

# MOONSONG



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## ABOUT THE BOOK:

Fulki's village lost its moon. But Fulki knows a secret. She befriended a tiger who taught her the Moonsong. But the townspeople forbid befriending wild beasts- with teeth and claws and no manners at all, and they forbid singing of any kind. Will Fulki's friendship with a tiger and their song bring back the long lost moon?

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ ILLUSTRATOR:

Denise Gallagher is an author and illustrator from Lafayette, Louisiana. She is the Illustrator Coordinator for the Louisiana/Mississippi Region of SCBWI and is also a part of the Teaching Artist Program in her local community. Denise's other picture books include, "A Tip Tap Tale" (Next Generation Indie Book Awards finalist) and "Peg Bearskin, A Traditional Newfoundland Tale" (short listed for the Lillian Shepherd Memorial Award for Excellence in Illustration and Aesop Prize by the Children's Folklore Section of the American Folklore Society.)



## PRE-READING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

### Observe the illustration on the front cover.

Notice the girl on the front cover. She seems to be in the middle of two smaller pictures. How do you think this might help you make predictions about the text? Have you ever been in the middle of a conflict? How did that make you feel?

### Discuss the genre of the book, **Moonsong**.

This story is a folklore or a fable. That means it shares a valuable lesson. Have you read any other fables or folklore? What lessons have you learned from reading different stories?

## POST-READING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

**Only Fulki listened happily.  
For Fulki had a secret.**

- In the story, the people in Fulki's village look up to and respect the Elders. Why do you think they listen to the Elders so much?
- Fulki is so different from the people in her village, how would you describe her? Have you ever felt different from the people around you? How did that make you feel? How do Fulki's differences add to the story?
- Why are the Elders so afraid of singing? What do they think is going to happen? Does your family have any rules they use that help to keep you safe?

**Oh, round bright moon.  
Oh, great friend moon.  
How you sparkle like sugar  
and shine like joy!**

- When the animals are singing, the Elders and some men hear snarls, grunts and growls. Why do you think they hear this instead of singing? How can Fulki hear the singing instead of the snarls, grunts and growls? Have you ever felt a connection to something that no one else understood? Explain your situation.

**Fulki stood alone,  
for no one would help.**

- How do the people in the village change their mind about the animals? How does Fulki remind them of their song? Have you ever helped someone change their mind about something?
- When the moon comes back, the villagers change their mind about the tiger. Have you ever judged something at first and then changed your mind? Tell about that time.
- The illustrator of this story chose many bright colors. How do these illustrations add to the story? Do you like the illustrations? Why or why not?
- How did the Elders change in this story? Have you ever changed your opinion about something?

**Beasts with TEETH  
and CLAWS  
and NO MANNERS at all**

- What would have happened if Fulki was not brave enough to start singing? How do you think she was so brave? Tell about a time when you were brave.
- What lesson do you think the author wants you to learn from this story?

## EXTENSION ACTIVITY:

- Print the template found on the following page
- Gather paper, pencil and colored markers- try to find the bright colors the author uses in their illustrations
- In the story, the moon was very important to the village. Consider something that is important to you and write a song that you would sing if you lost that important object. Your song could be 4 lines or longer!
- Illustrate your own neighborhood or village. Be sure to include those who you look up to and those who are your friends
- Share your work with the class!



Write your own song.

Draw your neighborhood.

Share with your friends.



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