students enjoyed this

and loved the pictures. Suggest it as a great lesson for students from Grades K-5 for Chinese New Year.

I like the illustrations, nice quality paper, easy to read and maintain the interest even for a 2 year old.

ideal for pre-K and K

Nice book to explain the Chinese Zodiac to children. Interesting illustrations.

It's a very nice presentation of Lunar New Year for children

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