

TACT Recommended Readings

MONKEY

by level of difficulty

Elementary School

- *Monkey*. Ed Young. A book with fold-out pages, a simple introduction to the mischievous monkey character from a Chinese novel by Wu Cheng-en. PreK-2, but really a delight for all ages.
- ° *Year of the Monkey: Tales from the Chinese Zodiac*, Oliver Chin, 2015. This book from his series illustrate traits of the animal in a contemporary setting. PreK-2
- ° *Journey to the West (Young Learners Classic Readers Book 60)* Kindle edition of the famous novel by Wu Cheng-en. Grades 1-3.
- *Monkey*. This small book is part of a twelve volume series on the Chinese zodiac and characteristics of the people born in this sign. Grades 2-5
- ° *The Little Monkey King's Journey*. Li Jian. The young monkey king's adventures before he entered the Peach Garden of Immortality, bilingual Chinese/English and its authenticity might be in question. Grades 2-5.
- ° *Havoc in Heaven*. Tang Cheng. Adapted from an animated film. Grades 4-6

Upper Elementary/Middle School

- *The Making of Monkey King*. Robert Kraus and Debby Chen. This is one small episode in the 100 adventures of the Monkey King, how he got his powers, confronting the Dragon King. Grades 3-6
- *Monkey Wreaks Havoc in Heaven*. Debby Chen. The story of the gluttonous monkey in the peach garden and how he made a mess in heaven. Grades 3-6.
- ° *The Magical Monkey King: Mischief in Heaven*. Ji-Li Jiang. Monkey becomes king of the monkeys and learns the secret of immortality. Grades 3 – 6.
- *Monkey Subdues the White Bone Demon*. Wang Hsing-Pei. A famous fight from the Monkey stories from an early Foreign Languages Press 1964 translation. Grades 4-6
- *Adventures of Monkey King*. R.L. Gao. Victory Press, Monterey, 1989. The early adventures of Monkey and how he met his companions, the monk, the pig, and Sandy.

• *A Young Painter: The life and paintings of Wang Yani--China's extraordinary young artist.* Zheng Zhensun and Alice Low. Scholastic Inc. 1991 Reproductions of the artist's delightful paintings of animals. Especially noteworthy are her monkey paintings. Includes her thoughts about the creative process, introduces brush painting. Grades 4 - Middle School

° *Yani: The Brush of Innocence.* Wai-Ching Ho, 1989. A catalog of her exhibition in 1989 at the Metropolitan Museum in New York.

An update of her work in Germany < galerie-jaspers.de/Yani.html > that students can read using Google Translate.

• *Dear Monkey.* Alison Waley, 1973. An adaptation for middle school students of the translation by Arthur Waley.

° *American Born Chinese.* Gene Luen Yang. A graphic novel with three stories, a Monkey King, a Chinese American boy, and a negative Chinese stereotype. The stereotype is very disturbing and strong. Does the story counter it enough?

High School

• *Monkey.* Wu Cheng-en. Arthur Waley, trans. 30 stories from the 100 adventures of Monkey, a trickster and a braggart, bringing Buddhist scriptures to China. Well written classic, funny and sometimes vulgar, from the larger work known as *Journey to the West*.

° *The Monkey and the Monk: An Abridgment of The Journey to the West,* edited by Anthony C. Yu, 2006. Important episodes from the novel which inspired many Chinese opera, modern plays, movies and Asian animation.

• *Great Literature of the Eastern World: the Major works of Prose, Poetry and Drama from China, India, Japan, Korea and the Middle East.* Ian P. McGreal, Editor. HarperCollins, 1996. Excellent guide with clear descriptions, examples, biographies, and titles of translations and critiques. Clear, interesting, gives context and historical background. One chapter explains the significance of *Journey to the West*. Every high school library should have this book of critiques.

