

## *Stargazing*

**Author:** Jen Wang

### **Related Books:**

*Best Friends* by Shannon Hale

*The Year of the Dog* by Grace Lin

*Just Jaime* by Terri Libenson

*Stella Diaz Has Something to Say* by Angela Dominguez

### **Websites:**

Author website: <https://www.jenwang.net/>

Teaching Guide:

<https://3au7fy15mukb2pxa231riv0u-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Teachers-Guide-Middle-Grade-Graphic-Novels.pdf>? (general guide for teaching with graphic novels)

**Book Trailer:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wgb264PmMX4>

**Book Talk:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gm3nJvTORP0>

Moon is everything Christine isn't. She's confident, impulsive, artistic . . . and though they both grew up in the same Chinese-American suburb, Moon is somehow unlike anyone Christine has ever known.

But after Moon moves in next door, these unlikely friends are soon *best* friends, sharing their favorite music videos and painting their toenails when Christine's strict parents aren't around. Moon even tells Christine her deepest secret: that she has visions, sometimes, of celestial beings who speak to her from the stars. Who reassures her that earth isn't where she *really* belongs.

Moon's visions have an all-too-earthly root, however, and soon Christine's best friend is in the hospital, fighting for her life. Can Christine be the friend Moon needs, now, when the sky is falling?

### **Discussion Questions:**

- What does *Stargazing* teach us about acceptance?
- What are the similarities and differences between Christine's and Moon's families?
- Christine and Moon become unlikely friends. What does that mean?
- It's normal to have mixed emotions about a friendship. Have you ever felt jealous of a friend? How did you handle it?

### **Activities:**

- First Impressions Activity (West Virginia University Extension Service)- Christina's image of Moon changes as she gets to know her better. How does someone's own story

compare to your impressions?

[https://www.uh.edu/cdi/diversity\\_education/resources/activities/pdf/Inclusion\\_Activities\\_Book.pdf](https://www.uh.edu/cdi/diversity_education/resources/activities/pdf/Inclusion_Activities_Book.pdf)

Instruction: Sit all participants in a circle. Each participant writes one fact about his background, interests or history that most people don't know. Participants then fold up the cards and put them in the middle of the circle. A group leader opens the cards and reads them one at a time. Participants write down which person in the circle they believe the card addresses. Each person then reveals his/her guess and then the writer reveals him/herself. Reflection: Discuss with the group why they associated certain traits with certain people.

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- Getting to Know You (West Virginia University Extension Service) Christina's image of Moon changes as she gets to know her better. How does someone's own story compare to your impressions?

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Instruction: Provide each group a large sheet of flip chart paper and markers. Have them to draw a large flower with a center and an equal number of petals to the number of participants in their group. Through discussion within their group, have them find their similarities. They should fill in the center of the flower with something they all have in common. Each member should then fill in his or her petal with something about them that is unique - unlike any other member in their group. Participants should be instructed that they cannot use physical attributes such as hair color, weight etc. (This encourages them to have more meaningful discussions with their group members). Encouraged to be creative in their ideas and drawings.

Reflection: Ask the small groups to share their flower with everyone. They should discuss similarities and differences o If it was easy or difficult for them find similarities. Discuss the importance of talking with others and the value in finding both similarities and differences with one another.

- [Try something new!](#) Christine comes to learn how trying new foods can be a wonderful experience. Take an opportunity to try something new as well. [PBS](#) offers a wide assortment of Chinese recipes to make at home. Which ones will you try with your family?