

LORGNETTE

Quarterly Review of Children's and Young Adults' Books

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Reviewer

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Fiction

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2-4

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Book Review: MINDY KIM AND THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL

This is the 10th in the Mindy Kim chapter book series. In order to catch up with Mindy Kim, her spunky personality, and her family, it was necessary to read a few earlier books in the series. While it may not be critical to read the books in sequence, it felt as if something was “missing” as it was not possible to find the books (online) as they were written.

Mindy Kim’s father is from Korea, and her stepmother is Chinese. The stories share many aspects of each culture.

Mindy is just delightful. The adjective the author often uses to describe her is “determined.” In this book, Mindy is determined to make the best of a sad situation when the family returns to Korea due to the death of her grandfather. His death coincides with the holiday Chuseok, or the Korean equivalent of Thanksgiving. Mindy’s determination and their close family bond (this was very evident in Book 8: Mindy Kim and the Fairy Tale Wedding) help readers see joy in both events.

While Korean and Chinese words and concepts could be challenging, they are easily explained within the context of the story (as opposed to a separate vocabulary section).

This book is “highly recommended” because young readers as well as older readers who may struggle need to feel the accomplishment that comes with finishing a chapter book.

