

NEWBERY MEDALIST AND BESTSELLING AUTHOR

LINDA SUE PARK



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THE ONE THING YOU'D SAVE



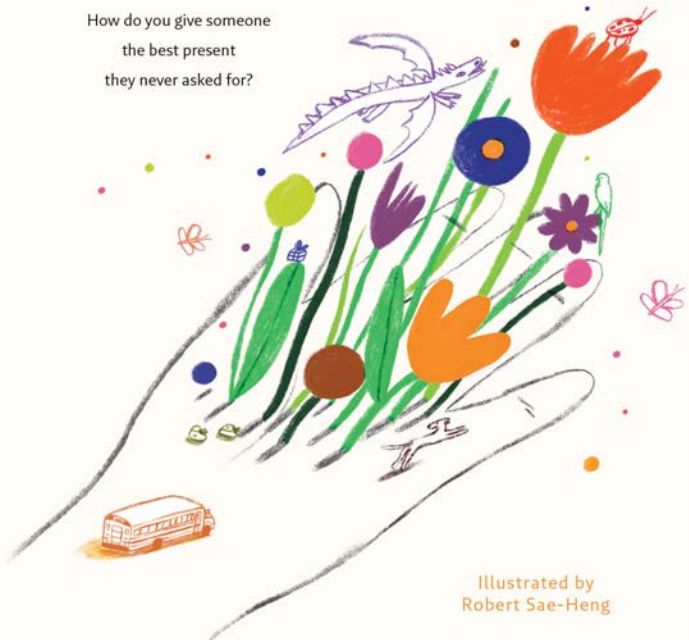
ILLUSTRATED BY
ROBERT SAE-HENG

Newbery Medalist and author of *The One Thing You'd Save*

LINDA SUE PARK

Just One Gift

How do you give someone
the best present
they never asked for?



Illustrated by
Robert Sae-Heng



EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



CLARION
BOOKS



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About the Book

When a teacher asks her class what one thing they would save in an emergency, some students know the answer right away. Others come to their decisions more slowly. And some change their minds when they hear their classmates' responses. A lively dialogue ignites as the students discover unexpected facets of one another—and themselves.

With her ear for authentic dialogue and knowledge of kids' priorities and emotions, Linda Sue Park brings the varied voices of an inclusive classroom to life through carefully honed, engaging, and instantly accessible verse. Elegantly illustrated with black-and-white art by Robert Sae-Heng throughout.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. As you read the poems, do you get an image in your head of the student who is speaking (or thinking)? What do you think they look like? Consider why their words create that image in your mind. Then try envisioning someone else, someone different, who might say those same words.
2. In writing, a dialogue tag is the phrase used to identify the person speaking: "I'm over here," Chris said. The words "Chris said" form the dialogue tag. In these poems, there are no dialogue tags, which means that the reader has to figure out who is speaking. For some readers, this might be confusing. For others, it can be an interesting challenge. Still others might appreciate the space it leaves to imagine the speakers. Try assigning dialogue tags to some or all of the poems. Find clues to who might be the speakers by tracking the names mentioned in the poems.
3. Mrs. Chang, the teacher in *The One Thing You'd Save*, asks her class to think about the one thing they would save in an emergency. Most of the class is excited about the assignment. Can you think of a homework assignment you have enjoyed more than others? What was it? What made it so enjoyable?
4. In the book, which character's response can you most relate to, or which character would you most want to be friends with based on their response? Why?
5. For the poems in this book, Linda Sue Park uses a Korean form of poetry called sijo (pronounced SHEE-zho). Sijo is a syllabic form with three lines and a set number of syllables per line. Linda Sue Park has used the form in an untraditional way. A classic sijo has three lines of thirteen to seventeen syllables. Sometimes the lines are divided into six shorter ones. Which poems were your favorites? Take a stab at writing your own sijo.
6. The book becomes a lively discussion between the characters. Some speculate about what their friends might take. What one thing do you think your friends or family members might choose? Take a guess and then see if their answer matches your guess.
7. Artist Robert Sae-Heng's illustrations accompany the text of this book. What do you think of the drawings throughout the book? What do you think they bring to the story?
8. Think about your own life and possessions; what one thing would you choose to save? Why? Write a poem or draw a picture of the one thing you'd save.





About the Book



The assignment: If you could give someone special in your life a present—just one gift—who would you choose, and what would it be? Discuss. Each student finds their own answer in their own way. And while some responses set off animated discussions, others are revealed only in the privacy of journal pages. But all of the choices are as heartfelt as they are unexpected.

In verse that highlights transformative moments of connection, Linda Sue Park celebrates the ways—big and small, obvious and unanticipated—our lives are enriched by the people we encounter. Robert Sae-Heng contributes black-and-white art to this eloquent stand-alone read that is also a welcomed companion to the popular *The One Thing You'd Save*.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In the book, several students are assigned “Question Mark” (p. 3) instead of “Family” or “Friend.” For many, it’s a difficult challenge. Reflect on who in your life is part of the Question Mark category. How have they made an impact—big or small—on you?
2. Initially, students react that they’d have to be mind-readers to give their friend or family member something they’ve never asked for. How do their perspectives on that stipulation change? Discuss what strategies help the students select something that’s not been asked for.
3. Jay and Sean share examples of gifts they hadn’t asked for but were exactly what they wanted. What is the best gift you have received that you did not ask for? Why?
4. What is the distinction a student makes between what is “pretend” vs. “theoretical” (p. 15)? Do you agree? How would you define these two words?
5. The motto of Ms. Chang’s class is: “We protect, affect, respect one another” (p. 19). What does this motto mean to you? Does your class or school have a motto? What’s a motto that resonates with you?
6. Johanna would gift her abuela a restaurant to make baleadas. If you were to open a restaurant featuring a family dish, what dish would it be and why? Is it famous or not as well-known?
7. Several classmates are surprised that Carly’s family does not take off shoes in the house. Think about everyday things you do and customs that you observe. What might surprise someone?
8. The question arises, “So what do you call something that isn’t in the real world yet but could be real any day now? Is there even a word for that?” (p. 33). Can you think of words or phrases that might encompass this meaning?
9. James would give his dad two yards in part because “gardening always makes him feel better” (p. 39). Ty states that “if you’re ever feeling low, all you gotta do is listen to [his aunt and uncle sing], and it’s bye-bye, bad mood” (p. 48). What activities or things bring you comfort or joy?
10. David wonders, “Can someone be a friend when you don’t even know their name? / Or does that make them more of a question mark instead?” (p. 40) What do you think? How do you define friend and friendship?
11. By the end of the class presentations, several students are inspired to actually give their gifts and then “a school thing . . . morphed into a life thing” (p. 71). Think about your assignments and activities at school. What’s become a “life thing?”
12. Reflecting on all the students’ responses, which did you find to be the most poignant? Discuss your initial reaction to their gift selection and the impression it made on you.





EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

The One Thing You'd Save and Just One Gift



Gift Giver

Brainstorm a list for each of the categories: Friend, Family, and Question Mark. Select a recipient and, following Ms. Chang's requirements, write about the gift you would give them. Who did you choose and why? What would you give them and why?

For Real

The class has lively discussions about what gifts might be real vs. realistic and possible vs. impossible. After having a similar class discussion, select one of your peers and research their gift idea. Examine how realistic it is. Is it feasible to gift it "right here, right now" (p. 70)? If not, knowing what you know about their recipient, do it over and propose something realistic the student could give.

Go, Sijo!

Linda Sue Park draws from traditional Korean poetry, sijo, for the format of *The One Thing You'd Save and Just One Gift*. Research the history of sijo and its popular usage. What are the hallmarks of a sijo poem? What makes it different from other forms of poetry? Find more examples of sijo (consider *Tap Dancing on the Roof*) and write your own traditional sijo. Take a stab at rewriting your sijo using another poetry style.

Set the Scene

Think about the one thing you'd save. Where can you find this in your home? Make a drawing of this space, making sure to include Your Most Important Thing in the scene. Exchange your drawing with a classmate and see if you can guess one another's meaningful item. Or, have a classroom showcase and take turns guessing each student's thing.

Be Prepared

While the assignment is to imagine an evacuation emergency, one student reveals that they have experienced this scary situation. Fires, floods, and other natural disasters are common situations where people must evacuate their homes. Research a specific fire or natural disaster that led to evacuations. See if you can find information on what people took with them when they were evacuated. Discuss and create an emergency plan with your class or household in case there is need for an evacuation.

Giving Gratitude

Reflect on a recent gift you received. How did it make you feel? What made it special? Write a card of thanks to the person who gave you the gift.

Guide prepared by Amanda Chuong, MLIS, Youth Services Librarian and book reviewer.

About the Author **Linda Sue Park**, Newbery Medal winner for *A Single Shard* and #1 *New York Times* bestseller for *A Long Walk to Water*, is the renowned author of picture books and novels for young readers. She lives in Western New York. Learn more at lindasuepark.com.



Photo courtesy of the author

Photo courtesy of the illustrator



About the Illustrator **Robert Sae-Heng** is an artist who loves to travel and explore. His favorite things to draw are quaint chairs and seals, and he lives and works in London, England. The first children's book he illustrated was *The One Thing You'd Save*, by Linda Sue Park.