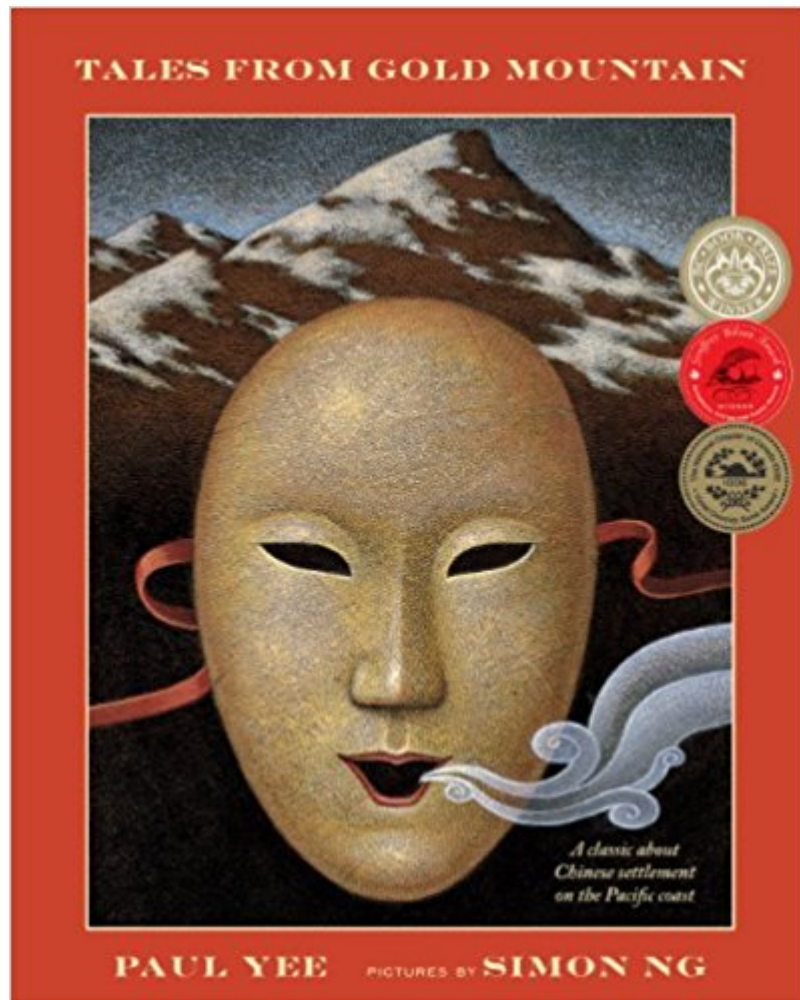


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Tales From Gold Mountain



Synopsis

This collection, by noted historian and children's author Paul Yee, is based on the tumultuous and brave history of Chinese immigrants to North America. Drawing on the real background of the Chinese role in the gold rush, the building of the railway and the settling of the west coast in the nineteenth century, Yee has created eight original stories that combine the rough-and-tumble adventure of frontier life with the rich folk traditions that these immigrants brought from China. In "Spirits of the Railway," a young man appeases the ghosts of dead Chinese railroad workers who were never properly buried; in "Forbidden Fruit," a father's prejudice prevents his beloved daughter from finding happiness with a man of another race; in "Sons and Daughters," a wealthy merchant finds that his obsession to leave his business to sons has tragic results; and in "The Revenge of the Iron Chink," Chinese salmon cannery workers achieve sweet and shocking revenge after they lose their jobs to an automated canning machine. These tales are funny, sad, romantic and earthy, but ultimately, as a collection, they reflect the gritty optimism of the Chinese who overcame prejudice and adversity to build a unique place for themselves in North America. Accompanied by stunning and dramatic paintings by award-winning illustrator Simon Ng, this collection is a reminder of the important role the Chinese have played in the history of this continent.

Book Information

Paperback: 64 pages

Publisher: Groundwood Books; Reprint edition (September 26, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1554981255

ISBN-13: 978-1554981250

Product Dimensions: 9.8 x 7.8 x 0.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,742,794 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #227 in [Books > Children's](#)

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Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 1 - 5

Customer Reviews

This collection of eight short stories conveys some of the heartaches, challenges, and joys

experienced by Chinese immigrants to North America during the nineteenth century. These immigrants, often impoverished peasants in China who wanted to support their families, had left for the New World attracted by the promise of plentiful job opportunities. They came to the United States and Canada to search for gold during the gold rushes, help build the transcontinental railroads, work in primary industries such as farming and lumbering, and find odd jobs wherever there might be an opening. Adding to the difficult nature of much of this work, Chinese immigrants often faced blatant discrimination and hostility from North American whites. Both countries passed laws restricting Chinese immigration, many Chinese lived segregated lives in Chinatowns, and Chinese workers often experienced more dangerous work conditions and lower pay than their white counterparts. These struggles led to some painful legacies, which for some were counterbalanced by happier times of prosperity, growing families, and new opportunities. Paul Yee's short stories masterfully communicate these sorrows and hopes, with carefully-crafted prose and surprising conclusions that keep the pages turning. With its excellent writing and deeply symbolic illustrations, this book is highly recommended.

This is a great book of spooky stories about the hardships of Chinese immigrant life in North America. The ghosts and gruesome ways to die make the book skew a little older than the 7-10 age range, perhaps, but the stories are vivid and the illustrations are captivating.

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