



# My Mom Is a Foreigner, But Not to Me

by **Teresa A. Statler** 

**M**y Mom Is a Foreigner, But Not to Me is a delightful and colorful book for children between the ages of 4 and 7 written by Hollywood star Julianne Moore and beautifully illustrated by Meilo So, a “foreign mom” herself. The focus is on the foreign moms, their kids, and their different skin colors and ethnicities. Some of the artwork is a bit stereotypical: the reader sees an Asian mom with a China-doll haircut with her light-skinned, blue-eyed daughter and an African-looking mom wearing *kente* clothing and large earrings being embraced by a boy of the same color. There is an Indian mom, and one wearing a Scandinavian-style sweater. All the children appear happy and are clearly receiving love and affection from their mothers—whether their skin colors are the same as their moms’, or different.

Along with the brightly colored illustrations of moms and kids, Moore gives us a sweetly rhyming text. She starts out by telling us that “My Mom is a foreigner, she’s from another place. She came when she was ten years old, with only one suitcase.” Cheerful, interior

## BOOK



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40 pages

home scenes with obviously “foreign” art, such as cuckoo clocks, German-language wall hangings, and kimonos hanging in a closet, are meant to show children that “foreign” is not really exotic. In a scene with an Italian mom and grandmother making pasta with a machine, the narrator tells us, “We eat funny kinds of foods sometimes. I love it. It tastes gross. My Grandma made it, she taught my Mom. I put it on my toast.” The admiring child in this illustration also is viewing some interesting-looking foods, such as squid, eggplant, and a plate of cheeses.

The book tells children that foreign moms and their kids may celebrate different holidays. The centerpiece of the book contains a colorful quiz, asking readers to match a holiday drawing with its corresponding “festival.” These include Day of the Dead, St. Lucia Day, Kwanzaa, and the Chinese New Year.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING!

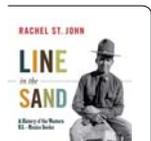
The Badmus Law Firm has merged with the Dallas law firm, Cowles & Thompson. **ANN MASSEY BADMUS** is now shareholder and head of its newly formed immigration practice section. **ANGELA M. LOPEZ** has joined the firm as shareholder, and **KATRINA M. MOORE** and **THU NGUYEN** as associates. All are Texas Chapter members.

Central Florida Chapter member **ELIZABETH M. RICCI** is writing a column called “American by Choice,” in *Tallahassee Reports*, in which she interviews local immigrants about their contributions to the community. Her first profile was published in March 2014.

Young readers (and their parents) are sure to relate to this heartwarming book, full of children of all colors and ethnicities doing things with their pretty “foreign Moms” that other children and mothers do. The book ends on a happy note: “She might seem kind of different, and you’d be right I guess, but compared to other Moms, I know that she’s the best.”

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## BACKTRACK



Review:  
*Drawing a Line  
in the Sand*