

This month's book club selection is based on a Chinese folktale. *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* tells the story of Minli, a girl from a small, poor community, who goes on an epic quest to change her family's fortune.

On her journey, Minli relies on the help of friends she meets along the way. Most of all, though, she relies on her instincts and her heart to guide her, and never loses sight of the kind of person she wants to be.

Minli's parents go on their own journey, learning to trust their daughter more than they ever have before. Waiting and hoping for Minli's safe return, Ma and Ba discover that their daughter is capable of much more than they'd realized.

As you read, you might think and talk about ways in which your young girl can take on more independence and responsibility, and the ways in which the grown-ups in her life can better support her.

On the following pages, you will find some suggestions for how your book club meeting might go. Feel free to use whichever of these questions and tips works for your club, and substitute as you wish. The best book discussions develop organically as people listen closely and respond to each other.

Munch 'n' Chat, 20-30 minutes

Before girls and grown-ups arrive, the hosts might consider whether nametags might be helpful. If any of the people in attendance might not know each other, think about what you can do to put people at ease, and set a warm tone. Leave a little time for a "soft start" during which people can arrive, snack, and catch up or meet each other.

Ice-Breaker, 10-15 minutes

Everyone pair up with someone other than your girl or grown-up. If possible, try to pair with someone you don't know very well. Pairs take turns asking each other an icebreaker question. You could make up your own icebreaker or use one of our silly suggestions.

What is the place - real or imaginary - that you'd most love to visit?

If you were going to give a speech, who would you want to introduce you, and why?

After pairs have giggled over the question, take a few minutes for anyone who wants to share their answer with the group.

Book Discussion, 30 minutes or so

You might decide to start the discussion with every member saying her favorite part of the book before reading discussion questions. Some groups might have time to get to all of these questions, but many groups will pick one or two questions and spend the whole meeting discussing those. Feel free to come up with your own discussion questions, or bring up any ideas that came up while you were reading.

- What kind of person is Minli, and how do you know?
- Why do you think Minli decided to find the Old Man of the Moon by herself? Why not ask for one of her parents to go with her?
- Minli packed up a variety of items for her trip (pg 32). What do you think of the items she brought? What do they say about her? What would you pack for a long journey?
- What do you think about the scene when the Goldfish Man tells Ma and Ba to go home and wait for Minli? Do you think they were right to follow his advice?
- Which of Minli's personal qualities help her along her journey?
- Minli and her mother both had ideas about seeking fortune at the beginning of the story. By the end, their ideas about and definitions of fortune had changed. How did they change? And what is your own definition of fortune?

Leadership Goals, 15 minutes

Minli takes on a huge responsibility in this story, going on a long, dangerous journey. It's hard for her parents to be patient and trusting while she's away from home. With your grown-ups, talk about one way in which you could have more independence and responsibility at home. Could you make a plan to try this out?

Closing, 5 minutes

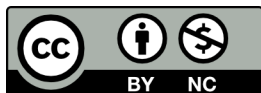
Before everyone goes off their separate ways, make sure you've chosen a date for your March meeting. Happy reading!

Further Reading

If you really loved this book, and you'd like to read more books like it, here are some suggestions. If there are other books you would like to recommend, we'd love to hear them! Please share them on our **Girls Leadership Book Club Facebook Group** bit.ly/GLbookFB so our community can keep growing our list of great titles.

Starry River of the Sky and *When the Sea Turned to Silver* by Grace Lin - These books are the sequel and companion novel to *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*. Be sure to check these out for more magical adventures.

Zita the Spacegirl by Ben Hatke - When Zita's friend Joseph gets sucked through a portal, Zita follows him to another galaxy. She journeys through alien territory, using all her leadership skills to form a band of helpful mates and save her friend... and the universe!



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