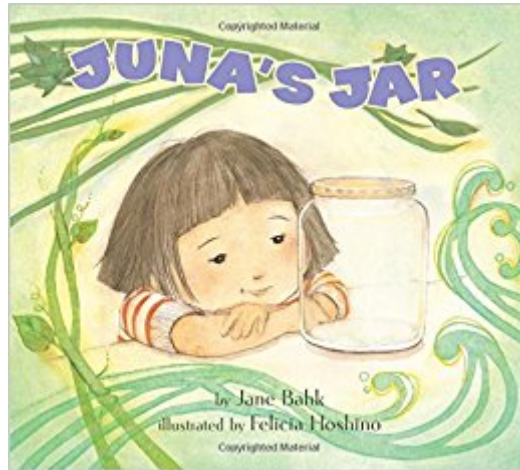




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Juna's Jar



Synopsis

Sometimes a simple, everyday object can take you away on great adventures. Juna and her best friend, Hector, have many adventures together, and they love to collect things in empty kimchi jars. Then one day, Hector unexpectedly moves away without having a chance to say good-bye. Juna is heartbroken and left to wonder who will go on adventures with her. Determined to find Hector, Juna turns to her special kimchi jar for help each night. She plunges into the depths of the ocean, swings on vines through the jungle, and flies through the night sky in search of her friend. What Juna finds is that adventure and new friends can be found in the most unexpected places. Coupled with dreamy watercolor illustrations by Felicia Hoshino, *Juna's Jar* is a heart-warming and whimsical tale about the power of the imagination.

Book Information

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[in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School](#)

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Age Range: 5 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 4

Customer Reviews

PreS-Gr 2 **Charming soft watercolor illustrations and a sweet story that tugs at the imagination provide a flight of fancy that youngsters will enjoy hearing again and again. Little Juna and her friend Hector share adventures in the park across the street from their apartment building in Koreatown. Interesting critters and other items go into Juna's empty kimchi jar to be studied, then**

released. When Hector moves away, Juna's older brother, Minho, observing her sadness, buys her a small fish, gives her a small bean plant grown at school, then helps her find twigs and leaves in the park to provide a habitat for a cricket. Each night, the kimchi jar takes Juna on a fabulous journey. The goldfish takes her on an undersea adventure, growing so large that it must be transferred to the family aquarium. The bean plant transports her to a tropical rainforest, then is moved to a large pot on the balcony; the cricket carries Juna over city buildings to the window of Hector's bedroom, where his stone-filled kimchi jar sits on a windowsill near his bed. Seeing Hector safe and happy allows Juna to move on and make a new friend at the park. Hoshino's delightful detail-filled paintings of Juna's nighttime adventures show smiling sea creatures, sloths, monkeys and crocodiles, and a city alive with activity, illuminated by vehicle headlights "that lit up the hill like a string of holiday lights." Use this title in preschool storytimes or in the classroom to stimulate leaps of imagination. — Susan Scheps, formerly at Shaker Public Library, OH

"Juna's Jar," written by Jane Bahk and illustrated by Felicia Hoshino, depicts a single disappointment big enough to be heartbreaking: Little Juna's friend Hector moves away suddenly, and she is denied even a chance to say goodbye. And while the ending, with its suggestion of a new friend for Juna, may be predictable for adult readers, young children will probably find it pleasing. In Hoshino's lyrical and delicately detailed watercolor illustrations, Juna is adorable, her facial expressions matching the honest emotion of the text. The role played by the book's title object is compelling as well, and you might want to prepare for a first reading to a child by having a jar of similar size and shape on hand.--Linda Sue Park "The New York Times" (02/06/2015) "A beautifully illustrated children's picture book, Juna's Jar tells the story of Juna and her best friend, Hector, who love to go on adventures in the park, collecting things to put in Juna's empty kimchi jars. One day, Hector unexpectedly moves away, and with the help of her special kimchi jar, Juna searches for her friend all over the world, and finds new adventure and new friends in the most unexpected places. This debut picture book is a winner of publisher Lee & Low Books New Voices Award.--NBC Asian America "NBC Asian America "Charming soft watercolor illustrations and a sweet story that tugs at the imagination provide a flight of fancy that youngsters will enjoy hearing again and again. Little Juna and her friend Hector share adventures in the park across the street from their apartment building in Koreatown. Interesting critters and other items go into Juna's empty kimchi jar to be studied, then released. When Hector moves away, Juna's older brother, Minho, observing her sadness, buys her a small fish, gives her a small bean plant grown at school, then helps her find twigs and leaves in the park to provide a habitat for a cricket. Each night, the kimchi jar takes Juna

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This is the story of a little Korean-American girl, Juna and how she deals with the unexpected loss of her best friend Hector. The story is a bit sad and touching but wonderfully appropriate for my just-turned-3 year old son who has recently started imaginative play - he can relate to the parts where Juna dreams of diving/climbing into her jar and goes on adventures to search for Hector. My son is captivated by the dreamy, whimsical illustrations - they are absolutely beautiful! His favorite illustration is where Juna dives into her water-filled jar to swim with the fish. We will read the story before nap time and after he wakes, he will talk for the rest of the evening about how he wants to swim with Juna and the fish. We have literally read this book every day since it arrived - lucky for mama, it's a sweet story with such lovely illustrations that i don't mind reading it every day.

Coincidentally, I read the NYT book review of *Juna and the Kimchi Jar* and got it as a gift from a friend few weeks later. As a former editor, I have an appreciation for beautiful writing - the author nails it. *Juna and the Kimchi Jar* is a rare find for parents who want to share the meaning of friendship through the lens of a little girl's imagination. The topics explored in this

book sparked many dinner conversations about the heartaches of losing a friend, utility of something simple like a kimchi-jar, and the importance of using your imagination to solve problems. Those are the reasons why I love the book. From the perspective of my boys, they found the characters fun and relatable. This has been my go-to gift for birthdays!

This is THE book that all parents have been waiting for--an absolutely captivating story that just happens to feature an interracial friendship. Why was this like finding a needle in a haystack? Kids need to see this represented well and often, if we want it to happen in real life. It's about "ordinary" kids, but it's also fantastically imaginative and magical. And like every great book, it takes readers on an emotional journey. Little ones have big feelings, yet it's so hard to find books these days that can really move them emotionally. It's everything I've ever wished for in a kids' book!

Beautiful story! My 3 kids loved Juna's adventures and I loved the sentimentally touching friendship between Juna and Hector. Brought up memories of my long lost childhood friend. :) Already one of my favorite children's books.

One of my favorite kids books for 3 and up.

Great book. My 3 year old and 6 year old love it and both can relate to it. We have hundreds of books, but this one always seems to be on top of the stack.

Such a cute story! My 2 year old son absolutely adored the dream sequences and squealed with delight at each one. Hope to see more from Mrs. Jane Bahk!

I love this book! I'm a former teacher and school administrator, and now have two small children of my own. In short, I have read A LOT of children's books! This is one of the best, right up there with *The Snowy Day* and *Make Way for Ducklings*. The story has a wonderful sweetness and depth to it. My almost four year old asked me to read it to her four times the first day we got it. Something really resonated with her, and it's easy to see why - Juna is such a relatable character. Caring, resilient, adventurous, imaginative... I enjoy reading this book almost as much as she enjoys listening to it, and the illustrations are gorgeous! This book is going to be my go-to birthday present this year!

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