



A Campaign of the
Oakland Literacy Coalition

Read Aloud Guide

Title: *Mahjong All Day Long* by Ginnie Lo, illustrated by Beth Lo

Best for: K-2nd grade

Summary: This book is about JieJie and her younger brother DiDi, and their adult relatives who play mahjong a lot. JieJie and DiDi hear them playing all day and all night, but JieJie and DiDi don't know how to play at first. Instead, they watch the adults, and play with the tiles. Toward the end of the book we learn that JieJie and DiDi are grown up now, have kids of their own, and play mahjong with the adult relatives as well as their own kids.

Why we chose this book: This book introduces students to the Chinese game of mahjong, and the many traditions surrounding the game. We love that the reader learns about family traditions (listening to Chinese opera, eating watermelon seeds, serving and drinking tea) throughout the mahjong games. The book also offers Chinese vocabulary and characters on each page that help the reader understand the story (and learn some basic Chinese).

Notes: There are Chinese characters on each page (with English translations). Our suggestion is to point them out, and read them as you read each page, since they add to the story.

Central themes: Multigenerational family life, Chinese-American family, family traditions, Chinese language

Introducing the book: You can begin by showing the cover, reading the title and author, and then saying something like this:

"This book is about JieJie and her little brother DiDi, who watch their parents and aunts and uncles and grandparents play a game called Mahjong when they all get together. Mahjong is a traditional Chinese game that many families play. What does your family like to do when everyone is together?"

"Does anyone here like to play any games? What games do you enjoy?"

After Reading: Debrief with students

"What do JieJie and DiDi do with the tiles at first, before they know how to play?" (They build towers, bridges, long winding snakes, and learn to count in Chinese.)

"By the end of the book, who is learning to play mahjong?" (The grandchildren)

"What is a game you learned how to play as you got older?"