



Little Pear

Eleanor Frances Lattimore

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Little Pear is a young boy who lives in a small village in China. Although his story takes place long ago, he is much like any little boy today--always on the lookout for excitement and adventure!

Little Pear is just looking for fun, but he has a knack for finding trouble without even trying! Join him as he stows away to the fair in a wheelbarrow full of vegetables, nearly flies away on a kite, has a mishap with a firecracker, and is rescued from the river by a houseboat family.

Little Pear Details

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From Reader Review Little Pear for online ebook

Cheryl says

Definitely vintage... today's parents would not let their children have so much freedom. And the girls were much more in the background & more domestic, with no way for a child reader to know if that's representative of the time, the culture, or that family.

However, it's a fun read, still relevant and valuable, and most of all amusing, to modern families. Surprisingly culturally friendly: Little Pear is first a bold, impulsive, loving & lovable little boy, second he is from a small Chinese village of about a century ago... and nothing strikes me as racist or stereotypical or derogatory at all. I also enjoyed the sequel and will copy this review there.

Borrowed both from open library.

Amy says

This was our Sonlight read-aloud for the last few weeks. The book is filled with the silly and mischievous adventures of a Chinese boy named Little Pear. Each chapter is a new adventure, and, in spite of how mischievous Little Pear is and how much trouble he gets into, his family loves him and is always just relieved and happy that he made it home ok. I appreciated that the family wasn't punitive. This book showed the very positive side of the way the Chinese treasure their children.

I must add that this read-aloud immediately followed Gladys Aylward on our reading schedule, and it was such a relief to read something light and fun after such a serious book.

Sara says

Little Pear's antics delighted my 6 and 4 year olds. Similar to Curious George, Little Pear's inquisitiveness often leads him into trouble, but all turns out in the end. The book is a fun read with sweet parental interactions, but (and I feel like a stick in the mud saying this) I worried my already-adventurous 4 year old would get some ideas for mischief-making.

The story takes place in a time when it was normal for a 5 year old to walk around the village himself (already a lot different than our life!) and even then Little Pear finds some ways to push/break the boundaries.

So, while it was a fun read and we all appreciated his fun spirit and his family's unconditional love and support, I'd offer a small caution to moms of adventurous little boys that you may be feeding imaginations a little more than you'd like with this one ;)

Karen says

Reading for CC1 wk 9

Cute, fun book. The kids and I laughed over the antics of Little Pear, a very mischievous yet not in a mean way boy!

Alicia says

"I LOVED it and it was so funny. One of the things that was so funny is that Little Pear hid in the vegetables and got to go to the fair. Another funny thing is that some people are all bald, and they only have a patch of hair. It was funny because one had only a little strip of hair on his forehead. It was funny how Little Pear lit the firecracker, because he told everyone to stand back, but he didn't, and he burnt a hole in his jacket. China sounds cool and I want a tanghuler but my mom says they don't taste good. I went to China but some people say it doesn't count because I was in my mom's tummy." -- Joshua, age 6 1/2

Elsa says

My six year-old and I giggled at Little Pear's mischievous adventures.

vijaylaxmi says

Good and interesting
Keep it up little Pear

Stephanie Edwards says

I appreciated the cultural significant of this book, but the escapades of a tiny child who should not be unsupervised for most of his life were quite disturbing. It was presented as silly and mischievous, but he was genuinely in danger and could have died in a couple scenarios. It was cute enough to keep going and my kids enjoyed the stories, but it made the unrealistic situations made the whole book less authentic and believable.

Calista says

A story about a family growing up in China and the little boy named Little Pear who is always getting into trouble. It's a Chinese version of Judy Blume's Superfudge set in China. The story is simple and has it's own charm. I think 6 and 7 year olds will still enjoy these stories. It is a window into another time and culture.

Katherine says

I love this book! Even though it takes place in a little Chinese village, it captures so well the way boys are! Little Pear reminds me of my Calvin, looking for adventure and finding some trouble along the way. As I read the book with my boys, I find myself repeatedly saying, "Please don't do this yourself!" But I also find us all laughing hysterically. This is one of my feel-good books.

Ebookwormy1 says

i was disappointed. I really wanted to like a book set in China that illuminates cultural differences for children. Little Pear is a handful, but I found the stories a bit disturbing.

He goes to the city when he knows he is not to, and a nice man helps him home (glad he found a nice one!). His mother's response is: "Ay-ah! He was very naughty, but I am so glad to have him back that we shall not spank him this time." pg 25

He treats his best friend rather ungraciously. He disobeys, lights a firecracker and burns his brand new outfit. His mother's response is: "Oh Little Pear, what a bad boy you are! But I am glad that it is only your jacket that is hurt, and not you. Firecrackers are very dangerous, and you must never, never, light one again! At least, not until you are a very big boy." And then she sews up his jacket and the spot isn't even noticeable.

The Top and Tang-huler story was cleverly resolved, but after the firecrackers, we were done. It appears Little Pear is to raise himself. I wasn't frustrated at his mischief, but at his mother's complete negligence in helping him mature or understand his world. Maybe I'm just too tired this week, but we only made it half way through and I put it on the 'to sell' pile.

Gilbert says

I read this book when I was like nine or ten, and it taught me a lot - about China, culture, chain of events, fables - things of that sort.

Little Pear is the name of a young Chinese boy. This book, basically, is about his adventures in China. It is very weird, but whoever reads it is sure to learn something or other.

I had some favorite bits, as I remember, like when Little Pear, ignorant, slaphappy, and egged on by a group of friends, lights a firework and it explodes in his face. And then when he walks too close to a lakeshore, he falls in and nearly drowns. He always survives (I don't know how!), and he always learns a lesson.

I tried to forget this book and it's series for a while because, as a youngster, I found the tales really disturbing... but I never did.

Lisa says

Cute story about a lovable and mischievous youngest son in a family in China. Many cute misadventures that would have most of us calling 911 about in today's world. Made my 6-year old laugh out loud and talk about Little Pear incessantly.

Jeni says

Drawn by an old set of vintage covers, I plucked this book set off the shelf at our children's library. I read the original version handsomely illustrated by the author(highly recommend.) Each chapter is its' own curious mischievous adventure of a young Chinese boy named Little Pear. The author takes us through life in China through the eyes of a little boy. My children and I fell in love with these stories. This is the perfect book series to read aloud. The author's story telling has a beautiful sing songiness too it that I miss amongst so much of today's more edginess that is so common in children's novels today.

Kathryn says

Let's just say this. The day when John Eric could read well enough to read this book, it was a Great Honor to put it into his hands. :) If you love children's books and have never seen this, PLEASE go find it.
