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ALEX AND THE WEDNESDAY CHESS CLUB

written by Janet S. Wong
illustrated by Stacey Schuett



“Wong takes a game perceived as something only the brainy kids would want to play and brings it to life—so much so that kids and adults alike will read her book and be left wanting more.”
—Michelle Anderson, former Executive Director of America’s Foundation for Chess

Award-winning author, Janet S. Wong, and noted illustrator, Stacey Schuett, bring chess to life in this lyrical book with whimsical illustrations that emphasize the delight a child can take in the challenge a game of chess. *Kirkus* raves, “Wong’s terrific telling (full of humor and clever asides) offers a fine example of enjoying chess in the non-obsessive mode...”

Alex first learned chess when he was four years old. He loved the pieces, the strategy, and the sweet taste that winning left in his mouth. He loved it until he played a game with his neighbor’s Uncle Hooya...and lost. Then Alex decided to give up chess for good.

Now in third grade, Alex is giving chess another try. He joins the chess club and discovers that chess is fun again. He practices at school, at home, on the computer—Alex is a chess maniac! All of this practice leads up to the big tournament, where Alex finds himself face-to-face with Little Cousin Hooya.

According to a recent *New York Times* article, more than one million children in the United States play chess, but there are few fictional titles about the game for children. With a compelling story and easy-to-follow chess tips, this book is a great introduction to the world of chess and will likely send young readers searching for Bobby Fischer.

Janet S. Wong is the author of more than an dozen picture books and poetry collections. Her work includes *Night Garden: Poems from the World of Dreams*, a *New York Times* Best Illustrated Book, and *Knock on Wood: Poems about Superstitions*, both illustrated by Julie Paschkis, as well as *Grump*, a Charlotte Zolotow Award Highly Commended Book, illustrated by John Wallace. Janet lives with her family in Medina, Washington. Visit her website at www.janetwong.com.

Stacey Schuett has illustrated numerous books for children, including *America Is...* by Louise Borden, *Night Lights* by Steven Schnur, and *Purple Mountain Majesties* by Barbara Younger. She lives in Sebastopol, California.

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Margaret K. McElderry Books

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