

Tiny Feet Between the Mountains

Written and Illustrated By: Hanna Cha

Synopsis: "In a Korean village where being strong and loud is valued, tiny Soe-in is ridiculed but when the sun disappears, Soe-in dares to find the spirit tiger and set things right. Includes note about the position of tigers in Korean culture"--Provided by publisher.

Suggested Reading Date: Start of the year to talk about traits of success, before Lunar New Year (since 2020 is the Year of the Tiger), during May for Asian American Heritage month.

Activity Descriptions:

- Soe-in has many strong character traits. Brainstorm words to describe her and have students back their ideas up with examples from the text. You could even have classes brainstorm ideas and then choose a favorite to make a word cloud. Traits that appear most frequently will be bigger in the cloud. (link to a word cloud maker below)
- Explore the authors website you might look at "Korean Stories Told in Alphabets" and talk about using research inspire and guide writing.
- Focus on the setting- when do you think this takes place? What can you tell about this village? You could compare the setting to pictures of modern Korea
- Use it as a jump off to look at tigers and other endangered animals.
- Compare to folktales that feature small but strong characters such as Momotaro the peach boy, Thumbelina, or Tom Thumb.
- Explore Korea- you could locate it on a map, look at a book or explore a database such as CultureGrams or an online Encyclopedia.
- Share an online exhibit "The Korean Tiger: Icon of Myth and Culture" from the National Museum of Korea available on Google Arts and Culture link below.

Related Websites:

- Author/Illustrator Website <https://hannacha.myportfolio.com>
- Word Cloud Maker <https://www.wordclouds.com>
- "The Korean Tiger: Icon of Myth and Culture" from the National Museum of Korea https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/the-korean-tiger-icon-of-myth-and-culture-national-museum-of-korea/rgIC_exZf_u-JA?hl=en

Text to Text Connections: *The Name Jar* by Choi Yangsook, *My Name is Yoon* by Helen Recorvits, *The Green Frogs* by Yumi Heo, *The Firekeeper's Son* by Linda Sue Park, *Where's Halmouni?* By Julie Kim

Created By: Paula Wittmann