

Eyes That Kiss in the Corners



READ ALOUD

Themes: Belonging, Family, Heritage, Identity, Self-love,

Author(s):

Joanna Ho

Book Brief: A young Asian girl notices that her eyes look different from those of some classmates. As she describes the eyes of her mama, her Amah (grandmother), and her Mei-Mei (little sister), she comes to see her own eyes, and herself, as beautiful.

Illustrator(s):

Dung Ho

BEFORE READING

The Cover: Read the title *Eyes That Kiss in the Corners* aloud. Ask students what they think the title means, and what they notice about the girl's eyes on the cover.

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [vocabulary guide](#).

The Pictures: Flip briefly through the pictures. What do students notice about the little girl?

Purpose for Reading: "Let's read to find out how the girl feels about her eyes, and what helps her feel proud of who she is."

Prior Knowledge: Ask students, "Who is in your family and whom do they take after?" Explain that Amah means grandmother and Mei-Mei means little sister in Chinese.

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- How does the girl feel about her eyes when she says, "Not me"?
- Whose eyes does the girl say are just like hers? Name them.
- The author compares the eyes to "warm tea" and "crescent moons." What picture do those words put in your mind?
- How do Mama, Amah, and Mei-Mei each make the girl feel loved?
- By the end, the girl says her eyes are "a revolution." How have her feelings about herself changed?



Think Aloud: "When the girl first says, 'Big eyes, long lashes. Not me,' I stop and think: she sounds unsure, maybe even wishing her eyes were different. I'll keep reading to see if that feeling changes. By the end, when she calls her eyes 'beautiful,' I know it did."

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: How did the girl feel about her eyes at the start? How did she feel by the end? What helped her change?

Extending Our Thinking: Using [RIF's Writing Template](#) chart have students draw their own eyes and write one sentence about what makes them beautiful.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more titles by Joanna Ho.
 - [Eyes That Speak To The Stars](#) (2022)
 - [Becoming Boba](#) (2025)
 - [A Room With a View](#) (2026)