

World Religions & Spiritual Journeys Summer Reading

Big Panda and Tiny Dragon by James Norbury

ISBN: 9781647225124

Summary: Big Panda and Tiny Dragon embark on a journey through the seasons of the year together. They get lost, as many of us do. But while lost, they discover many beautiful sights they would never have found had they gone the right way. Told through a series of beautiful drawings and quiet, sometimes silly, conversations, the panda and the dragon explore the thoughts and emotions, hardships and happiness that connect us all. In nature, they learn how to live in the moment, how to be at peace with uncertainty, and how to find the strength to overcome life's obstacles together.

Assignment: This book is based on teachings that we will explore in more detail when we cover the religions of Buddhism and Taoism. *Big Panda and Tiny Dragon* is full of life lessons and personal spiritual quests. Some examples include:

“Be brave. You never know what a first meeting might lead to.” (Spring, p. 8)

“Some people are like candles. They burn themselves out to create light for others.” (Summer, p. 71)

“Sometimes all you can do is make someone a cup of tea. It might be enough.” (Autumn, p. 119)

You are to pick three of your favorite life lessons from the book and discuss a time when the life lesson might have applied to you. These reflections should be a minimum of two paragraphs in length for each one.

After reflecting on these life lessons, follow James Norbury's approach of creating an image/cartoon/meme of Big Panda and Tiny Dragon with an important life lesson you want to teach others. You can draw or use images from the internet for this. Your life lesson should be something that you adhere to in your own life. You must include a paragraph on why this lesson is important to you and for others to learn. For examples from James Norbury see <https://www.jamesnorbury.com/big-panda-tiny-dragon>.