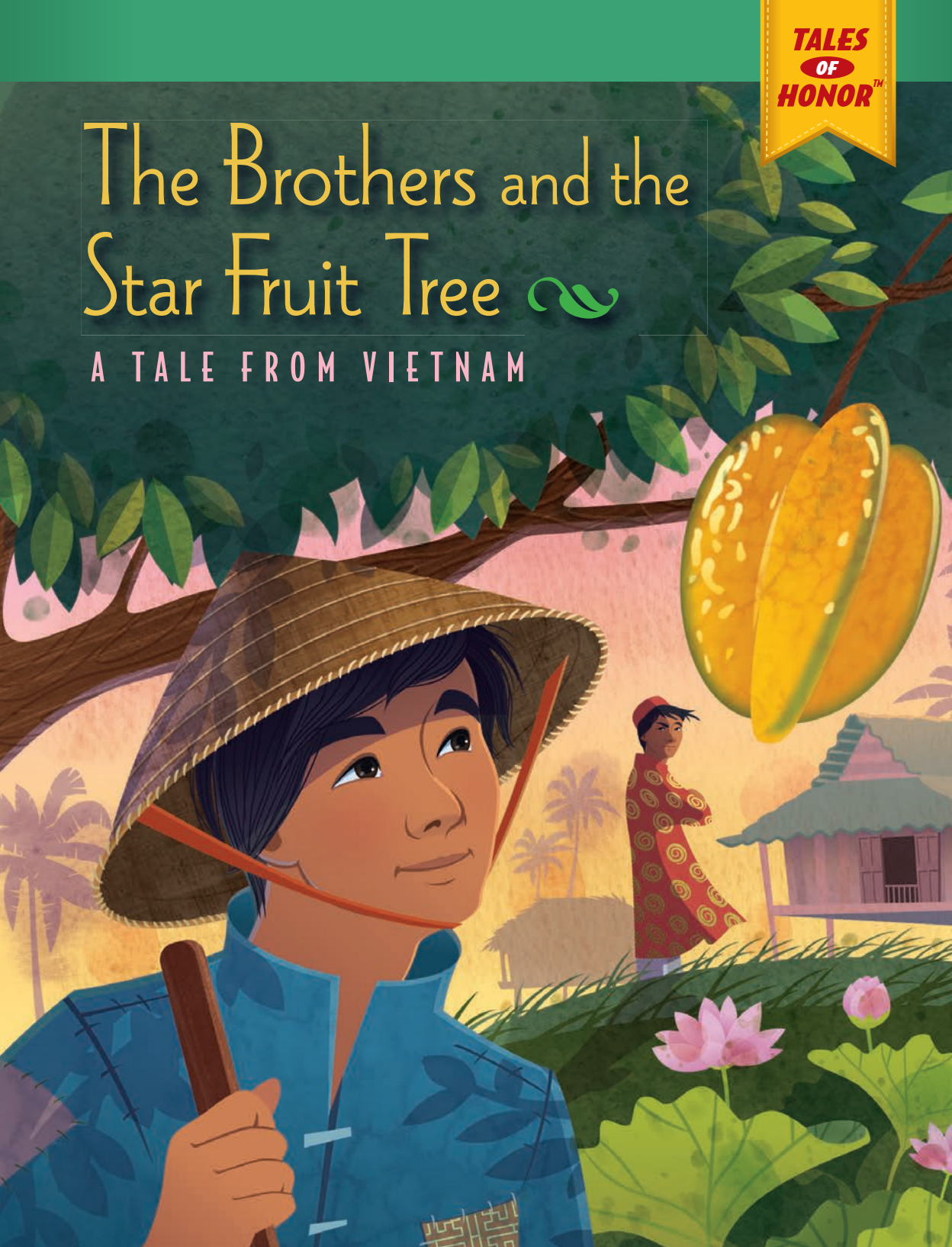


The Brothers and the Star Fruit Tree

A TALE FROM VIETNAM



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The Brothers and the Star Fruit Tree

A TALE FROM VIETNAM

Retold by Suzanne I. Barchers
Illustrated by Jamie Meckel Tablason



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The Brothers and the Star Fruit Tree

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Once upon a time, two brothers lived with their parents in a village in Vietnam. Over the years, the father worked hard and grew quite wealthy. He acquired much land and a fine house.

The brothers grew up in the same house with the same parents. Yet they were very different. One brother was content with a quiet, modest life.



The elder brother always wanted more—more wealth, more lands, and a bigger house.



In time, the parents grew frail and died. The elder son, now married, chose how the estate would be divided. Being a greedy man, he claimed most of the **inheritance**. He took the house, most of the land, and all of the money.



He sent the younger brother to live in a small house on a small piece of land. Some brothers might have complained about how unfair this was. But the younger brother was content with his good wife and his simple life.

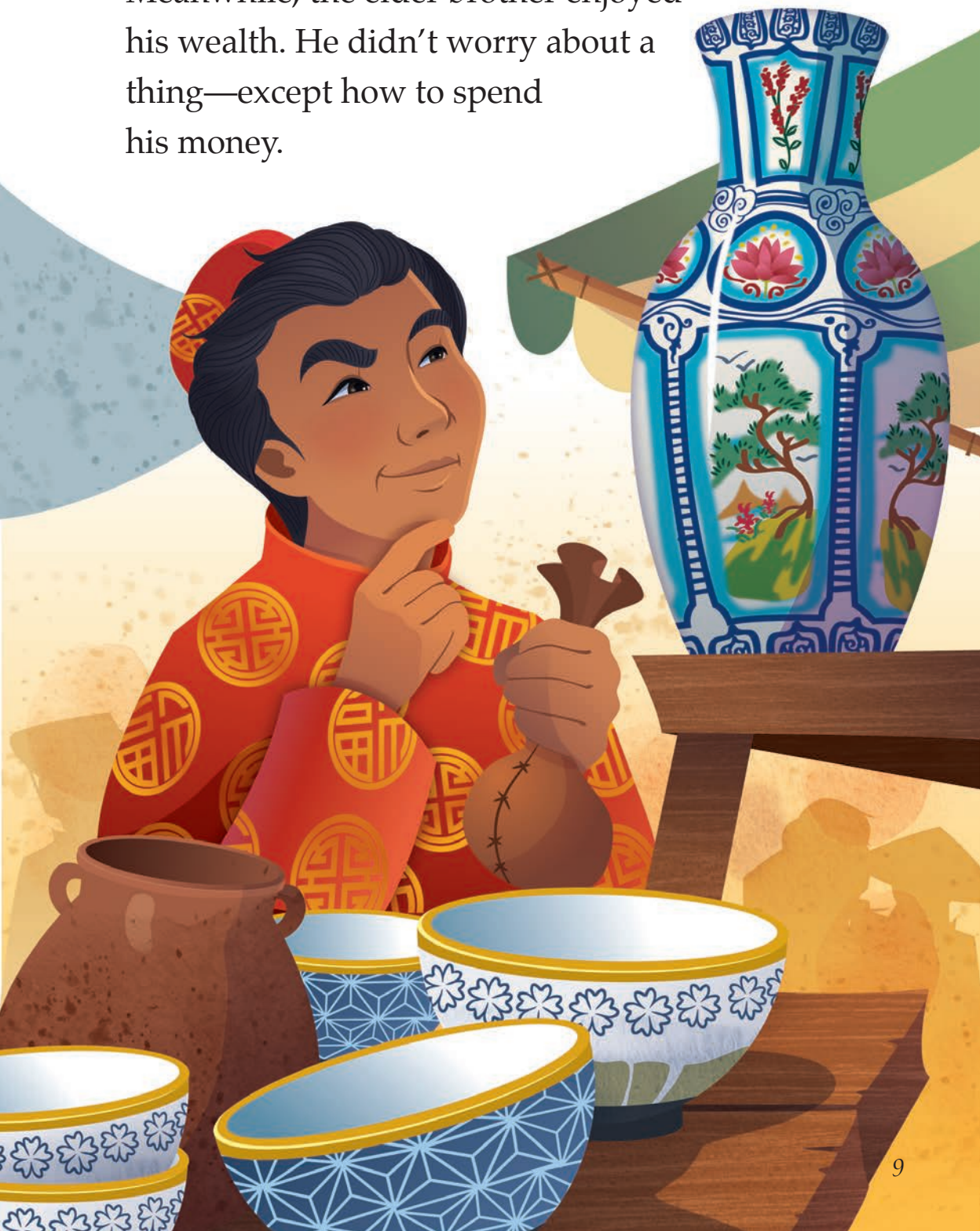


One lonely tree grew on the younger brother's land. This star fruit tree would be a disappointment to most people. Its golden fruit was small and sour tasting.



But the younger brother saw its promise. He watered the tree every day. He trimmed its dead branches in hopes that they would grow. He longed to have it produce large amounts of fruit. Then he could sell the fruit and make a comfortable living.

Meanwhile, the elder brother enjoyed his wealth. He didn't worry about a thing—except how to spend his money.



Each summer, the raven returns to the star fruit tree. And each summer, it eats its fill of the rich, ripe golden fruit. And the local people are happy to share their fruits with the hungry raven.





WORDS TO KNOW

- disheartened:** to lose confidence or determination
- excess:** an amount of something that is more than needed
- flourished:** grew and developed successfully
- frantic:** wild with emotion
- inheritance:** money or property received on the death of someone



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- Question 1:** Do you think the younger brother was wise to trust the raven?
- Question 2:** Why did the older brother trade his fortune for the star fruit tree?
- Question 3:** In what ways was the older brother shown to be greedy?





ABOUT VIETNAMESE MYTHS

The modern nation of Vietnam has a rich and long history of mythology. Even today, many people will say the origin of the Vietnamese people began with a dragon and a fairy princess. Myths and fables were often handed down through generations but most were not recorded or written down until the 13th century. Tales were used to help preserve the Vietnamese culture.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

After fifteen years as a teacher, Suzanne Barchers began a career in writing and publishing. She has written over 100 children's books, two college textbooks, and more than 20 reader's theater and teacher resource books. She previously held editorial roles at Weekly Reader and LeapFrog and is on the PBS Kids Media Advisory Board. Suzanne also plays the flute professionally – and for fun – from her home in Stanford, CA.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Jamie Tablason loves illustrating for children and the young at heart. Jamie received her BFA and MFA in Illustration from California State University. Sea creatures, California history, asian culture, and good food are a few things that inspire Jamie's work. She currently works and lives in Lakewood, California with her husband, and their two dogs, a basset hound and bulldog.

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Two brothers' lives take different paths with one living a prosperous life and one struggling to survive. But fate has a way of turning the tables in this popular tale from Vietnam.

Tales of Honor presents traditional folk tales, myths and legends from around the world. These intriguing tales celebrate bravery, devotion, intelligence, and perseverance. Each beautifully illustrated story presents men or women as strong role models and heroes. And each book demonstrates that the things valued, feared, and hoped for in ancient times are the same in today's modern world.

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