



ARTS MIDWEST WORLD FEST



CHILDREN'S STORYBOOK ON CHINESE PHILOSOPHY

The creative component of the unit on Chinese philosophy is an illustrated children's story that reflects the elements of one of the Chinese philosophies we have studied. In your story, you must illustrate main elements of the philosophy on a level that a young child, age 5-7 can understand. Your book should include both pictures and a written story. As with children's books, you may break the laws of reality—animals may talk, time travel can occur, people can fly, etc. Also, remember that the elements of the philosophy should be present **throughout** the story in the characters' actions and beliefs. Don't announce the philosophy or its elements on the last page; instead weave the elements throughout.

Remember that there is no way your book can completely explain the philosophy, and you should not try to do too much. Choose which aspects of the philosophy you want to communicate and concentrate on making them clear.

Your children's book should be:

- **Colorful and fun**
- **Professional looking.**
(No misspelled words, text that is clear and readable, art that isn't smudged, etc.)
- **Creative in its style.**
(Make a choose-your-own-adventure book, an interactive book, a musical book, a touch and feel book or a scratch and sniff book, etc. Kids books often rhyme, repeat phrases, use numbers and colors, are tactile, etc.)
- Centered around **engaging characters**
- Filled with **action and adventure**
- Centered around **illustrating the main elements** of the philosophy
- Bound together in a creative way
- **Any shape or size** you wish

Suggestions:

- Choose your philosophy: either Buddhism, Confucianism, or Taoism, or Shamanism
- Select 3-5 elements you plan to incorporate into your story
- Create your main characters
- Decide on the conflict of your story (all stories need some type of conflict)
- Decide how the characters and plot will illustrate the elements of the philosophy
- Consider story-boarding your ideas before you begin
- Write the story first then create the art