



## The Lotus Seed

*Sherry Garland , Tatsuro Kiuchi (Illustrator)*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

# The Lotus Seed

*Sherry Garland , Tatsuro Kiuchi (Illustrator)*

**The Lotus Seed** Sherry Garland , Tatsuro Kiuchi (Illustrator)

When she is forced to leave Vietnam, a young girl brings a lotus seed with her to America in remembrance of her homeland. "Exquisite artwork fuses with a compelling narrative--a concise endnote places the story effectively within a historical context--to produce a moving and polished offering."--*Publishers Weekly*

## The Lotus Seed Details

Date : Published February 15th 1997 by HMH Books for Young Readers (first published April 30th 1993)

ISBN : 9780152014834

Author : Sherry Garland , Tatsuro Kiuchi (Illustrator)

Format : Paperback 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Historical, Historical Fiction, Cultural

 [Download The Lotus Seed ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Lotus Seed ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online The Lotus Seed Sherry Garland , Tatsuro Kiuchi (Illustrator)**

---

## From Reader Review The Lotus Seed for online ebook

### Marlayna says

A young girl is the narrator of the book and begins the story by discussing the day her grandmother Ba saw the emperor cry. That day the grandmother took a lotus seed to remember the emperor by and the narrator begins to describe the night her grandmother was taken from her land and brought to the United States. Even in the craziest of moments, the grandmother held on to the lotus seed. The grandmother and her children were taken to work in a sweatshop for the rest of their lives. One night the narrator's brother took his grandmother's lotus seed and planted it in the ground to see the lotus bloom. The grandmother was devastated, but one day the flower bloomed and the grandmother gave each of the children a seed. The narrator said that she too would keep her seed safe to remember her grandmother and to one day give her children a seed and tell them the story of the day her grandmother saw the emperor cry.

The author and illustrator did an amazing job with the wording and pictures presented in the book. Both the words and illustrations made the reader feel the character's emotions and the devastation the grandmother felt when she lost her seed. Although the plot describes an accurate time in history when people from out of the country were brought in to work as laborers, that was really the only historical reference. It would have been beneficial to the reader if the author had described more about the historical event.

---

### Karen says

Read the author's note at the end of the book it's very informative. Showed the kids pictures of our trip to Vietnam and told them stories of Daddy playing chase with a little boy there. It made the book more real to them.

---

### Bekkah says

The story itself was beautiful. I think it would work well for the beginning of the year and talking about hopes and dreams for the year and for the students' lives.

---

### Devin Ames says

The story of a little girl's journey from war-torn Vietnam to her new life in America. Beautifully told and illustrated, we're given a glimpse into the history of Vietnam as the story begins with the little girl in the Emperor's garden. The girl picks a lotus blossom to remember the emperor by. When war breaks out and her family is forced to leave Vietnam, the girl brings lotus seeds with her to remember her homeland. Through rich illustrations and prose, the story captures the sights and sounds of a refugee family fleeing their homeland and arriving in a new country. When the little girl is older and a grandmother, her grandson takes the lotus seeds and puts them in the mud. Much to everyone's surprise, a lotus flower blooms. The new lotus seeds are able to be passed on, along with grandmother's story, from generation to generation. Family traditions and culture are represented and celebrated in this book.

I read this book to my students at the beginning of the year as we're building classroom community. It celebrates Vietnamese culture, and many students can relate to the main character's story of immigration to a

new country. From a literary stand point, the book is perfect for teaching point of view and story elements such as setting, character development and theme.

---

### **Ellie Dynek says**

The story of one woman's courageous journey from Vietnam to the US, and how she managed to hold on to an incredible piece of her own history.

---

### **Matt Garcia says**

Great story with a lot of heart to it. It captures the essence of what it's like to be an immigrant in America and sheds some light on certain aspects of Vietnamese history and culture. The illustrations were also fabulous.

---

### **Alysia says**

Great for a multicultural unit on Vietnam. Beautiful and sad.

---

### **Casey McNally says**

Garland, Sherry. (1993). *The Lotus Seed*. New York: Harcourt Brace & Company.

This book as a beautiful historical fiction text about a grandmother's story of growing up and moving to a strange, new country with a new language, and a new life. The story follows the grandmother and her experiences with a lotus seed that has gotten her through all of her hard times. It is truly heartwarming, and you get to see the granddaughter cherish the seed, just like her grandmother.

Text-dependent questions:

1. What are some hard times the grandmother experienced with the lotus seed?
  2. What happens to the seed?
  3. Why does the grandmother collect the seed, in the first place?
- 

### **Cam Duong says**

The *Lotus Seed* by Sherry Garland is a children's book about a young girl who took a lotus seed from a palace in her homeland long ago. She kept the seed with her through her arranged marriage and when she had to flee Vietnam because of a civil war. She wanted to have a remembrance of her homeland, Vietnam. She still had it even when she became a grandmother, and one day her grandson decided to take the seed. He forgot where he buried it though and the grandmother became very sad. One day though, the beautiful lotus

bloomed in the backyard which reminded her of her homeland. The lotus is a representation of herself, and it's something her grandchildren will remember her by. This story will help readers appreciate the remembrance of one's birthplace and that starting anew doesn't mean forgetting the past. It's suitable for ages 6-9 and the theme includes wartime experience, immigrants, refugees, and memories.

---

### **Mi Ngo says**

A girl takes a lotus seed to remember her country Vietnam, and flees to the U.S with her family. That lotus seed is a reminder of her homeland and is also there to calm her when she has troubles. That lotus seed is her symbol of hope. When she's a lot older and has many grandchildren, one of her grandsons takes the lotus and plants it. How does she react and what happens to the lotus seed?

The oil illustrations were very beautiful. They were very simplistic and the illustrations truly showed the culture of Vietnam. The ao dai was nicely drawn too. I enjoyed the text as well because the verses were easy to read and I could read them to my younger cousins.

As I went through the pages of the book, I learned a lot more about my family's homeland and actually got teary eyed because I was thinking of how my grandma and mom and dad went through the same experience when they went to the States. My dad fled Vietnam by boat and had to face troubling storms and Thai Pirates. My grandma was also in an arranged marriage but was able to love my grandpa despite the age gap and gave birth to 5 children. She also raised those children alone when my grandpa was jailed in the Vietnam War. I learned a lot especially when reading the author's note. I had never heard of Bao Dai or Nguyen Vinh Thuy before so that was very cool to learn. I am very glad that I read this book and I hope there are many books where children of immigrants can learn about their heritage.

"No matter how ugly the mud or how long the seed lies dormant, the bloom will be beautiful. It is the flower of my country."

---

### **Annie Do says**

This story was about a young girl who kept a small lotus seed that she got from the emperor's palace, believing that it served as a reminder of the brave emperor as well as for good luck and long life. As the storyline progresses, the girl immigrated to the U.S. by boats and settled there. One day when one of her grandchildren planted the seed, the grandmother - although sad at first - was delighted to see the seed grew into a beautiful lotus blossom, the flower of her country.

This story tackled on the topics on Vietnamese history and immigration. The illustrations were beautifully drawn, depicting accurate images of the famous "ao dai" and the characters' facial expressions. The lotus flower, just as mentioned in the book, is a flower of Vietnam. When I was young, I read countless stories about this flower, and reading another one now (in English) made me miss my home country. So, the plot of this book regarding the lotus flower gave the readers a quick insight into the cultures of Vietnam. Additionally, the text were very easy to read and understand, and there was not any bias towards the specific culture. I also loved the author's note at the end (and I recommend everyone to read it) because it really complements the storyline. Furthermore, it gave a generous amount of information and history lessons about Vietnam. Students would be able to learn a lot from just that one page! Overall, I think that this would be an awesome book to read during a read-aloud; the students will have lots to learn after the book is finished!

### **Nancy Kotkin says**

Story of a Vietnam refugee who flees her war-torn country and then must adapt to life in an American city, where she doesn't even speak the language. The only possession she brings with her is a lotus seed, a symbol of her culture and the life she had to leave behind. Author's note at the back of the book provides a succinct history of Vietnam. Beautiful oil paintings really bring the scenes to life. The lotus bloom is especially lovely.

---

### **Joanna Marple says**

A story of history, of war, of refugees and a lotus seed, a treasured memory from Vietnam. This is a simple, easy to follow story told in lyrical, unrhymed verse of a Vietnamese girl who is forced to flee her homeland due to civil war and takes with her a lotus seed from the emperor's garden. She and her family, through hard work and willingness, adapt to the totally new way of life in the USA, yet without losing their cultural roots. The little girl becomes an old lady and is devastated one day to discover her lotus seed has been stolen by her grandson, who has no recollection in which part of the muddy garden he buried the seed. But no circumstances, however horrendous, can prevent the family passing on its heritage to the next generation and the faithful lotus seed dutifully blossoms the next spring producing new seeds to be gathered and treasured and passed on. The Illustrations in oil are beautiful especially of the lotus flowers! I appreciated a brief historical overview of Vietnam, which the author adds at the end of the book. This is a charming story in itself, but also a great opportunity to discuss refugees etc with children.

---

### **Kara says**

This picture book did more to explain Vietnam's history to me than all of my teachers and textbooks combined. (And that, sadly, includes a history teacher who was a veteran of the Vietnam War.)

---

### **Beth says**

Good mentor text to use with kids to discuss symbolism. Have kids discuss what the lotus seed symbolized to Grandmother.

---