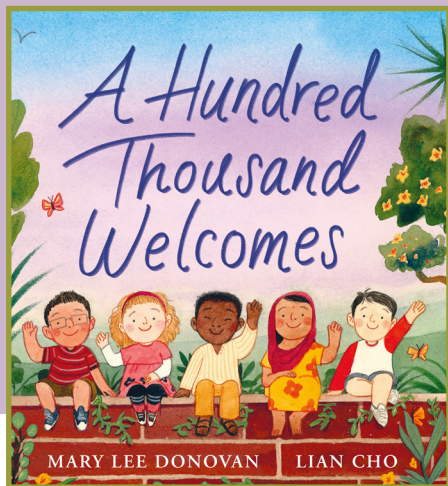




A Hundred Thousand Welcomes

MARY LEE DONOVAN

LIAN CHO



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By Mary Lee Donovan • Illustrated by Lian Cho

About the Book

Friends, neighbors, and families all around the world welcome one another in this joyful story, sharing their homes, food, and traditions. The colorful illustrations and diverse languages convey the myriad ways that people connect with one another, and the universal truth that, simply put, welcoming others into our lives makes the world a better place.

Discussion Questions

- What does the word “welcome” mean? When do we say it?
- Do people around the world speak the same language? How many languages do you think there are? Can you name some?
- Do you know any words in another language?
- As you read aloud each page, ask the children to repeat “Welcome” in each language. (You can refer to the pronunciation guide at the end of the story.)
- What do you notice about the cover of this story?
- Read the first few pages, beginning with “Welcome, friend” and ending with “We’ll shelter in peace, break bread where it’s warm.” What details do you notice? What is the weather like?
- Read the next two pages (“*Selamat datang*”). How do these friends greet each other?
- Look at the settings on the next two pages (“*Ahlan wa sahlan*” and “*Bienvenida*”). Where are the characters? How do you know?
- Look at the meal on the next page (“*Huānyíng*”). Can you tell what foods are being served?
- Look carefully at the next two-page spread (“*Yōkoso*”). Do you see any letters? What do you notice?
- Where do you think the next two pages take place (“*Shāgata*”)?) How do you know?
- Look at the details on the next two-page spread. What do you notice about the homes, foods, and clothing?
- What is the setting on the next two pages (“*Willkommen*”)?) How is it different from the previous pages?
- As you read the rest of the story, what details do you notice in the illustrations? (Allow the children extra time to study the four-panel foldout pages.)

Extension Activities



Greetings! Reread the story and then have pairs of children practice saying “Welcome” in one of the languages portrayed in this book. When they have mastered their assigned “welcome,” make a video that includes all the children’s greetings. Then present the welcome video to other groups of children to share knowledge while celebrating diversity, friendship, and languages from around the world.

The More We Get Together. Discuss the gatefold illustration that shows a communal feast. Give the children a large piece of paper and have them draw a gathering of their family, friends, and neighbors. Have them include details, including special foods that might be served. Children can add speech or thought bubbles to their illustration to show what the characters are thinking, feeling, or saying. Allow the children to present their work and then display these pictures in the classroom.

Let’s Eat! Discuss the diverse food served in this story and how many families have special foods they enjoy while honoring their culture and heritage. Then ask the children

(with parental assistance) to choose a food that is special to their family to bring into school for an International Food Day event, a celebration of food and community! The children should make a sign identifying and describing their food, as well as listing the ingredients in case any children have food allergies. Happy snacking!

In Any Language. Review the languages introduced in this story, and then plan a Language Fair with the class. Ask the children to choose a language other than English (it might be one they already speak) and prepare several words, phrases, or sentences in that language, including, of course, the word “welcome.” You can show the front pages of this book and encourage someone to choose sign language. Have all the children make a sign that identifies the language and phrases they will be saying. They can display this on their desk or “booth” for the fair. After the children have practiced, have them rotate through the classroom until they visit one another’s booths and have experienced all the different languages. Afterward, discuss what the children notice or wonder about world languages.