



BOOK RESUME: THE MAGIC FISH

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Tiến and his mother come from different cultures--she's an immigrant from Vietnam still struggling to learn English; he's been raised in America--but through the fairy tales he checks out from the local library, those differences are erased.

But though Tiến's mother's understanding of the language of her adopted homeland continues to improve as they read her tales of love, loss, and travel across distant shores together, there's one conversation that still eludes Tiến—how to come out to her and his father. Is there even a way to explain what he's going through in Vietnamese? And without one, how will his parents ever accept him?

This illustrated graphic novel speaks to the complexity of family, and to the power of stories in bringing us together even when we don't know the right words.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "Infused with emotional depth and integrity, this coming-of-age story broadens the range of Vietnamese American creative voices in books for young people." —*The Horn Book*, starred review

★ "Warm, loving family and friends are a refreshing alternative to immigrant stories that focus on family problems. Beautifully illustrates how sharing old stories can be the best way to learn how to share new ones." —*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

★ "The magic happens here on every page, the perfection personified by debut author/artist Nguyen's autobiographical homage to the infinite power of storytelling." —*Booklist*, starred review

★ "Nguyen's poignant debut captures the perspectives of, and essence of the bond between, a parent and child, proving that language—and love—can transcend words." —*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

★ "How do you tell stories within stories within stories? Ask Trung Le Nguyen, who seamlessly blends family history, fairy tales, and a 1998 coming-out tale in this remarkable intergenerational graphic novel." —*The Bulletin*, starred review

Title: The Magic Fish

Author: Trung Le Nguyen

Imprint: Random House Graphic

Publisher: Random House Children's Books

On sale date: October 13, 2020

ISBN: 9780593125298 and 9781984851598

Format: Hardcover and Paperback

Age Range*: 12 and up

Grade Range: 7 and up

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Penguin Random House

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*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

“[A] gorgeously drawn...story of a first-generation Vietnamese American who is struggling with coming out to his parents.” —*Forbes*

“A sparkling debut...about the child of Vietnamese immigrants who teaches through fairy tales—yet wrestles with how to come out to his family.”
—*The Washington Post*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- LONGLIST 2021 - ALSC Notable Children's Books
- SELECTION 2021 - Notable Books for a Global Society Award
- SELECTION 2021 - Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices - Fiction for Young Adults
- SELECTION 2020 - Bulletin Blue Ribbon Book - Fiction
- SELECTION 2021 - Bank Street College Best Children's Book of the Year - List: Twelve to Fourteen; Category: Contemporary Issues
- FINALIST 2022 –ALAN Amelia Elizabeth Walden Book Award Finalist
- AWARD - Bank Street College - Best Children's Book of the Year
- SELECTION 2021 - 2021 ALA Rainbow Book List Top 10 - Selection
- SELECTION 2021 - TLA Maverick Graphic Novel Reading List
- SELECTION 2020 - NYPL Top Ten Books for Teens
- SHORTLIST 2021 - Cartoonist Studio Prize
- SHORTLIST 2021 - YALSA Great Graphic Novels for Teens - Top Ten
- NOMINEE 2023 - Delaware Blue Hen Book Award – Nominee
- NOMINEE 2021-2022 – Black-Eyed Susan Book Award; Graphic Novels: Grades 6-9
- WINNER 2021 – ILA Childrens and Young Adult Book Awards; YA Fiction
- FINALIST 2021- Pop Culture Classroom Excellence in Graphic Novel Literature; Fiction
- WINNER 2021 - Pop Culture Classroom Excellence in Graphic Novel Literature; Mosaic Award
- WINNER 2021 - Graphic Novel Diversity Award
- NOMINEE 2021 – Maine North Star Student Book Award
- NOMINEE 2021 - 2022 – Tennessee Volunteer Book Award; Middle Grade

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Entertainment Weekly Article, *The Magic Fish* author Trung Le Nguyen discusses the heroism of fairy tales: 'It's a fantasy of growth'](#)
- [New York Times Article, 10 Comic Books to Celebrate Pride](#)
- [BookRiot Article, 9 Queen Adventure Comics](#)
- [PixelxPanel Article](#)

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