

PRIMARY GRADES 3–6

Imagine a Story

Gabrielle Wang's theme for her time as Australian Children's Laureate is 'imagine a story.' She believes that imagination is our most treasured possession. What are some good places to visit to spark ideas for stories? They could be in your neighbourhood or further away.

List at least three places and the reasons why they might be interesting.

Write and Illustrate

Gabrielle Wang's first novel was inspired by a dream she had. Can you remember a dream you experienced recently?

In pairs, describe your dreams to each other.

Choose the best one to bring to life. One person can write the story and the other one can illustrate it. Together, share your illustrated story with your class.

Read and Respond

"Australia is such a culturally diverse country, so I believe it's important for novels and picture books to reflect this. We all deserve the opportunity to tell our own unique stories. Reading these books helps the reader see the world through the eyes of someone who is of a different culture or skin colour to their own. Seeing through their eyes, feeling their emotions, their fears and joys, this is what reading can do. We all need to feel like we belong; to feel proud of who we are."

— Gabrielle Wang

What are some of the things that make you unique?

Can you think of a character in a book that is like you in some way, and another character that is completely different?

Discuss the reasons why it is good to read books with characters that are similar and dissimilar to us.

Research and Reflect

Gabrielle Wang's book *Zadie Ma and the Dog Who Chased the Moon* is set in Melbourne in the 1950s.

Do some research to find out what Melbourne was like at that time. See if you can find some photos of people, houses or streets.

Based on the images, how do you think life was different then?



Gabrielle Wang



KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

Learning areas: English, visual arts, history

Capabilities: ethical understanding, intercultural understanding, personal and social

Cross-curriculum priorities: Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia

About the Author

Gabrielle Wang is a children's author and illustrator born in Melbourne of Chinese heritage. Among her award-winning books are *The Garden of Empress Cassia* and *A Ghost in My Suitcase*. Her latest novel is *Zadie Ma and the Dog Who Chased the Moon*. Gabrielle is the Australian Children's Laureate for 2022–2023.