Words Take Wing
Honoring Diversity in Children’s Literature
In partnership with the UC Davis School of Education
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2018
11AM | Jackson Hall
Recommended for grades 2–8

Common Core
Common Core broadens the definition of a “text,” viewing performance as a form of text, so students are experiencing and interacting with a text when they attend a performance. Seeing live performance provides rich opportunities to write reflections, narratives, arguments, etc.

2-5SL.1-6; 2-5SL.2; 6-8L.6; 6-8W.1-10

About Words Take Wing
Writers and illustrators capture the intensity of the emotional content, beauty and emerging world perceptions in the lives of children. The 2018 Words Take Wing is an interactive presentation by children’s book author Grace Lin, a New York Times bestselling author and illustrator of picture books, early readers and middle grade novels. Lin will share a glimpse into her process of crafting words and images. Her novel Where the Mountain Meets the Moon was awarded the Newbery Honor in 2010. While most of Lin’s books are about the Asian-American experience, she believes “books erase bias—they make the uncommon everyday, and the mundane exotic. A book makes all cultures universal.” Words Take Wing celebrates children’s literature and values its capacity to inform, inspire and empower by giving voice and forum to the creators of children’s books. Notable authors and illustrators of diverse backgrounds who explore and create settings that reflect a wide range of perspectives and world views are selected each year to build and sustain relationships with those who work earnestly to nourish the lives of children and who recognize the excellence and importance of children’s literature. Past Words Take Wing authors include: Laurence Yep, Pam Muñoz Ryan, Patricia McKissack, Margarita Engle, Joseph Bruchac, Andrea Davis Pinkney and Brian Pinkney.

About Grace Lin
Grace Lin grew up in upstate New York with her parents and two sisters. While the other sisters became scientists, Lin became an artist. Surprisingly enough, being an artist was not her first choice. She first dreamed of being a champion ice skater, and drew many pictures of herself twirling and dancing on the ice. Unfortunately, Lin had neither the talent nor coordination to make it to skating stardom. However, the pictures she drew of herself held much promise and quickly became Lin’s career focus.

After attending the Rhode Island School of Design, Lin quickly set out to achieve her dream of creating children’s books. Her first book, The Ugly Vegetables, was published in 1999 and was quickly heralded. In addition to being an American Booksellers Association’s “Pick of the List” and a Bank’s Street College Best Books of the Year, The Ugly Vegetables was nominated for the California Young Reader Children’s Choice Award and named a Growing Good Kids Book Award Classic.

Lin followed that success with the publication of over a dozen more books, including Dim Sum for Everyone! and Lissy’s Friends. Lin’s first children’s novel, The Year of the Dog was released to glowing praise in 2006 and nominated to the TX Bluebonnet list, which she followed with The Year of the Rat. Her novel Where the Mountain Meets the Moon was awarded the 2010 Newbery Honor, chosen for Al Roker’s Today Show Kid’s Book Club and was a New York Times bestseller. Lin’s early reader Ling & Ting was awarded with the Theodor Geisel Honor in 2011. The cover illustration for her novel When the Sea Turned to Silver (a 2016 National Book Award finalist) was displayed at the White House, where Lin was recognized as a Champion of Change for Asian American and Pacific Islander Art and Storytelling. Lin has reviewed for The New York Times and is also a commentator for New England Public Radio.

LEARN MORE:
Grace Lin website
Words Take Wing website
Think About It
Dear Students,

1. What do you think the easiest part of writing a story is? The hardest?
2. What traditions or customs do you and your family celebrate?
3. Have there been times when you felt different or ignored? How did you feel?

What is expected of student audiences at the matinee:
- To facilitate starting the performance on time, get a drink of water and use the restroom before entering the seating area
- Enter the auditorium quietly and take your seats immediately (note that all matinees have reserved seating)
- Show courtesy to the artists and other guests at all times
- Demonstrate appreciation for the artists’ work by applauding
- Refrain from making unnecessary noise or movements
- Please eat lunch before or after the performance. Food is not allowed in the theater
- Use information learned from the pre-matinee discussion to enhance the performance experience
- Please do not photograph or record the artists

What your students can expect of their experience at the Mondavi Center:
A theater is a charged space, full of energy and anticipation. When the house lights (the lights that illuminate the audience seating) go down, the excitement level goes up! Theaters are designed so that the voices of the singers and actors and the music of the musicians can be heard. But this also means that any sound in the audience: whispering, speaking and moving about, can be heard by other audience members and by the performers. Distractions like these disrupt everyone’s concentration and can spoil a performance.

The performers on stage show respect for their art form and for the audience by doing their very best work. By watching attentively the audience shows respect for the performers. Appreciation can be shown in many different ways, depending upon the art form and the culture(s) of the people in the audience. For instance, while the audience at a dance performance may sit quietly, other types of performances may invite audience participation.

Applause is the best way for audience members to share their enthusiasm and to show their appreciation for the performers. Applaud at the end of a performance! Sometimes the audience will clap during a performance, as after a featured solo. Audience members may feel like laughing if the action on stage is funny, crying if the action is sad, or sighing if something is seen or heard that is beautiful.

Mondavi Center Arts Education
Arts Education provides CueSheets for all performances in the Mondavi Center 2017–18 School Matinee Series. They are intended to help teachers prepare their students for the school matinee that they will attend at Mondavi Center, UC Davis.

Support provided by

mondaviarts.org | 530.754.5431