

*Stargazing*  
**Discussion Guide**  
Grades 3-4

**Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.**

- Before reading, have a class discussion to activate prior knowledge about Chinese culture and astrology
- *Titles Can Be Telling\**: Reread the title of the book. Think about what’s included in the title, the image chosen for the cover, and what you notice. Make a prediction based on the cover and consider how the title influences the story. (revisit after reading the story and see if your predictions are correct)
- Frontload vocabulary (see vocabulary list)

**During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.**

- Predict what Christine’s parents will do upon hearing about Moon and Mrs. Lin (p.13) At the end of the chapter what do they do? (Ch. 1)
- How did Christine feel about Moon moving in? What were her initial impressions? What did you notice when Christine met Moon? (Ch. 1)
- Why do you think Christine’s mom made food for them after they had already had dinner? (Ch. 2)
- Christine ended up going against her parents. What did she do? Why do you think she did it? Would you ever do that? (Ch. 3)
- What do you think Moon is referring to when she says her “real home is up there”? Why do you think she believes that? (Ch. 4)
- Why is Vivian upset? (Ch. 4)
- Why do you think Moon stood up for Vivian? What did she give Vivian? (Ch. 5)
- Christine’s dad got upset, what do you think he is worried about? (Ch. 6)
- Why did Christine start changing her behaviors and response? Whatever happened to cause this? (Ch. 6)
- What would you have done if you saw someone’s private information? Why would you make that choice? Did Christine make the right choice? (Ch. 6)
- Why do you think Moon passed out? (Ch. 6)
- What information did we learn about Moon? Infer if this new information is related to previous events. (Ch. 7)
- Why is Christine apprehensive about seeing Moon? (Ch. 7)

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- Describe what happened before, during, and after Moon’s surgery. (Ch. 7)
- Why do you think Dad lets Christine sit up front? Why was this shocking? (Ch. 8)
- Why do you think Christine’s upset? What actions does she demonstrate? What is the real reason she is upset?
- What is the meaning behind Dad’s message? How does this message apply to your life? (Ch. 8)
- List some ways in which Moon has influenced Christine and her Dad. (Ch. 8)
- How did Moon react when Christine visited her? (Ch. 9)
- What did Christine organize? Why is this important? (Ch. 9)
- How did they honor Moon at the ceremony? (Ch. 9)

**After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.**

- How does the author’s life influence stargazing? What impact does the afterwards message have on your life and how you view your identity?
- Revisit the Titles Can Be Telling\* Worksheet from the pre reading activity. What do the cover and title mean now that you have read the story? How do you think the title connects to the story? Does the title fit the story?
- Micro-/Meso-/Macro Environment Systems: Levels of Setting\*: Notice the name and the aspects of a character’s environment. This may be based on the author's information or on what you can infer based on text details. Then, think about which of these is essential based on the conflicts that the character is experiencing.

**If your students enjoyed this book...**

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.