



In conversation with
KRISTEN MEI CHASE,
author of
**YOU'RE A WINNER,
GRACIE WEI**

You're a Winner, Gracie Wei is the start of a new chapter book series. Can you tell us a little about Gracie?

Gracie is who I imagine I was as a kid: a smart, opinionated girl with a heart of gold. Since I never saw myself reflected in books when I was a growing up, I'm thrilled to be able to give that gift to mixed-race kids like me!

You're a Winner, Gracie Wei is your chapter book debut, but you've also written novels and picture books. Do you have a favorite age to write for?

Choosing a favorite age to write for is a little like choosing a favorite child of mine. But this is my first book series, so I have to say that writing characters that get to grow and evolve through different storylines is wonderful.



The Gracie Wei series is launching with two books. In book one Gracie is determined to win the school spelling bee. In book two Gracie has to work up the nerve to get back on her bike after a horrible tumble. Do you have future challenges in mind for Gracie as the series continues?

Absolutely! Every book will be designed to help grow emotional intelligence in young readers in what I hope are clever ways.

What were some of your favorite chapter books to read growing up?

I loved strong female characters with personality, like Pippi Longstocking and Anne of Green Gables, but I was also inspired by characters in books I read to my own kids, like Clementine and Ivy and Bean.



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