

Author Interview With Yobe Qiu by Itsy Bitsy Book Bits

For those new to your work, please tell us a bit about yourself, your books and your genre/s

- Yobe Qiu is an educator, entrepreneur, mom, and bestselling author with a passion for storytelling. As an educator, Yobe taught children and their families to embrace love and diverse cultures. When she identified a need for more multicultural books, she decided to create her own children's stories featuring Asian characters and cultures.

What lessons have you learned as a writer?

- That there are not enough multicultural children's books out there for kids to see themselves represented in books.

In your everyday life how do you give back to the world?

- I donate my time, talent, and books to children and literacy organizations.

If your life had a theme song what would it be?

- Pocket full of sunshine

Name two authors you wish more people knew about

- Kim Ann, Grace Lin

What are some of your hobbies?

- Spending time with my daughter's, scrolling through Reels, and trying new foods.

When reading reviews, what is something you love to see written?

- That something in one of my books really resonated with the reader.

What are you currently working on?

- A chapter book series.

What books are currently in your to-read list?

- N/A

What is your favorite book made into a movie/tv show?

- N/A

What is something people would be surprised to know about you?

- I have a podcast for early childhood educators.

Its Release Day! How do you celebrate?

- By checking my book ranking every 10 minutes!

What is your writing routine with a new book? Do you outline your stories or do you do what the characters tell you to do as you go along? Mix of both?

- I start with an outline and see where it takes me.

What has been your most rewarding experience since publishing your work?

- Being on the Kelly Clarkson Show for AAPI month.

It's family game night and everyone gets to pick one game to play, what game are you choosing?

- Guess the Asian Food - by Yobe Qiu

Where would be your dream destination for a vacation?

- Anywhere with great food!

What got you into writing?

- A need for multicultural literature.

Where do you get the inspiration for your stories?

- From my family and friends.

Do you collect anything? If so, what?

- No

Do you have any family traditions? If so, what is your favorite?

- Huge family gatherings and celebrations.

When choosing names for your characters, what inspires you or how do you choose what they will be?

- I make a list and see what speaks to me.

If you had a time machine that can only go one direction, would you want it to go forward in time or backwards? Why?

- Forward to see what the next big thing in publishing was going to be.

What is your favorite animal?

- Bunnies

**You are filling out this interview as part of a tour with Itsy Bitsy Book Bits.
What made you choose Itsy Bitsy Book Bits?**

- Referred by Kim Ann