

Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

Book Notes



Mai-Li's Surprise / La sorpresa de Mai-Li

Author Marjorie Jackson

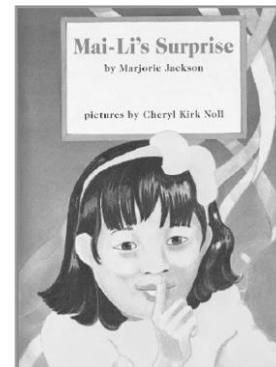
Illustrator Cheryl Kirk Noll

16 pages ■ 63 Eng. words ■ 59 Spn. words

Fountas and Pinnell Level F

Reading Recovery Level 7

Descubriendo la Lectura Level 5



Mai-Li's Surprise

SYNOPSIS

Mai-Li helps her older brother make a beautiful kite.

WHAT THE BOOK OFFERS

- Realistic fiction
- First person
- Present tense, then past
- Strong cultural perspective
- Chinese writing, calligraphy
- Open-ended, no text on final page

POSSIBLE SKILLS EMPHASIS

- Understanding writing as symbols for language and not all languages use letters as symbols
- Extending text through illustrative material
- Seeing text as a summary

INTRODUCING THE BOOK

What does the title and cover illustration lead you to expect the setting to be?

Do you have any idea what the streamers behind Mai-Li's head could be for?

What do you think is the significance of the ink and brush on the title page?

Where have you seen Chinese writing?

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Mai-Li's Surprise (continued)

FOCUS OF INSTRUCTION

- The succinct text can be extended through discussion of the illustrations. The students' thoughts can be written on selfstick notes attached to the appropriate page. These extras could be dialogue between the siblings, descriptions of what is happening in the text, or text for the final page.

FOLLOWING THE READING

- Follow a discussion about making and flying kites or by writing about the students' real or vicarious experiences with kites.
- Finding and copying other words in the Chinese language could extend discussion of written language as symbols.
- Find greetings or key phrases in other languages, especially those represented in the school, and use these in the classroom.

Additional Comprehension Prompts For Oral or Written Use Before, During, and After Reading	
FINISH THIS THOUGHT	<i>Flying a kite is . . . because . . . Mai-Li helped her brother by . . .</i>
USE YOUR MEMORY	<i>What did Mai-Li's brother like to do? What is the title of the book and why did the author choose that title?</i>
WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?	<i>Why do you think Mai-Li wrote her brother's name on the tiger kite? On the front cover, Mai-Li has her finger over her mouth. Why do you think she does? Why is that a good picture for the cover of this book?</i>
BE CREATIVE	<i>Draw your very own kite. Don't forget the tail! Check out the information in the Nonfiction Note box on the inside back cover to learn more about Chinese writing. Try writing the word 'kite' on your kite in Chinese. You will find the word on page 5.</i>
VOCABULARY AGENT	<i>Find words in the story that will make sense in the following sentences: Li-Chi painted a _____ on his kite. Li-Chi's kite brought _____ to him and to Mai-Li. A _____ is fun to fly on a windy beach. Chinese writing is an _____.</i>