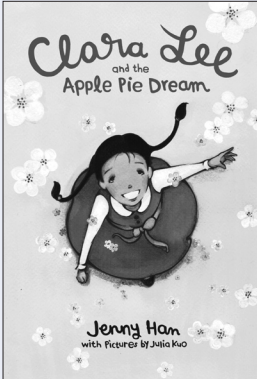


ReadingGroupGuide

Clara Lee and the Apple Pie Dream by Jenny Han illustrated by Julia Kuo

ABOUT THE BOOK

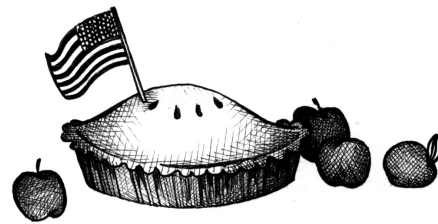


Clara Lee likes her best friends, her grandpa, kimchi, candy necklaces (her signature look!), and the idea of winning the Little Miss Apple Pie contest. Clara Lee doesn't like her mom's fish soup, bad dreams (but Grandpa says they mean good luck!), speaking in public, or when her little sister is being annoying. One day, after a bad dream, Clara Lee is thrilled to have a whole day of luck (Like!). But then, bad luck starts to follow (Dislike!). When will Clara Lee's luck change again? Will it change in time for the Little Miss Apple Pie contest?

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Clara Lee declares that "Fall is a time of change." (p. 5) Do you agree with Clara Lee's statement? How does her life change during the book? Does your life change each fall?
2. The Apple Blossom Festival is an event unique to Clara Lee's town. Why does her town have the Apple Blossom Festival every year? Does your town or school have a unique event similar to the Apple Blossom Festival? If yes, what makes it unique and what is being celebrated?
3. Clara Lee is Korean American. What did you learn about Korean American culture from reading this book?
4. Clara Lee has a scary dream (pp. 21-23). Why does this dream scare her so much and why is she reluctant to tell her grandpa about it? What does her grandpa say her dream means? Do you think there is meaning to be found in dreams?
5. What events occur in Clara Lee's life that she considers good luck? Clara Lee's friend, Shayna said, "My grandma says we make our own luck." (p. 48). What does her grandma mean by this? Who do you agree with, Clara Lee or Shayna's grandma, and why?

6. Why does Clara Lee want to be Little Miss Apple Pie? What scares her about trying out for Little Miss Apple Pie? Why does she decide to try out? Have you ever had to talk to an audience? Were you scared? How did you get through it?
7. What does Dionne say to Clara Lee on the playground? How does Dionne make Clara Lee feel? Do you think Clara Lee deserves to try out for Little Miss Apple Pie? Why?
8. Clara Lee decides that her Little Miss Apple Pie speech will be about what makes her town special. What makes your town, or neighborhood, special and what do you like most about it?
9. Why does Clara Lee get upset with her sister at the dinner table in Chapter 12? How would you have handled the situation if you had been Clara Lee?
10. Clara Lee has the scary dream again in Chapter 14. How does it affect her this time?
11. Clara Lee meets Miss Apple Pie on the float. How does Miss Apple Pie make Clara Lee feel? Has anything ever happened to you that made you feel the same as Clara Lee?



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jenny Han grew up in Richmond, Virginia, and went to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She moved to New York City for graduate school and received her MFA in Writing for Children at the New School. She currently lives in Brooklyn and works part-time as a school librarian.



Photo: Erik Lang