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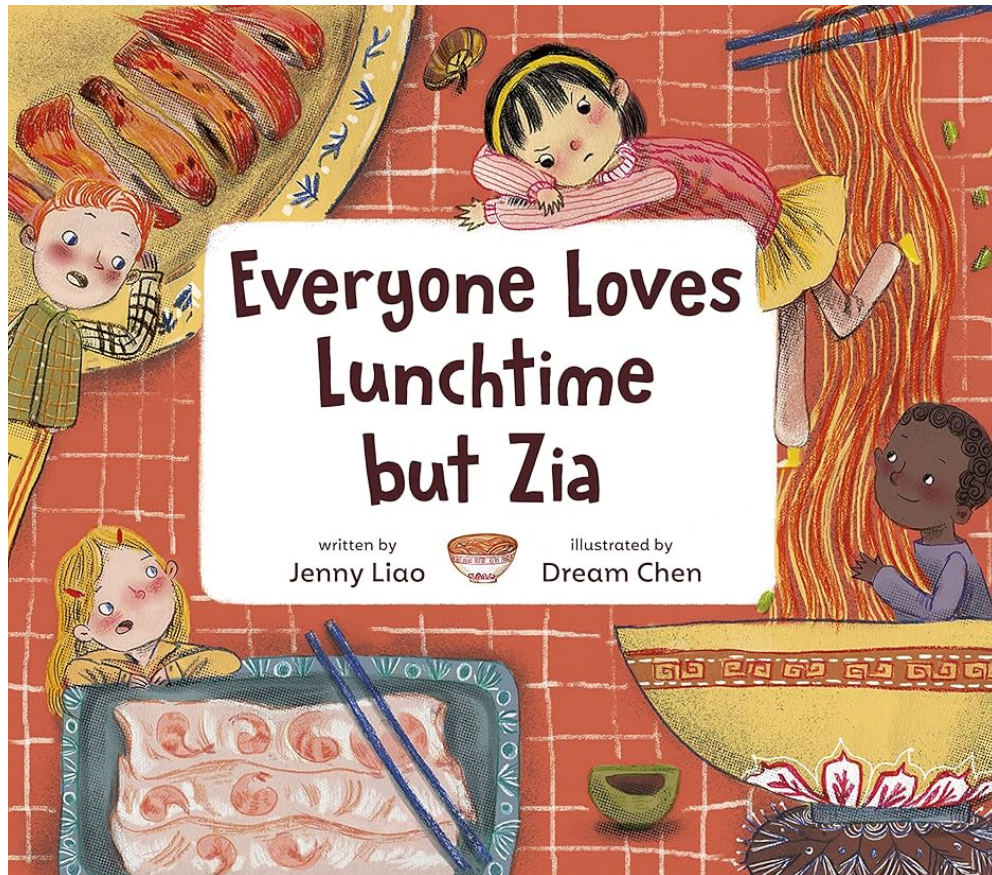
JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE & LITERACY EDUCATION

Review of *Everyone Loves Lunchtime but Zia*

Written by Jenny Liao

Educator Reviewer: Krista Postell, High School EFL teacher

Student Reviewer: Amaya Moreno, 2nd grade student



Jenny, L. (2023). *Everyone Loves Lunchtime but Zia*. Alfred A. Knopf.

ISBN: 9780593425442

Adult Review:

This is a classic story about embracing our differences and sharing our culture with one another. This is a good story for children and their parents to read together. It is a great way to introduce children to Chinese cuisine and the special meanings each dish has; in Western culture, we make special dishes in accordance with certain holidays or celebrations, but in many Eastern cultures certain foods are eaten to represent the qualities we hope to achieve in life. The illustrations in this book have a playful, child-like charm that will help carry you through the story.

Teachers and parents will want to read the book ahead of time and learn how to pronounce the Chinese words used in the book. There is a list of the foreign words and their pronunciation in the back of the book which is helpful, but it may be beneficial to use a translation app to hear the pronunciation as well. Additionally, the author provides a recipe for children and parents to try at home! The author's note at the back of the book provides a brief explanation of Chinese geography and cuisine, so it's okay if you don't know much before reading this book!

Student Review:

I loved this book because I love lunchtime at school, and Zia's Mom and Dad make her delicious lunches every day. I would recommend this book because not all kids eat the same kinds of food and kids shouldn't tease each other if their food looks funny or smells different from their lunch. I think a lot of kids around the world would also enjoy this book because almost all kids like lunchtime and like eating yummy foods. I liked it when Zia's friend tried the rice noodle rolls for the first time and really liked them! This book made me think about the yummy Filipino food my mom makes me for lunch sometimes. The part I liked the least was that it made me really hungry and wanted to jump inside the book and eat all the Cantonese dishes!

