

Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

Book Notes



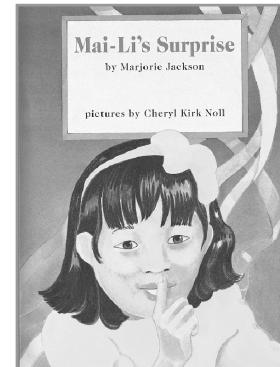
Mai-Li's Surprise

Author Marjorie Jackson

Illustrator Cheryl Kirk Noll

16 pages ■ 61 words

La sorpresa de Mai-Li ■ 59 words



Mai-Li's Surprise

Em	Early				Fluent			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
	S		G		I			

S = Shared G = Guided I = Independent

SYNOPSIS

Mai-Li helps her older brother make a beautiful kite.

WHAT THE BOOK OFFERS

- Realistic fiction
- First person
- Present tense, then past
- Strong cultural perspective
- Chinese writing, calligraphy
- Open-ended, no text on final page

POSSIBLE SKILLS EMPHASIS

- Understanding writing as symbols for language and not all languages use letters as symbols
- Extending text through illustrative material
- Seeing text as a summary

INTRODUCING THE BOOK

What does the title and cover illustration lead you to expect the setting to be?

Do you have any idea what the streamers behind Mai-Li's head could be for?

What do you think is the significance of the ink and brush on the title page?

Where have you seen Chinese writing?

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				1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
			S	G		I					

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Mai-Li's Surprise (continued)

FOCUS OF INSTRUCTION

- The succinct text can be extended through discussion of the illustrations. The students' thoughts can be written on self-stick notes attached to the appropriate page. These extras could be dialogue between the siblings, descriptions of what is happening in the text, or text for the final page.

FOLLOWING THE READING

- Follow a discussion about making and flying kites or by writing about the students' real or vicarious experiences with kites.
- Finding and copying other words in the Chinese language could extend discussion of written language as symbols.
- Find greetings or key phrases in other languages, especially those represented in the school, and use these in the classroom.