



***The Mystery of the Painted Fan* by Linda Trinh**

Annick Press, 2023

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*Age Range: (6 - 9)

Grade Range: n/a; not yet reviewed by *School Library Journal*

BOOK SYNOPSIS

The third book in the early chapter book series *The Nguyen Kids* features the youngest sibling, Jacob, and continues the series' exploration of social justice themes, specifically gender expression and identity, with a supernatural twist.

Thoughtful and creative, Jacob is tired of being the baby of the family. He is ready to fully express himself in all of the ways that feel right to him, but not everyone seems as eager to accept change—even his own parents. He still loves hockey, yet he also wants to try something new, even if others may not understand. Confused and frustrated, Jacob turns to the beautiful fan his Grandma Nội gave him, which features all of the Vietnamese zodiac animals. With the mysterious fan and memories of Grandma guiding him, Jacob finds the power to remain true to himself, and show his family who he could be.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"Trinh explores the intersection of cultural identity and gender expression and identity . . . A simple yet heartfelt tale of self-acceptance and identity." —[Kirkus Reviews](#)

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Windows & Mirrors List, NEIBA, Joint winner, 2023
- Best Books for Kids & Teens, Canadian Children's Book Centre, Joint winner, 2023
- Silver Birch Express Award, OLA, Nominated, 2023
- Dragon Book Award 2024, Nominated

*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that 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 age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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Zainub Syeda, zainubs@annickpress.com