This fancifully illustrated multicultural children’s book tells a famous Chinese myth about a young boy’s quest to save his village. Long ago, in a remote village in China, there lived a kind and generous little boy. He spent his days in the forest, collecting wood to trade for food. One day, the boy made a wondrous discovery: a magic stone that caused his money jar and rice crocks to overflow, both of which he shared with the poor villagers. But strange things began to happen. It no longer rained. The crops died. The rivers dried up. A terrible drought had struck and would not release its grip. The brave young boy, full of dreams of a white, water-spewing Dragon, took his magic stone on a journey and discovered how to save his village.

**Synopsis**

This fancifully illustrated multicultural children’s book tells a famous Chinese myth about a young boy’s quest to save his village. Long ago, in a remote village in China, there lived a kind and generous little boy. He spent his days in the forest, collecting wood to trade for food. One day, the boy made a wondrous discovery: a magic stone that caused his money jar and rice crocks to overflow, both of which he shared with the poor villagers. But strange things began to happen. It no longer rained. The crops died. The rivers dried up. A terrible drought had struck and would not release its grip. The brave young boy, full of dreams of a white, water-spewing Dragon, took his magic stone on a journey and discovered how to save his village.

**Book Information**

Hardcover: 42 pages  
Publisher: Shanghai Press; Bilingual edition, Hardcover with Jacket edition (April 10, 2012)  
Language: English  
ISBN-10: 1602209782  
Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 0.5 x 9 inches  
Shipping Weight: 14.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)  
Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars  
Best Sellers Rank: #151,146 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)  
#44 in Books > Children’s Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Other  
#141 in Books > Children’s Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Asia  
#370 in Books > Children’s Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Dragons  
Age Range: 4 - 8 years  
Grade Level: Preschool - 3

**Customer Reviews**

I bought this book as a bedtime story to read my 2 year old daughter. The book has a nice balance of several things: 1. A simple story arc that she is able to follow. 2. A protagonist in the Greedy Red Monster. 3. A little boy who goes "POOF!" and turns into a dragon at the end. 4. Several animals she is able to identify with. We read this book (and a few others) nearly every night, and she typically asks for it by name. She knows the story by heart. The only thing I would improve is this: There is a picture towards the beginning of several sad people, including a sad dog. At the end, after the dragon brings the rain back, I would love there to be a happy version of this pictures. Due to her
age, she has a hard time understanding that the people are happy after the rains come back, and no matter how often we look at that picture, the people are still sad. Overall this is a wonderful children's story that I would highly recommend for "story time / Bedtime" reading.

Author and illustrator, Li Jian, used to be a middle school art teacher and is the author and illustrator, and editor of several books for children. This Chinese legend, written in English and in Chinese, is about a boy who goes on a journey, looking for the water dragon to ask for rain. He helps four animals along the way, who then give him gifts and warn him of a greedy red monster. He overcomes the monster and brings rain to his village. The boy, Ah bao, is the hero of this story.

My son loved it. He's five and his favorite part is when the boy turns in to dragon. Great book and excellent series!!

Download to continue reading...
