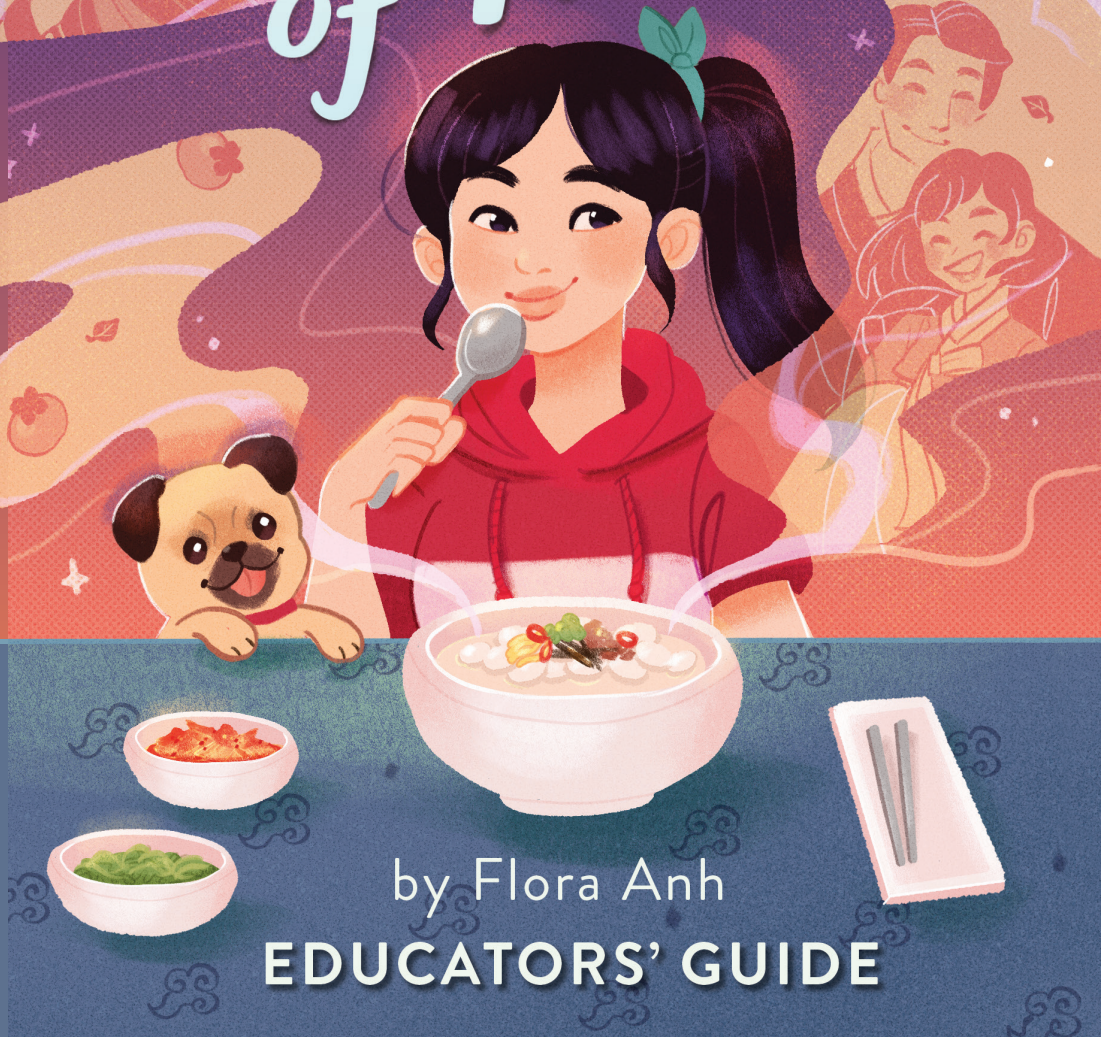


# A Spoonful of Time



by Flora Anh  
**EDUCATORS' GUIDE**

## COMMON CORE CONNECTIONS

*A Spoonful of Time* is a delightful story of family, food, and magic. This curriculum guide, with connections to the Common Core, mixes an array of language arts activities, book discussions, vocabulary instruction, and more to accommodate the learning needs of most students in grades 4–7. Students are asked to be careful readers without jeopardizing the joy of reading.

Noted throughout the guide are correlations between the discussion questions and activities and specific Common Core Language Arts Standards. For more information on specific standards, visit the Common Core website at [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org).

# DELECTABLE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Before reading *A Spoonful of Time*, increase motivation and activate prior knowledge for increased comprehension by asking your class these prereading discussion questions.

- Is *A Spoonful of Time* fiction or nonfiction? How do you know?
- Look at the illustration on the front cover of the book and then read the summary on the back cover. What do you think this book is about?
- What is your favorite thing to eat?
- If you could travel through time, what is the first place and time you would visit? Why?
- What could the title of the book, *A Spoonful of Time*, be telling you about the story?

After you've read *A Spoonful of Time*, use the following discussion questions to extend learning and foster classroom dialogue.

- What significance does Korean food have in *A Spoonful of Time*? Why does Maya's mom stop cooking it?
- If you could time-travel by eating food that's meaningful to you, what food would it be and why?
- Maya often feels that she must present two different versions of herself, Friend Maya and Family Maya. Why does she feel this way? How are these two versions of herself different? Do you think she needs two versions of herself? Why or why not?
- List three traits of each of the following characters from *A Spoonful of Time*: Maya, Jada, Jeff, Yoo Jin, and Halmunee.
- Compare and contrast Maya and Jada's families by answering the following questions: How are both families alike? How are the families different? How are they both great support systems for the girls?
- In your own words, explain how Maya time-travels. You can use Halmunee's analogy or make up one of your own.
- How does Halmunee use her time-travel abilities to help her younger self and Maya? How does living with a future version of herself affect Maya's mom?
- In Chapter 5, Maya time-travels with Halmunee, and learns the Korean word "inyeon." What does this word mean and how does it relate to the story as a whole?
- What type of tree holds Maya's memories? If you had a tree that held all your memories, what type of tree do you think it would be? Why?



# DELECTABLE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS CONTINUED

- Why should Maya only time-travel to the past? What could happen if she tried to visit the future?
- Use examples from the book to explain how Maya's relationship with her mother changes from the beginning of the book to the end.
- How does Maya meet Jeff? How does Jeff meet Maya? How do they have very different versions of meeting each other? Why couldn't Jeff give Maya his email address or phone number? How do they end up reconciling?
- What was the secret that Maya's mother kept from her? Why did she keep it from Maya for so long? How did the secret finally get revealed?
- What does Maya mean when she realizes, "It was too easy to obsess about past mistakes, to want to live in the past and ignore the present, the lives they should actually be living"?
- There are many themes that run throughout *A Spoonful of Time*. Some of the most important ones are family, friendship, identity, memory, loss, and time. Choose one of these themes and explain how it relates to the story.

## THE DELECTABLE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS FOR READING LITERATURE:

### Reading Literature

#### Key Ideas and Details

Grade 4 – RL.4.1-3

Grade 5 – RL.5.1-3

Grade 6 – RL.6.1-3

Grade 7 – RL.7.1-3

#### Craft and Structure

Grade 4 – RL.4.4-6

Grade 5 – RL.5.4-6

Grade 6 – RL.6.4-6

Grade 7 – RL.7.6

### Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

Grade 4 – RL.4.9

Grade 5 – RL.5.9

Grade 6 – RL.6.9

Grade 7 – RL.7.9

### Range of Reading Level of Text Complexity

Grade 4 – RL.4.10

Grade 5 – RL.5.10

Grade 6 – RL.6.10

Grade 7 – RL.7.10

# TIMELESS LANGUAGE ARTS ACTIVITIES

## THE SECRET'S OUT!

Time-traveling plays a big role in *A Spoonful of Time*. Have your students imagine that they are investigative reporters, and they just uncovered Maya's time-traveling secret. Ask them to write a traditional newspaper article or create a TV newscast, podcast, or vlog about it. Encourage them to act like real journalists by asking and answering who, what, where, when, and why questions, writing catchy headlines, and combining facts from the books with made-up quotes they believe Maya and the other characters would say to a real reporter. Invite students to share their news reports with the class.

## A HELPING HAND FROM THE FUTURE

Maya's mother travels back in time to help her younger self and daughter. Ask your students to "go back in time" to help their younger selves by thinking of a time when they felt alone, upset, or hurt. Then, have them write a letter giving their younger selves advice and reassuring their younger selves that they will survive the problem and be okay. Since this activity may inspire students to write about personal issues, make sure you tell them that they will only have to share their work if they want to.

## SCRUMPTIOUS PRESENTATIONS

The explanations of the Korean food featured in *A Spoonful of Time* are so descriptive, readers can almost taste each one. Have your students choose a type of food that they have a connection to, such as a favorite dish or dessert, something from their culture, or a meal they eat every year at their favorite holiday. Then ask them to prepare a seven-slide PowerPoint presentation to share with the class about the food they choose. In addition to mouth-watering descriptions of the food, remind them to include things such as images, recipes, reviews, and samples (if your school allows it).

## STORY TWIST

*A Spoonful of Time* is told from Maya's point of view. Ask your students to rewrite one chapter from another character's perspective. Instruct them to be prepared to discuss why they chose the chapter and character they did before they share their reworked chapter with the class.

## FAMILY HISTORY TREE

Family history is very important to Maya. Have your students trace their roots and make their own family trees. First, have your students study their family's past by interviewing family members, researching surnames online, looking at old family pictures, drawings, or maps, and trying to uncover any family heirlooms or lore. Once they have collected enough information, ask your students to design their own trees containing branches with the names of their family members as far back as they can. Encourage them to be creative when making their family tree designs by incorporating fruit, flowers, words, and phrases that relate to their family. After your class finishes their family trees, invite each student to share their tree and tell an interesting story about their family history.

# TIMELESS LANGUAGE ARTS ACTIVITIES CONTINUED

## MEANINGFUL MEMORIES

Maya can revisit some of her favorite (and not-so-favorite) memories by time-travelling through the connections she has with some of her family's favorite food. Invite your students to time-travel too by revisiting some of the memories that have shaped their lives. Ask them to brainstorm a list of at least ten moments in their lives that they feel most connected to. Then, have them choose three of those moments to write about. They should write about the memory as vividly as possible and talk about how the memory makes them feel, why it's important to them, and how it shaped who they are today. After they are finished writing, have them create a collage of images, words, and phrases to bring their memories to life.

## BAKED FROM THE HEART

Family recipes are important to both Maya and Flora Ahn, the author of *A Spoonful of Time*. Ask your students to bring in a recipe they love; it can either be from their family, or it can be from a cookbook or the internet. Ask them to type up a recipe card that lists the ingredients needed, gives clear directions on how to make it, and has a few sentences on what makes the recipe important to them and why it's delicious. Collect all the recipes and publish them in a class cookbook. Make sure you print a copy for each student to enjoy.

## IT'S NOT OVER

*A Spoonful of Time* ends somewhat ambiguously for Maya. Task your students with writing a second epilogue about what they think happened to her after the book ends. Encourage them to be as creative as possible and go as little or as far into the future as they'd like, explore writing about time travel, and think about how the author, Flora Ahn, would add to Maya's adventures. Invite your students to share all their extended endings in a class read-aloud.

## THE TIME-LESS LANGUAGE ARTS ACTIVITIES ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS FOR READING LITERATURE:

### WRITING:

#### Text Types and Purposes

Grade 4 – RL.4.1-3  
Grade 5 – RL.5.1-3  
Grade 6 – RL.6.1-3  
Grade 7 – RL.7.1-3

#### Production and Distribution of Writing

Grade 4 – W.4.4-6  
Grade 5 – W.5.4-6  
Grade 6 – W.6.4-5  
Grade 7 – W.7.4-6

### Research to Build and Present Knowledge

Grade 4 – W.4.7-9b  
Grade 5 – W.5.7-9b  
Grade 6 – W.6.7-9  
Grade 7 – W.7.7-9a

### Speaking and Listening Comprehension and Collaboration

Grade 4 – SL.4.1-2  
Grade 5 – SL.5.1-1d  
Grade 6 – SL.6.1-2  
Grade 7 – SL.7.1

### Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

Grade 4 – SL.4.4-6  
Grade 5 – SL.5.4-5  
Grade 6 – SL.6.4-5  
Grade 7 – SL.7.4-5

# SCRUMPTIOUS VOCABULARY WORDS

Review this list of vocabulary words found throughout *A Spoonful of Time*. First ask students if they can guess the words' meaning by rereading each word in the context of the story. Then have them use dictionaries to check their answers and/or define the word. In addition, have them use each word in a sentence of their own. Since there are so many vocabulary words, you may choose to review these words over a few class periods and assign some for homework. You can also use them for your weekly list, daily word study, or spelling exercises.

## CHAPTER 1

whir  
grunt  
accustomed  
urge  
etched  
uneventful  
staccato  
stubbornly  
insistent  
potential  
bulky  
darted  
frustration  
anxiety  
overwhelmed  
dementia  
migraine  
cartoonish  
memento  
occasionally  
scurry  
lurk  
texture  
blur

## CHAPTER 2

cacophony  
stunned  
rooted  
cicadas  
laden  
persimmons  
ajar  
weather-beaten  
dueled  
dribbled  
gestures  
resembled  
meandered  
glint

vicariously  
comprehension  
instinctively  
assumed  
dense  
reprimand  
stern  
heaping  
contentment  
bizarro  
bogged down  
glimmer  
destiny  
fate  
clatter

## CHAPTER 3

numb  
remnants  
lingered  
aroma  
reclaimed  
puttered  
smudge  
burgundy  
seeped  
stupor  
stuffy  
assured  
priorities  
lucid  
debated  
unnecessarily  
assumption  
reassuring  
eagerness  
reluctant  
tidbits  
hoarded  
sidetracked  
casual

despite  
nostalgic  
prodding  
wistful  
no-nonsense  
clash  
strain  
tense  
vague  
retreated  
misdirected  
unraveling

## CHAPTER 4

cranky  
disoriented  
convince  
irritable  
muttered  
stiffened  
tension  
icily  
browsed  
streaming  
swerved  
lush  
climate  
beckoned  
complexion  
cue  
sought  
mundane  
cringe  
envied  
pang  
bittersweet  
flushed  
hallucinations  
respective  
territories  
descendants

smugly  
flicker  
haze  
confirm  
symbolically  
literally  
sympathize

#### CHAPTER 5

bliss  
pungent  
intriguing  
earthenware  
panting  
vigil  
groggy  
scenario  
explicitly  
shooed  
unpredictable  
unreliable  
fermented  
betrayed  
trivet  
elder  
tremor  
lurched  
sparsely  
impeccably  
scrolls  
ornate  
gangly  
frayed  
intimidating  
crease  
tasked  
admire  
posture  
meekness  
shameful  
rookie  
rhetorical  
surefire  
fierce  
asylum  
vanished  
ancestors  
tempt  
infinite  
fleeting

destined  
solemnly  
reckless  
arrogant  
scent

#### CHAPTER 6

version  
satisfy  
modesty  
distorted  
hesitated  
layout  
analogy  
incident  
unsteadily  
canyon  
earshot  
tax  
familial

#### CHAPTER 7

flock  
steaming  
nudged  
inhaled  
broth  
overpower  
trotting  
overtime  
grasped  
albeit  
symbolize  
intoxicating  
interact  
polite  
desired  
blurted  
basking  
tender  
braised  
impish  
clammed up  
infuriating  
vantage point

#### CHAPTER 8

trademark  
increasingly  
sputtered

fumes  
clusters  
stationary  
self-consciously  
offensive  
irritated  
cocked  
dimension  
monuments  
hyperactive  
edging  
swiveled

#### CHAPTER 9

rummaging  
appliances  
biblical proportions  
aggravating  
collaboration  
piercing  
faithfully  
infamous  
succumbed  
bitterness  
smirked  
sledgehammer  
subtlety  
methodically  
eager  
fumbled  
relentless  
interrogation  
yelped  
dashing  
twinge  
vacated  
fatigue

#### CHAPTER 10

bustling  
alert  
triumph  
seasoned  
vinegary  
sterile  
catchphrase  
setbacks  
marinated  
radiating  
lengthwise

incased  
decisive  
concentric  
beaming  
hoisted

#### CHAPTER 11

dazzling  
bordered  
pillars  
spiked  
symmetrical  
fluent  
idiom  
tentatively  
ancient  
morbid  
contrast  
sacred  
rapid-fire  
slang  
clump

#### CHAPTER 12

dramatically  
revisit  
discrete  
earnest  
overlap  
lopsided

#### CHAPTER 13

outnumber  
fondly  
brunt  
burden  
wit  
appetizing  
estimate  
spatula  
hefty  
muted  
noticeable  
peered  
gaspd  
unfocused  
dazed  
rhythm  
linear  
fixate

#### CHAPTER 14

nothingness  
hoarse  
vibrations  
threshold  
amid  
gaze  
vivid  
marveled  
squat  
dainty  
squinted  
opaque  
fiddled  
sprawling  
solidified  
dissolved  
canopy  
jolt  
theoretically

#### CHAPTER 15

partially  
elimination  
deflated  
preferable  
pestering

#### CHAPTER 16

replicate  
concentrated  
recalled  
disconnected  
vendors  
regretted  
recollection  
refuse  
drooped  
bailing  
engrossed

#### CHAPTER 17

inevitable  
stocked  
determined  
progressively  
agitated  
parchment  
buttery  
hint

gingerly  
inability  
devoured

#### CHAPTER 18

renovated  
slats  
outstretched  
ecstatic  
gorge  
aghast  
sheer  
trudged  
coursing  
unleashing

#### CHAPTER 19

recover  
pose  
shifting  
habits  
intersected  
logic  
mangled  
trend  
dissuade  
accent

#### CHAPTER 20

crammed  
anticipation  
dampen  
resist  
enthusiasm  
contagious  
abyss

#### CHAPTER 21

wove  
instincts  
unique  
tendons  
vicinity  
rustle  
jarring  
rippled  
alongside  
gruff  
amethyst

#### CHAPTER 22



quaver  
detour  
mortified  
scoffed  
trilled  
predict  
tingle  
harvest  
lunar calendar  
craving  
obligation  
extended  
melodic  
gleamed  
imprinted  
whooshed

#### CHAPTER 23

panels  
trim  
minimal  
fashionable  
darned  
severe  
showcased  
streaked  
exuded  
hostility  
coolly  
avert  
chatter  
dissipated  
frugality  
yearned  
honor  
duty  
atop  
luxuries  
chastising  
bickering

#### CHAPTER 24

outlook  
avoiding  
startled  
exasperated  
installed  
snatch  
effortlessly  
resuming

seething

#### CHAPTER 25

crisis  
grim  
survivors  
rhythmic

#### CHAPTER 26

automatically  
adrenaline  
dreading  
flinch  
infiltrate  
occupied  
demeanor  
foreign  
precise  
surreal

#### CHAPTER 27

ravenous  
aglow  
wisps  
halted  
unavoidable  
executive decision  
wordlessly  
morsel  
ladle  
deposited  
barely  
mellow  
minced  
hunger pangs  
disobey  
mingled  
strewn  
contemplated  
formation  
stringy  
nanosecond  
dose  
saturated  
pervaded

#### CHAPTER 28

occur  
sensible  
rigid  
realization

dawned  
muffling  
dotted  
restraints

#### CHAPTER 29

arched  
evenly  
relief  
oozed  
jabbed  
hissed  
jostling  
unease

#### CHAPTER 30

approaching  
unimaginable  
hunched  
pitiful  
heap  
evident  
gaped  
cradling  
wincing  
steely  
prior

#### CHAPTER 31

shrill  
horizon  
desolate  
limitations  
straightforward  
even-tempered  
wreckage  
trauma  
fixation

#### CHAPTER 32

underlying  
dabbling  
abruptly  
moping  
interjections

#### CHAPTER 33

rediscover  
broader  
raving  
lunatic

prevent  
dwell  
elaborate  
unoiled

#### CHAPTER 34

doomed  
groping  
telltale  
discordant  
desperation  
awe  
gnarled  
immobile

#### CHAPTER 35

asphalt  
barreled  
faltered  
obsess

#### CHAPTER 36

grieve  
stoic  
restocked  
reawakened  
wafted

#### CHAPTER 37

trendy  
sarcasm  
outdated

disconcerting  
clasping  
reunion  
miracle  
distance

#### CHAPTER 38

bombarded  
unwind  
sulked  
idled  
trippy

#### EPILOGUE

eerie  
embrace

After your class is familiar with the vocabulary list, invite them to choose twenty to twenty-five words. Use those words to write a narrative about what they would do if they found out they could time-travel like Maya can.

## THE SCRUMPTIOUS VOCABULARY WORDS ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS FOR LANGUAGE:

### Conventions of Standard English

Grade 4 – L.4.1-2  
Grade 5 – L.5.1-2  
Grade 6 – L.6.1-2  
Grade 7 – L.7.1-2

### Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

Grade 4 – L.4.4-6  
Grade 5 – L.5.4-6  
Grade 6 – L.6.4-6  
Grade 7 – L.7.4-6

### Knowledge of Language

Grade 4 – L.4.3  
Grade 5 – L.5.3  
Grade 6 – L.6.3  
Grade 7 – L.7.3

# MY MEMORY TREE

After you finish reading *A Spoonful of Time*, think about how Maya connected to the past through her memories. Then, think of some of your favorite memories and write about them on the next page. You can also draw pictures related to these memories on the persimmon tree below.



# MY MEMORY TREE CONTINUED



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# ABOUT THE BOOK

*When You Reach Me* meets *Love Sugar Magic* in this unforgettable middle grade novel where time travel, family recipes, and family secrets collide.



Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-68369-318-5

Price: \$16.99 US (\$22.99 CAN)

Ages 8 to 12

Grades 4 to 7

Maya's grandmother, Halmunee, may be losing her memory, but she hasn't lost her magic touch in the kitchen. Whether she serves Maya salty miyeok-guk or sweet songpyeon, the food is accompanied by a story Maya craves about her family's mysterious past in Korea—stories her mother would prefer stay in the past, especially if they involve Maya's father.

Then one day, something extraordinary happens: one delicious bite transports Maya and Halmunee into one of Halmunee's memories. Suddenly they're in Seoul, and Halmunee is young again.

This is just the first of many secrets Maya will uncover: that she and her grandmother can travel through time. As Maya eats her way through the past, her questions multiply—until a shocking discovery transforms everything she thought she knew about family, friendship, loss, and time itself.

Brimming with heart and interspersed with Korean recipes, this is a story to savor.

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Flora Ahn is an attorney by day and an author and illustrator by night. Her work includes a children's chapter book series, *Pug Pals*, and an Audible Original, *The Golden Orchard*. Raised in California by her Korean immigrant parents, Ahn lives in Virginia with her two pugs and practices law in DC.