



Third Graders **READ TOGETHER**

Teacher Guide



Thank you for participating in Third Graders Read Together!

We hope you and your students enjoy reading the books and immersing yourselves in the stories.

In this guide, you'll find discussion questions, vocabulary words, extension activities, author facts, and read-a-like suggestions for each title. There is also a trivia game which includes easy, medium, and hard questions for both books available for [download](#).

Save the dates for two online author events:

- Tuesday, March 8 at 1 p.m. with Wendy Mass
- Thursday, March 10 at 9 a.m. with Debbi Michiko Florence

Additional details will be sent via email. Recordings for classes who are unable to attend the live events will be available to view for two weeks.

Visit bit.ly/ThirdGraders_Events for other Third Graders Read Together events.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your local librarian or contact us using the [School Support Form](#).

Happy reading!



Download this guide as a pdf!

Jasmine Toguchi, Mochi Queen

by Debbi Michiko Florence

Discussion Questions

1. It is a Toguchi family tradition to make mochi for New Year's Day. Does your family have special traditions? What are they? What is your favorite holiday?
2. What is the relationship between Sophie and Jasmine? What words would you use to describe Sophie? Why?
3. Where is Jasmine's thinking spot and why does she go there?
4. Jasmine feels that her older sister, Sophie, gets to do everything first. How does Jasmine solve this problem? Have you ever wanted to do something that a sibling or friend did first? How did that make you feel and what did you do about it?
5. Jasmine and her family have different points of view about girls pounding mochi. Describe how their views differ.
6. Mean Eddie frequently makes Jasmine mad. What does Jasmine do to calm down before she talks to Eddie? Is this a good strategy? Do you have a method to help calm down when you get mad?
7. Jasmine wants to prove she is strong enough to pound mochi. How else can Jasmine prove she is strong? What makes someone strong?
8. What did Sophie do to show support for Jasmine? Can you think of a time when you and your siblings or friends helped each other out? Or supported one another? What happened? How did it make you feel?
9. How did Jasmine's hard work pay off? Are there any things in your life you have really wanted and worked hard to get?
10. Jasmine convinces the elders to break tradition. Why do we have rules and is it okay to break them?



Vocabulary Words

(Note: Words in italics are Japanese.)

1. **Frenzy** (Ch. 1, p. 3)
I waited for my chance to escape the cleaning **frenzy**.
2. **Mochi** (Ch. 1, p. 6)
We spend the entire day making **mochi**, Japanese sweet rice cakes.
3. **Obaachan** (Ch. 1, p. 8)
She would probably get to sit right next to **Obaachan**, our grandma who came from Japan every year for the holidays.
4. **Editor** (Ch. 3, p. 21)
Mom worked part-time as an **editor**.
An **editor** reads other people's work and fixes the words. Like my teachers.
5. **Flung** (Ch. 4, p. 31)
I **flung** myself at her as she stepped out of the car.
6. **Kisoku** (Ch. 4, p. 35)
It's **kisoku**, the rule.
7. **Usu** (Ch. 5, p. 45)
Outside Dad and Uncle Jimmy carried the **usu** from the garage. I stood on my tiptoes to get a better look at the stone bowls they used to turn cooked rice into mochi.
8. **Fearless** (Ch. 7, p. 52)
Sophie was scared of the dark, but not me. I was **fearless**.
9. **Chattering** (Ch. 8, p. 58 and Ch. 9, p. 64)
The **chattering** sounded like a hundred hummingbirds buzzing in the room. My aunts laughed and chattered in the kitchen.
10. **Break tradition** (Ch. 9, p. 70)
"Jim," Dad said, "maybe it's time to **break tradition**."
11. **Mochiko** (Ch. 10, p. 76)
Mochiko, rice flour, was sprinkled across the table like snow so the mochi wouldn't stick to the tablecloth.
12. **Scowl** (Ch. 10, p. 79)
Eddie smiled. Wow. So that's what his face looked like when he was happy. His face went back to his usual **scowl** when Dad tapped my shoulder and said, "Your turn, Jasmine!"
13. **Oshogatsu** (Author's Note, p. 101)
It is a sticky, chewy dessert that can be eaten at any time of the year, although it is especially important during the New Year's holiday celebration, or **Oshogatsu** (oh-show-ga-tsoo).
14. **Mochi-tsuki** (Author's Note, p. 102)
Mochi-tsuki (moh-chee-tsoo-kee) literally means mochi-making.
15. **Kine** (Author's Note, p. 102)
Kine (kee-neh) is used to pound the rice into mochi.



Art Extension Activity: Collage

Jasmine Toguchi likes to make collages with pictures from old magazines. At the beginning of the story, she is in the middle of creating a collage all about the color purple. Later, she gives her Obaachan a collage of birds.

Using magazine cutouts, paper, and other materials, create a collage of a color, animal, or another theme. Cut or tear the materials into desired shapes. Arrange on a background and secure with tape or glue.



Books

- ***Collage Workshop for Kids: Rip, Snip, Cut, and Create with Inspiration from the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art*** by Shannon Merenstein
- ***Playing with Collage*** by Jeannie Baker

Web Resources

- [#MetKids: Create a Collage](#)
- [Tate Kids: Collage a Matisse Snail](#)
- [Tate Kids: Make a Collage in the Shape of Your Favorite Object](#)
- [Tate Kids: Play with Collage](#)

STEM Extension Activity: Mochi Making

Jasmine Toguchi is the Mochi Queen! The Toguchi family celebrates the New Year with the traditional mochi pounding ceremony – mochitsuki. When traditionally prepared, steamed rice is pounded with wooden mallets before being formed into shapes.

Mochi can also be made in the microwave or on the stove. Use a recipe to try making your own mochi!



Books

- ***Mochi Magic: 50 Traditional and Modern Recipes for the Japanese Treat*** by Kaori Becker

Web Resources

- [Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community: Form Your Own Mochi](#)
- [Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community: Our Mochi Tsuki History](#)
- [CityStream: Mochitsuki, a Japanese New Year's Tradition](#)
- [Debbi Michiko Florence: Cooking & Community](#)
- [Debbi Michiko Florence: Microwave Mochi Recipe](#)



Writing Extension Activity: Breaking the Rules

When Jasmine Toguchi's dad allows her to join the boys to pound mochi, Jasmine says it's the first time she's broken a rule with her mom and dad's permission. She feels so excited to break a rule!

When is it okay to break a rule? Have you ever broken a rule in a good way, like Jasmine? Write about a time when it was okay for you to break a rule. How did you feel?



Photo credit Roy Thomas

Fun Facts About Debbi Michiko Florence

Born in: San Francisco, CA

Lives in: Connecticut

Other places she has lived: Mexico City, Shanghai, Michigan, Massachusetts, and New York

Loves to: Travel with her husband and daughter, especially to Japan

Previous jobs: Raptor rehabilitator, classroom teacher, and an associate curator of education for a zoo

Age when she wrote her first story: 6 years old (first grade)

Number of books published: Over 20, including four in the Jasmine Toguchi series

Awards and recognition for *Jasmine Toguchi, Mochi Queen*: Junior Library Guild selection, Amelia Bloomer List, Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices List, Washington Library Association Otter Award Nominee

Inspiration for *Jasmine Toguchi, Mochi Queen*: A newspaper article about a multigenerational Japanese-American family who makes mochi each year, the traditional way. Debbi couldn't stop thinking about how much fun the family must have. Then she imagined a spunky girl who wanted to challenge the traditional gender roles in making mochi, and Jasmine came alive. (Based on an interview with Debbi Michiko Florence for [Jama's Alphabet Soup](#).)

Website: debbimichikoflorence.com
(With smiling mochi!)

More Books like *Jasmine Toguchi, Mochi Queen*

Check out bit.ly/MochiQueen for more books like *Jasmine Toguchi, Mochi Queen* at Sno-Isle Libraries.



Fiction

The Best of Iggy by Annie Barrows

Mindy Kim and the Yummy Seaweed Business
by Lyla Lee

Accidental Trouble Magnet by Zanib Mian

Rock Star by Kelly Starling Lyons

Marcus Makes a Movie by Kevin Hart

Jo Jo Makoons, The Used-to-be Best Friend
by Dawn Quigley

Jake the Fake Keeps It Real by Craig Robinson

Absolutely Alfie & the Furry, Purry Secret
by Sally Warner

Nonfiction

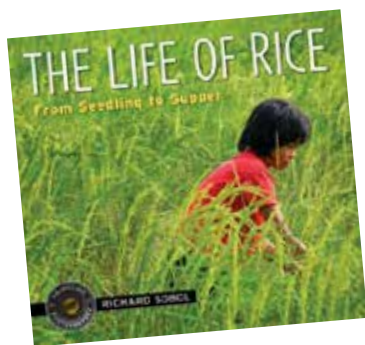
The Life of Rice, From Seedling to Supper by Richard Sobol

Slice Up Sushi by Shalini Vallepur

A Taste of the World, What People Eat and How They Celebrate Around the Globe by Beth Walrond

Kids Cooking, Students Prepare and Eat Foods From Around the World by George Ancona

Cycle of Rice, Cycle of Life, a Story of Sustainable Farming
by Jan Reynolds



Other books in the Jasmine Toguchi series

Book 1: ***Jasmine Toguchi, Mochi Queen***

Book 2: ***Jasmine Toguchi, Super Sleuth***

Book 3: ***Jasmine Toguchi, Drummer Girl***

Book 4: ***Jasmine Toguchi, Flamingo Keeper***





Stealing the Sword

by Wendy Mass

Discussion Questions

1. Chase and Ava work in the flea market selling 'found art' that their parents make. Have you ever made art out of found objects?
2. Chase and Ava are given \$4 each to spend at the flea market. Chase buys a book, comic books, dice, a Rubik's Cube, and a plastic dinosaur with movable legs. Ava buys oversized sunglasses, a picture frame, and a tie-dye tutu. How much do they have left after all that? How much do they spend on the suitcase? Why?
3. Why did Chase get his dinosaur hat for free from the Natural History Museum?
4. Ava insists that magic, wizards, fairies, and dragons are real. But she also believes that monsters and elves are not real. What do you think?
5. Would you like to travel back in time? Or would you like to travel to the future? What other books have you read about time travel?
6. At the end of chapter 13, Chase turns to his sister and holds up the hilt. "It's time to mess with the timeline!" he says. Why does he choose this moment to act?
7. Why do you think Chase and Ava were able to repair the sword when Merlin could not? Why did the author choose to write the story that way?
8. In chapter 16, Chase suggests they not tell anyone about their adventure. Why does he say that?
9. At the very end of the book the suitcase begins to rattle from under Chase's bed. Why did the book end that way?
10. The back page of the book has information about the author and illustrator. Wendy Mass says you can travel back in time. How?

Vocabulary Words

1. **Sculptures** (Ch. 1, p. 2)
“Your parents made these **sculptures**?”
the woman asks, handing her money to Chase.
2. **Found art** (Ch. 1, p. 2)
“Where most see trash, our parents see treasure. They call it **found art**.”
3. **Bizarre** (Ch. 4, p. 18)
Row two gets even more **bizarre**: a bag of dirt, a white feather, a slim purple candle, and a glass tube.
4. **Cranes** (Ch. 6, p. 26)
Ava **cranes** her neck around to see if the man has spotted them, and she almost crashes into Chase!
5. **Weave** (Ch. 6, p. 26)
Chase’s bike wobbles as they **weave** their way through the trees and down toward the playground.
6. **Sprawled** (Ch. 7, p. 31)
But instead of the soft, green grass of the playground, they are **sprawled** on a cold, hard floor!
7. **Medieval** (Ch. 8, p. 39)
“We’re in King Arthur’s castle in **medieval** times!”
8. **Tapestries** (Ch. 8, p. 37)
Giant **tapestries** hang on the walls, colorful rugs cover the stone floors, and a huge, round table sits in the center of the room.
9. **Unravel** (Ch. 9, p. 41)
“History could **unravel** like a ball of yarn.”
10. **Hilt** (Ch. 10, p. 49)
The sword’s **hilt** is carved into the shape of a dragon.
11. **Uneasy** (Ch. 11, p. 51)
An **uneasy** thought enters Chase’s mind.
12. **Starstruck** (Ch. 12, p. 58)
Chase is too **starstruck** to answer.
13. **Plume** (Ch. 14, p. 73)
A loud thunderclap fills the air, followed by a **plume** of smoke.
14. **Chaos** (Ch. 14, p. 74)
In the **chaos**, the man from the flea market is swallowed up by the crowd and the smoke.
15. **Lobs** (Ch. 14, p. 78)
Then he **lobs** the sword right at King Arthur.



Art Extension Activity: Found Art

At the beginning of the adventure, Chase and Ava are helping at their parents' flea market booth selling art made of random materials and trash. Their parents call it "found art."

Collect objects that interest you from home, outside, or the classroom. Think about how these objects might come together to create something new. Then, turn trash into treasure and create your own found art or magical time traveling artifact!



Books

- ***Ashley Bryan's Puppets: Making Something from Everything*** by Ashley Bryan
- ***Everyday Art Series*** by Gillian Chapman
- ***Kenya's Art*** by Linda Trice
- ***Maggie's Treasure*** by Jon-Erik Lappano

Web Resources

- [Denver Art Museum: Building with Natural Found Objects](#)
- [Smithsonian American Art Museum: Found Object Artworks](#)
- [Tinkerlab: Make Art with Recycled Materials](#)

STEM Extension Activity: Design a Castle

When Chase and Ava jump back in time, they land in King Arthur's medieval castle (pg. 39). During their adventure, they find a secret passageway that leads them to a white-haired wizard.

Design a medieval castle of your own. Use pencils, markers, and paper to make a map or go further and build your castle with index cards, blocks, cardboard, and other building materials. Don't forget the secret passageways!



Books

- ***Castle*** by Richard Platt
- ***Castle: How It Works*** by David Macaulay
- ***Medieval Castle Adventure Crafts*** by Anna Llimós Plomer

Web Resources

- [STEM Challenge: Index Card Castles](#)
- [Team Design Challenge: Index Cards & Castles](#)



Writing Extension Activity: Time Jumping

Chase and Ava discover a suitcase full of unique objects, like an uncooked potato, a black stone beetle, and a bag of dirt. When Chase accidentally grabs a dragon doorknob, the siblings are whisked back in time to King Arthur's castle. After exploring the castle, they realize the doorknob is the hilt to Excalibur, King Arthur's sword!

If you were to travel in time, where would you want to go? What object would take you there?

Describe the special object that transports you through time and then write about what you would do on your adventure.



Fun Facts about Wendy Mass

Born in: Livingston, NJ

Lives in: New Jersey

Other places she has lived: Los Angeles

Loves to: Geocache, RV travel, learn magic tricks, play virtual reality, learn about astronomy, and be a mom to her twins

Previous jobs: A script reader for a film producer, assistant to a literary agent, and a book editor

Age when she wrote her first story: 10 years old (fifth grade)

Number of books published: Over 29, including three in the Time Jumpers series

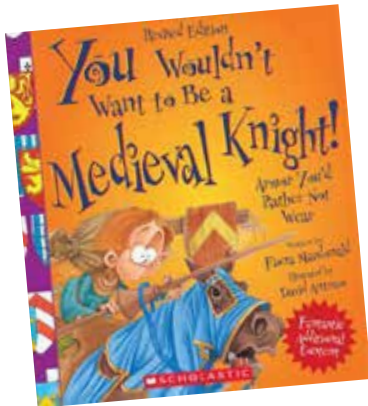
Awards and recognition: Nominated for 91 state book awards, New Jersey Association of School Librarians Author of the Year (2018), American Library Association Schneider Family Book Award (2004), Booklist Editors' Choice - Books for Youth - Middle Reader Category (2018)

Inspiration for books: Reading nonfiction books often inspires Wendy to dream up stories and characters based on her reading. After she read about the condition called synesthesia in Dr. Richard Cytowic's nonfiction book, *The Man Who Tasted Shapes*, she wrote about a character whose senses are mingled in her first book, *A Mango-Shaped Space*.

Website: wendymass.com

More Books like *Stealing the Sword*

Check out bit.ly/StealingTheSword for more books like *Stealing the Sword* at Sno-Isle Libraries.



Fiction

Rescue on the Oregon Trail by Kate Messner

The Ember Stone by Katrina Charman

Dragons in a Bag by Zetta Elliott

The Magic Mirror by Anna Staniszewski

Stranger Things by David Lubar

Grilled Cheese and Dragons by Nancy E. Krulik

On the Dog by J. C. Greenburg

Rise of the Earth Dragon by Tracey West

Nonfiction

Look Around a Medieval Castle by Clare Hibbert

King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table
by Lancelyn Roger Green

You Wouldn't Want to Be a Medieval Knight! Armor You'd Rather Not Wear by Fiona Macdonald

Warfare and Weapons by Christopher Gravett

Weapons of the Middle Ages by Matt Doeden

So You Want to Be a Knight? by Hannah Pang

Other Books in the Time Jumpers series

Book 1: **Stealing the Sword**

Book 2: **Escape from Egypt!**

Book 3: **Fast-Forward to the Future**



Third Graders Read Together is made possible by the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation, the Dorothy Koch Family Foundation, and the Northwest Literacy Foundation.