



# GIRL GIANT & THE MONKEY KING

## *Reading Guide*

Intro to the Book  
Discussion Questions  
About the Author  
Readalikes



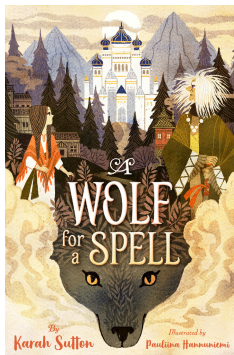
## About the Author: Van Hoang

Van Hoang's first name is pronounced like the van in minivan. It means "cloud" in Vietnamese. Her last name is pronounced "hah-wawng" and means "king" or "royalty." Her favorite hobbies are swimming, playing the ukulele, and cuddling with her two dogs, Pollo (pictured left. His name means "chicken" in Spanish) and Lucas

(who is not pictured because he never sits still enough). She was born in Vietnam, grew in up Westminister, California, and now resides in Los Angeles with her husband and kid. She also works at the library! If you see her around, don't forget to say hi!

## Readalikes

Did you enjoy reading *Girl Giant and the Monkey King*? Give some of these other books a try!



A Wolf for a Spell  
by Karah Sutton



Maya and the Rising Dark  
by Rena Barron



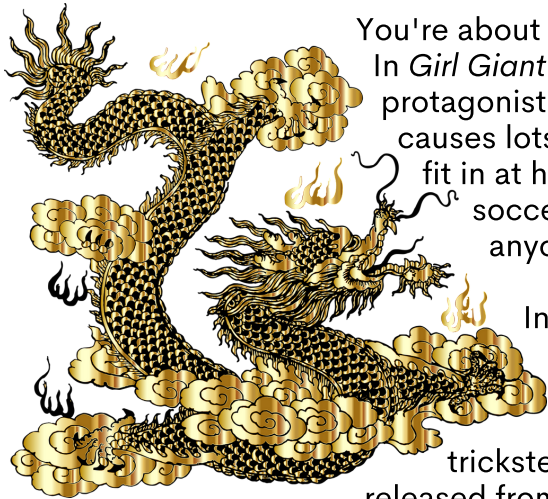
Dragon Pearl  
by Yoon Ha Lee



The Girl and the Ghost  
by Hanna Alkaf



# GIRL GIANT: HAVING SUPER POWERS ISN'T WHAT IT SEEMS



You're about to meet a very strong girl, literally. In *Girl Giant and the Monkey King*, our protagonist Thom Ngho has a super power that causes lots of problems as she struggles to fit in at her new school and play on the soccer team without accidentally hurting anyone.

In a desperate bid to get rid of her super strength, Thom makes a deal with the Monkey King, a powerful deity and legendary trickster she accidentally released from his 500-year prison sentence.

Soon she discovers that magic can't cure everything and making a deal with the trickster god may be more trouble than it's worth.

The next page has discussion questions that we'll discuss at our March 11th meeting with the author!

## WARNING!

**Spoilers ahead! To avoid spoiling the story, only read the discussion questions AFTER you finish reading the book!**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1** If you had a superpower, what would it be? What sort of problems do you think your power would cause in your life?
- 2** Thom really loves boba, especially with popcorn chicken. What is your favorite boba drink?
- 3** The Monkey King has appeared in many different cultures by lots of names. Did you know about him before reading this book? Where did you first learn about him? What other trickster gods do you know about from other mythologies?
- 4** Do you think the healing rainbow water should be shared with the world or should the monkey demons keep it hidden behind the waterfall?
- 5** What would you wear for Culture Day, and what would you do for your creative project if you were Thom and Kha?
- 6** Why do you think the Jade Emperor, fairies, and immortals dislike the demons so much?
- 7** If you had the chance to make a deal with a trickster god, what would you ask for? What would you be willing to do in return?