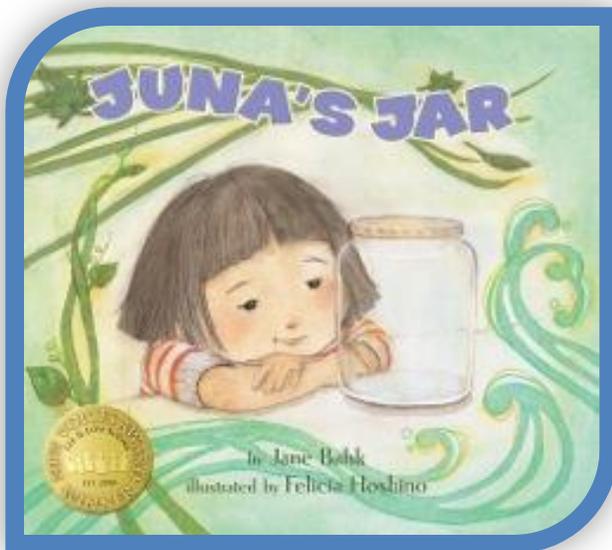




Book of the Month

Presented by ADL's Education Division

About the Book of the Month Parent/Family Discussion Guide: This collection of featured books is from Books Matter: The Best Kid Lit on Bias, Diversity and Social Justice. The books teach about bias and prejudice, promote respect for diversity, encourage social action and reinforce themes addressed in education programs of [A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® Institute](#), ADL's international anti-bias education and diversity training provider. For parents, guardians and family members, reading the books listed on this site with your children and integrating the concepts into your interactions with them is an excellent way to help children grapple with and learn about these important principles.



Juna's Jar

Jane Bahk (Author), Felicia Hoshino (Illustrator)

ISBN: 978-1600608537

Publisher: Lee & Low Books

Year Published: 2015

Age Range: 4–8

Book Themes

Friendship, Imagination, Nature diversity, Culture

About the Book

Juna and her best friend, Hector, love to go on adventures in the park, collecting things to put in Juna's empty kimchi jars. But then one day Hector unexpectedly moves away and Juna is left wondering who will play with her. With the help of her special jar, Juna searches for her friend the world over. What Juna finds is that adventure—and new friends—can be found in the most unexpected places.

Conversation Starters

Whether you read the book aloud or children read it on their own and you discuss it later, use these open-ended questions to deepen the conversation. Remember not to judge their responses and to listen thoughtfully and engage in a give-and-take that helps them expand upon their understanding of the book and its themes.

NOTE: Before reading the book aloud, explain what **kimchi** is since it features prominently in the book.

Kimchi is a Korean side dish made of vegetables with a variety of seasonings; there are hundreds of varieties of kimchi. In traditional preparation, kimchi is stored underground in jars.

- What happened in the story?
- What was Juna and Hector's friendship like?
- How did Juna feel when she found out that Hector moved away? How do you know?
- Have you ever had a friend move away? How did that feel?
- How did Juna's brother Minhø try to cheer her up? Have you ever tried to cheer up a friend or a brother/sister? What sort of things did you do to cheer them up?
- What kind of adventures did Juna take? What did she discover?
- Do you ever take any adventures like the ones Juna took?
- How do you think Juna felt at the end of the book? How do you know?
- What do you think might happen next in the story between Juna and the girl she met?
- What was the message of the book?

Talking Points

Below are some important considerations to highlight in order to make this a learning opportunity for your child and your family.

1. Imagination

This book is centrally about imagination; it promotes the importance of creativity and imagination for its own sake as well as a way to work through feelings. Juna uses her imaginary adventures to look for her friend Hector and finally finds peace in knowing he is happy and remembers her (the jar she gave him is right next to him). From a very young age, it is important to accept and nurture your child's imagination including the encouragement of imaginary play, imaginary friends, imaginary adventures, etc. Some children tap into their imagination easily and some need opportunities and encouragement to spark their imaginary and creative side. Provide the time, space and materials for children to play, create, experiment and imagine new situations and new worlds. Provide props or make them together and play along with children. Ask open-ended and thought-provoking questions and model your own curiosity about the world. Play is how children learn about and make sense of the world and often children will role play new situations ("playing school") to work through their thoughts and feelings.

2. Friendship and Feelings

In the beginning of the book, you get a glimpse into Juna and Hector's friendship but soon, Hector is gone from Juna's life and she is sad about it. Her adventures take her to amazing places and they are all in the service of finding her friend Hector. When she does finally find him, she finds peace in being able to see that he is happy and she can say goodbye. Talk to your child about their friendships, the highs and the lows and the different feelings that arise out of those relationships. Even at a young age, there can be complicated feelings such as excitement in making new friends, disconnection, jealousy and sometimes rejection and/or loss of friendships. Always remember to tap into your child's feelings about their friendships—ask them how they are feeling and acknowledge

those emotions when they express them, no matter what the feelings are. Remember that some children express their feelings verbally and others do so in other ways using non-verbal cues.

3. Identity, Culture and Diversity

While the book does not delve deeply into identity and culture, the book touches on Juna and Hector's culture/ethnicity through words, names and food. As you read the book you can identify those elements of culture. Talk to your child about the aspects of culture(s) that are important in your family. You can describe culture as: parts of daily life that are seen in food, customs, holidays, music and more that a group of people share. Explain that these aspects of culture are often handed down from one generation to the next and they are sometimes connected to the country where people's relatives originally came from, but don't have to be. Articulate how you would define your family's culture(s), and identify what foods, holidays, customs, etc. are important to your family. You may also want to highlight other people in your life (your child's friends and family friends) who have similar or different cultures from your own. Stress that culture is part of who we are but not all of who we are. It's also important to underscore that those differences should not impact our ability to connect with each other across different cultures and that diversity can be and is a positive force.

Other Books You May Like

A Place Where Sunflowers Grow by Amy Lee-Tai, www.adl.org/education-outreach/books-matter/books/a-place-where-sunflowers-grow.html

A Movie in My Pillow/Una Pelicula en me Almohada by Jorge Argueta, www.adl.org/education-outreach/books-matter/books/a-movie-in-my-pillow.html

Abuela by Arthur Dorros, www.adl.org/education-outreach/books-matter/books/abuela.html

I'm Your Peanut Butter Big Brother by Selina Alko, www.adl.org/education-outreach/books-matter/books/im-your-peanut-butter-big.html

ADL Additional Resources

The following are curriculum and resources on diversity, culture and differences.

Curriculum Resources

"Who Am I? Identity Poems," *Current Events Classroom*, www.adl.org/education-outreach/lesson-plans/c/who-am-i-identity-poems.html.

Print Material

How Can I Help Children Appreciate Diversity?

www.adl.org/assets/pdf/education-outreach/How-Can-I-Help-Children-Appreciate-Diversity.pdf

Suggestions for helping children become aware of and appreciating diversity.

How Should I Respond When Children Notice Differences in Others?

www.adl.org/assets/pdf/education-outreach/How-Should-I-Respond-When-Children-Notice.pdf

Tips for turning children's observations into teachable moments.

Websites

Parent, Family and Caregiver Resources

www.adl.org/education-outreach/anti-bias-education/c/parent-family-and-caregivers.html

Strategies, tips, guiding principles and resources to help parents, family members and caregivers impart values and principles to the children in their lives.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Resources

www.adl.org/education-outreach/curriculum-resources/c/asian-pacific-american-heritage.html

A list of PreK-12 curriculum and other resources developed by ADL to bring Asian Pacific American Heritage Month to your classrooms.

Definitions Related to Bias, Injustice and Bullying

www.adl.org/education-outreach/curriculum-resources/c/definitions-related-to-bias-injustice-bullying.html

A listing of terms and definitions relating to bias, diversity, bullying and social justice concepts written for elementary-age children.

Table Talk: Family Conversations about Current Events

www.adl.org/education-outreach/anti-bias-education/c/table-talk-family-conversations.html

Table Talk provides parents and family members with the tools they need to engage their families in conversations about important news stories and other timely discussions about societal and world events. Each guide includes a topic summary, questions to start the conversation and dig deeper, ideas for taking action and additional resources.

Table Talk: Dolls and Diversity

www.adl.org/education-outreach/anti-bias-education/c/refugees-reactions-and-world-response.html

This table talk provides parents and family members with the tools they need to engage in conversations about important news stories concerning new diverse representations of dolls.

Children's Books

Below are links to lists of recommended anti-bias and multicultural books for the indicated category.

People, Identity and Culture, www.adl.org/education-outreach/books-matter/people-identity-culture.html.

People, Identity and Culture: Asian/Asian-American/South Asian-American/Pacific Islander, www.adl.org/education-outreach/books-matter/people-books.html?subpeople=asianasian-americansouth-asiansouth-asian-americanpacific-islander&page=2.