

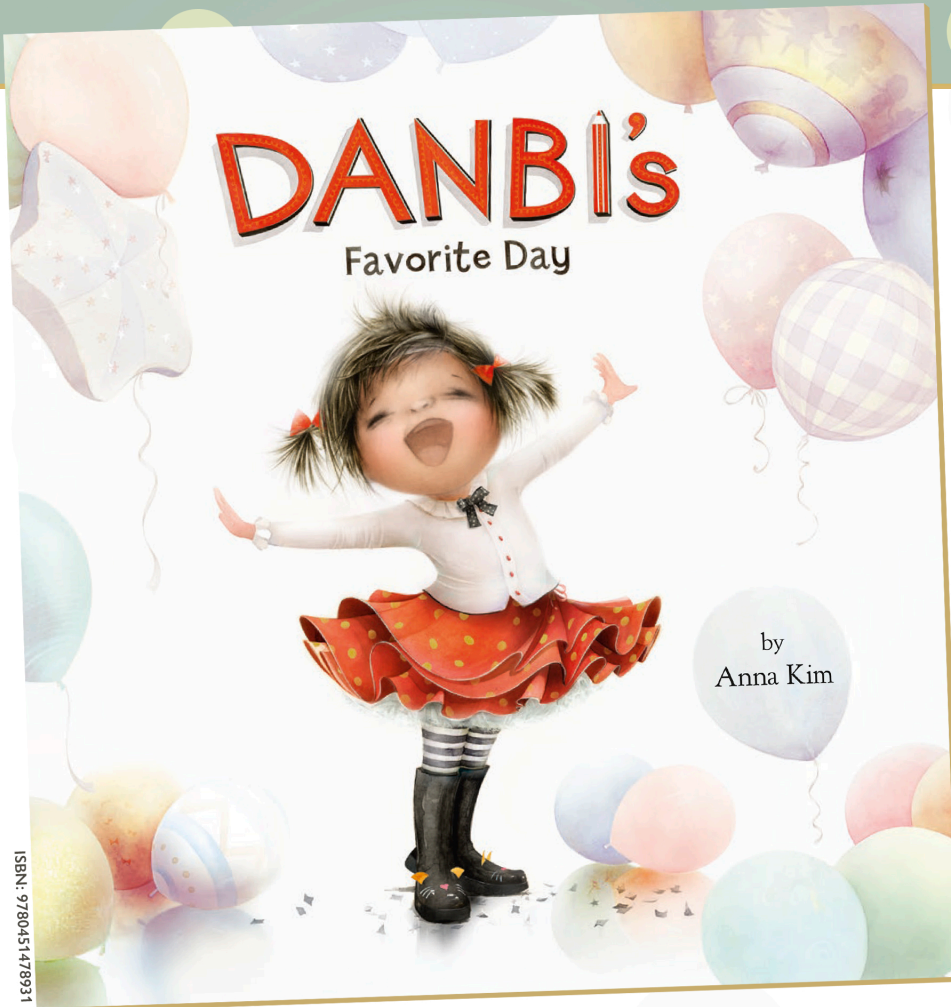
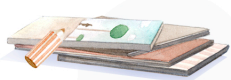
# Danbi's Favorite Day Teacher's Guide

## The Book

Age: 3-7 yrs

### Themes:

- Friendship
- Courage, Persistence & Leadership
- Values & Identity
- Diversity & Cultural Differences
- Children's Day (honoring all children as our future leaders)



## This Guide

### Content:

- Discussion questions
- Language Arts Story Elements Character, Theme, Language, Compare & contrast
- Social Emotional Learning Emotional Growth Identifying thoughts and feelings
- Social Studies Leadership & identity in a multicultural world
- Activity Sheets Individual & Group

The Sequel to *Danbi Leads the School Parade*,  
An Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature Honor Book

Danbi's favorite day is here! Thrilled to invite her friends to celebrate Children's Day as she did in Korea, Danbi promises kites, tigers, and magic train rides. But when the reality of a picnic behind her parents' deli falls short of her grand plans, Danbi must get creative to save the day.

- ★ "Kim's exquisite artwork renders distinct personalities and characters represented by diverse skin colors and hair-styles, priceless expressions, and irrepressible energy. An endearing and hopeful expression of spontaneous fun and togetherness." – *Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

This guide is an educational companion to *Danbi's Favorite Day* (Viking, Penguin Books for Young Readers, April 2023). ✍️ Guide written by Pamela Brunskill. ✍️ Art & Design by Anna Kim.

# About the Guide



- **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**  
For Read Aloud
- **LANGUAGE ARTS LESSON IDEAS**  
Plot (Beginning, Middle, End)  
Character (Goals, Obstacles, Actions, Aha! moment)  
Theme (Everyday heroes, Community)  
Language (Figurative language)  
Compare & contrast
- **SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING**  
What is emotional growth?  
Identify thoughts and feelings  
Lead a discussion about feelings
- **SOCIAL STUDIES LESSON IDEAS**  
The meaning of Children's Day (celebrating children's as the leaders of tomorrow)  
Children's Day in S. Korea and around the world.
- **ACTIVITIES**  
Mood Chart (In-Class, as well as Take-Home)  
Essay: Write your wish for Children's Day  
Group: Draw a class mural

## ABOUT *Danbi's Favorite Day*

The story is set on Children's Day, when countries around the world celebrate children as the leaders of tomorrow. Danbi invites her friends to celebrate with her, and promises kites, tigers, and magic train rides. But when the reality of a picnic behind her parents' deli falls short of her grand plans, Danbi must get creative to save the day. *Danbi's Favorite Day* is about the magic that happens we come together to celebrate, and the universal message that happiness lies not in what you have, but in who you have.

**ANNA KIM** is the author-illustrator of *Danbi's Favorite Day*. She was born in Seoul, South Korea, and grew up in New York City. After training as a classical pianist and earning a B.A. in Psychology from Wellesley College, Anna devoted herself to teaching music to children. While looking for picture books for her nieces, she wished there were more character-based stories for our multicultural world. That's when she created the indomitable Danbi and her diverse friends, hoping that young readers will grow to celebrate with her the multi-colored world we live in and the magic of friendship. Anna's first picture book, *Danbi Leads the School Parade* received the Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature Honor Award. She lives in a quiet part of New York City, where she can see trees and hear birds. Visit Anna at [artbyannakim.com](http://artbyannakim.com).

**PAMELA BRUNSKILL**, this guide's author, is a literacy specialist and developer of educational resources. She holds a BS and MS in education, and is certified as a preschool to 6th grade teacher and secondary social studies teacher in New York. She has worked in education for over 20 years, including as an elementary and middle school teacher. She taught literacy and Language Arts methods courses at Bloomsburg University, Bucknell University, and the University at Buffalo. Visit Pam at [pamelabrunskill.com](http://pamelabrunskill.com).



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR READ ALOUD

### Front and Back Covers

- Read the title. Can you guess Danbi's favorite day?
- What is your favorite day?
- Share some of your favorite days, especially your childhood favorite.

### Front Matter Pages - Dedication Page

- What do you think of the way Danbi is walking? What does it say about her?

### Danbi and her classmates (pp. 2-3)

- How do Danbi's classmates react to her invitation? How can you tell?
- Do you think Danbi's classmates will go to her party? Why or why not?

### At the store - Party setup (pp. 4-9)

- How does Danbi's mom respond to Danbi's promises to her friends?
- How do you think Danbi's mom is feeling? What about Danbi?
- What warning does Danbi ignore? Why does she ignore it? Do you think it is a good idea?

### Friends arrive (pp. 10-11)

- How does Danbi show that she cares about her friends?
- Does this day seem like an important day to her? Why?

### Storm! (pp. 12-19)

- Why does the storm represent a turning point in the story?
- Why is Danbi thinking, "It was just as mommy said"?
- How are Danbi and her friends feeling?

### Saving the party (pp. 20-23)

- Follow Danbi. What do Danbi's actions show about her? How do Danbi's actions change her friends' minds? How does she feel in response?
- Follow David. How do Danbi's actions change David's mind?
- An old saying goes, "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade." It means when life throws difficult situations at you, you can make the best of them. How does Danbi do that?



### Saving the party (pp. 20-23) can't

- Would you want to have a friend like Danbi? Why or why not?

### Neighborhood Party (pp. 24-29)

- Danbi says, "I felt a pink tickle." What do you think she means by that?
- Why does Danbi say the pink tickle turned to gold? What does this mean?

### At Home - End (pp. 30-end)

- Why does Danbi say, "It was my Children's Day," not just "Children's Day"?
- Describe what you see in the mural. Who is under the rainbow? What do rainbows mean to you?

### How Children's Day Came About in S. Korea

Children's Day, pronounced 어린이 날, "eorininal" in Korean, dates back to the 1920s, during one of the most difficult times in Korean history. The writer and activist Bang Jeong Hwan realized the importance of educating children and was convinced that children were the future of the country. At that time, children tended to attend only elementary schools, which couldn't provide the education needed to improve the country's future. He dedicated himself to the development of children's education and the improvement of their living conditions. He also published a series of fairy tales with educational texts that denounced the difficulties of childhood. To further promote his ideas, he established a day dedicated entirely to children, which eventually became Children's Day, a national holiday celebrated on May 5th each year.

Adapted from [gogohanguk.com/en/blog/childrens-day-in-korea/](http://gogohanguk.com/en/blog/childrens-day-in-korea/)



# LANGUAGE ARTS 1

## LESSON IDEA: STORY ELEMENTS

### Character, Theme, Language, Compare & Contrast










#### CHARACTER



A. Lead a discussion about Danbi's journey, including goals, obstacles, actions, and Aha! moment.

Character Journey	 <p><b>1. Goals</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have a great party.</li> <li>Impress her friends.</li> </ol>	 <p><b>2. Obstacles</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mom can't afford the time or money.</li> <li>A torrential rain.</li> </ol>
Character Journey	 <p><b>3. Actions</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Picks herself up after the storm.</li> <li>Imagines a new game.</li> </ol>	 <p><b>4. Aha! moment</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Together, we could do so much.</li> <li>It's not what you have but who you have.</li> </ol>

B. Explain the importance of raising emotional stakes in storytelling; without that, a happy ending isn't satisfying to the reader. Show how Danbi's emotions go through a roller-coaster, as she overcomes the obstacles the author places in her way.

Beginning	<p>1. Danbi invites her friends and makes big promises. (EXCITED) </p>	<p>2. Mom deflates Danbi's ambitious plans. (DISAPPOINTED) </p>	<p>3. Danbi sets up the party, welcomes her friends. (HAPPY) </p>
Middle	<p>4. A sudden storm ruins the picnic. (CRUSHED) </p>	<p>5. Danbi picks herself up, gives a tour of the deli. (HOPEFUL) </p>	<p>6. Friends are bored and want to leave. (UPSET) </p>
End	<p>7. Danbi makes a sandwich and others join. (UPBEAT) </p>	<p>8. Danbi welcomes kids to the neighborhood party. (JOYFUL) </p>	<p>9. Danbi realizes it was a beautiful Children's Day. (PROUD) </p>

**ASK** students what Danbi would have learned if the storm had not happened.

- How would the story have changed?
- Would Danbi have learned as much if everything had gone smoothly?

# LANGUAGE ARTS 2

## LESSON IDEA: STORY ELEMENTS (con't)

### Character, Theme, Language, Compare & contrast



### Compare & Contrast

Compare and contrast *Danbi Leads the School Parade* with *Danbi's Favorite Day*.

- **Character:** How has Danbi evolved?
    - Speaks English
    - Has Friends
  - **Community:** Who is in her community?
    - School vs. Neighborhood
  - **Art Style**
    - Colored Drawings vs. Paintings
- More advanced students can look at story structure.
- What are the high and low points?
  - Where do these points fall in the story?

### THEME

#### Everyday Heroes

- Being a hero is not just about having extraordinary physical or mental powers.
- It's about showing courage and strength to help others and face adversity with great strength. (See Worksheet)

1. What are some hero qualities you can think of?
2. What are Danbi's hero qualities?
3. What are **your** hero qualities?
4. Do you always show them? If not, why not?
5. Who are your heroes?



#### Community

- Define the word "community" for the class, particularly the role of friends and acquaintances.
- The second to the last sentence in the book is, "It was about being together." What did Danbi mean? (See Worksheet)

1. Ask the class to identify the communities in the book.
2. What does Danbi do to bring her communities (friends and neighbors) together?
3. What does it mean to be part of a community?
4. What are your communities?



### LANGUAGE

#### Figurative Language

- Define figurative language. Some compare two different ideas using the words "like" or "as."
- What do these expressions from the book mean?

1. "I've got butterflies in my tummy."
2. "The sky roared, and wind tore through the alley."
3. "...our street lit up like a blaze of fire,"
4. "Waterdrops bounced like jewels in the sun."



### Extension

Further the discussion with deeper questions about community.

- How does this story show how we can come together as a community?
- How could you use the lesson about heroes and community in your own lives?

# SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

## LESSON IDEA

### EMOTIONAL GROWTH

Growing is not just about growing taller; it is also about better understanding the world and ourselves. We grow kinder and wiser as we experience life and take on new challenges.



- How does Danbi grow in the story?



### IDENTIFY THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS

#### 1) Chart Danbi's emotions

- Give each student a copy of the **Mood Chart Handout**. Then, after the read aloud, ask students to identify Danbi's emotions in each scene by pointing to the drawings on the Mood Chart.
- Invite students to take the Mood Chart handout home and discuss naming emotions with a grown-up.

#### 2) Identify your feelings and those of others

- Give each student a copy of the **Draw That Feeling Worksheet**, and divide the class in teams of four.
- Have students follow the instructions on the worksheet by identifying their feelings and those of their teammates.

### LEAD DISCUSSIONS ABOUT . . .

#### 1) Your feelings . . .

- When reality doesn't match expectations, how can we keep going?
- Have you ever been disappointed by a broken promise? How did you feel and what did you do?
- Have you ever broken a promise to a friend? How did your friend feel, and what did you do?

#### 2) Danbi's feelings . . .

- How do you think Danbi felt when the storm ruined everything? How did her friends lend help?
- Pretend you are at Danbi's party. What would you say to Danbi when her hopes of the party fell apart?
- Tell Danbi what you like most about her party and write her a thank you note. (Advanced students)

About you

About Danbi



# SOCIAL STUDIES

## LESSON IDEA: CELEBRATE CHILDREN'S DAY!

Remind students what Danbi's mother says about Children's Day: "It's about celebrating all the children on Earth who will one day lead the world!"

Start a conversation!

### Ask the class

- What does it mean that children are the leaders of tomorrow?
- Do you want to be a leader too? What does that mean to you?
- How will you lead the world to a better place?
- Why does Danbi say, "We were the children of the world?" (Point out the group's diversity.)



Celebrate!

### Host a Children's Day lunch party

- Listen to "Happy Children's Day," a song by JunyTony, and read aloud the lyrics. Have a class sing-along. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fWBvVtXdTJk>)
- Holidays from around the world: Have each child share the special holidays they celebrate at home.
- "Foods from Around the World" lunch hour: Let parents know that the class is hosting a lunch hour with an international food theme, and have children bring their favorite lunch for Show & Tell.



Collaborate!

### Have students draw a mural together

- The last illustration of the book (left page) shows a mural of Danbi and her friends, and on the right page (under the jacket flap) the words, "Hope, Love, Peace." After reviewing this mural and discussing its meaning with students, choose a mural theme for your class.
- Have students brainstorm images/symbols/words for the mural. For example, protecting the planet, international foods or animals from around the world. Have students draw that mural **as a team** on the white board.



Discuss!

### Thoughts on Children's Day

- In South Korea, Children's Day is a major national holiday celebrated on May 5th. It is dedicated to celebrating children and their importance to the future of the nation. All non-essential businesses close, and families focus on making the day special for kids. There are parades, picnics, TaeKwonDo showcases, and other fun activities such as visiting zoos, aquariums, and amusement parks.
- Children's Day is celebrated in many parts of the world on different days. World Children's Day is observed on November 20th with UNICEF's mission of protecting the rights of every child.



Penguin  
Young  
Readers

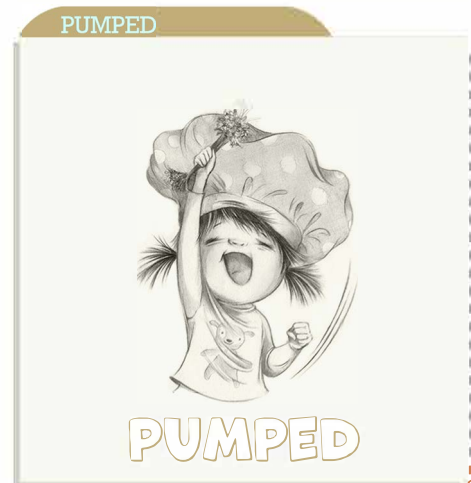
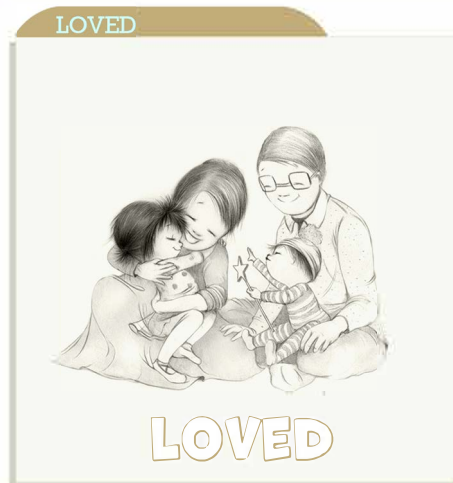
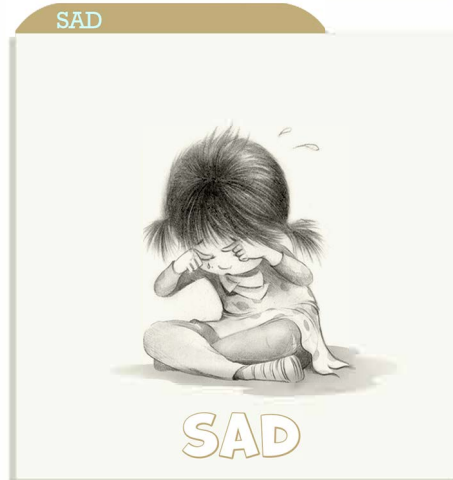
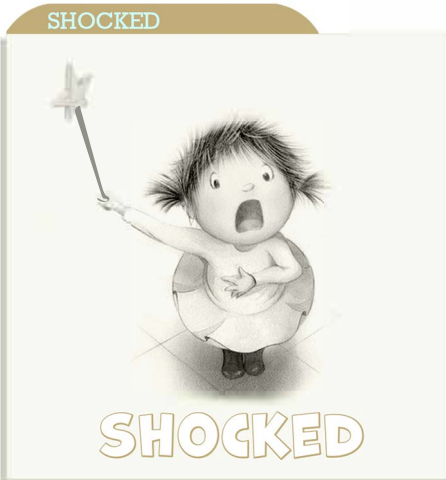
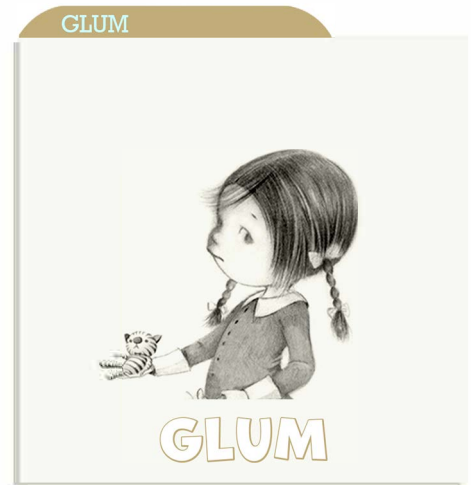
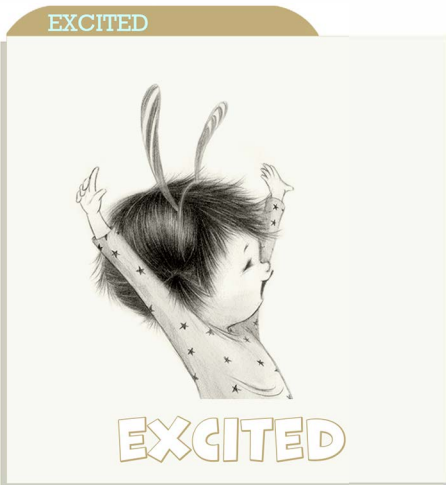
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# MOOD CHART *Handout*

## UNDERSTANDING EMOTIONS

- Understanding emotions means knowing how people feel inside, like when they're happy, sad, or mad. We can tell how people are feeling by looking at their face, body, and how they talk. It's important to understand how people feel so we can respond in a caring way and be better friends.



↓ This page and other activities can be downloaded at [DanbiAndFriends.com](https://DanbiAndFriends.com)



# MY COMMUNITY *Worksheet*



## WHO IS IN MY COMMUNITY?

- A community is a group whose members have something in common (family, school, neighborhood, etc.). It's your family and friends who love you, caring teachers and coaches, doctors, people at places of worship, and many others.

- Draw and name the people in your community in the sections below.

- Remember; if they're in your community, you're in their community too!



# DRAW THAT FEELING *Worksheet*

## IDENTIFY YOUR AND OTHERS' FEELINGS

- 1) Write down your name and the name of your three teammates in the boxes below.
- 2) Write one word that describes what you are feeling; do the same for your teammates.
- 3) Draw a circle for the face, then eyes, and mouth to show your feeling and their feelings.
- 4) Share your drawings with your teammates and talk about your feelings.



You

Teammate 1

Teammate 2

Teammate 3

# EVERYDAY HEROES *Worksheet*



## WHO ARE YOUR EVERYDAY HEROES?

- Being a hero is not just about having extraordinary physical or mental powers. It's also about showing courage and strength to face adversity and help others.
- Who are the heroes in your life? Draw and color them in boxes 1~3 below and explain why you chose them.
- Draw yourself in your favorite hero outfit and write down your hero qualities in box 4.

1

YOUR HERO

2

YOUR HERO

3

YOUR HERO

4

YOU

# MY CHILDREN'S DAY *Worksheet*

1. What does Children's Day mean to you?

2. What would you like to do on Children's Day?

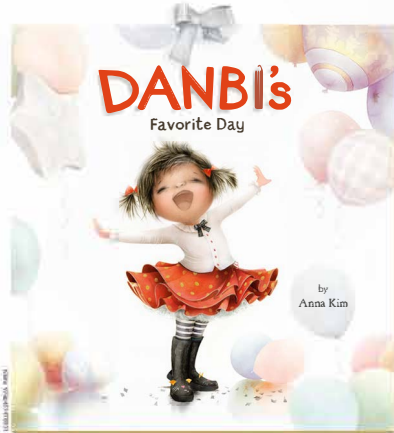
3. What can you do this week to make the world a better place?

Want more adventures?  
You can learn more  
about Danbi & Friends,  
and get swept up in her  
magic at:  
[danbiandfriends.com](http://danbiandfriends.com)

## Danbi Books

Want more fun & free  
activities? Come visit  
[@danbiandfriends](https://www.instagram.com/danbiandfriends)  
for unique downloads,  
parents' and teachers'  
resources, and more!

“Magic happens when we  
come together to celebrate!”

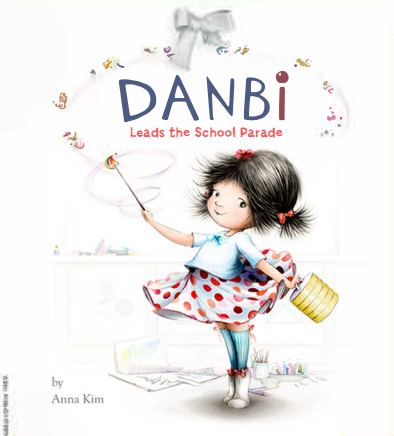


### Danbi's Favorite Day

(Viking, Penguin Books for Young Readers, April 2023)

In her latest adventure, Danbi is thrilled to invite her friends to celebrate Children's Day, as she did growing up in Korea. She promises kites, tigers, and magic train rides. But when the reality of a picnic behind her parents' deli falls short of her grand plans, Danbi must get creative to save the day.

- ★ “An endearing and hopeful expression of spontaneous fun and togetherness.” —*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)



### Danbi Leads the School Parade

(Viking, Penguin Books for Young Readers, July 2020)

An Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature Honor Book  
Danbi is excited to start her new school in America! And a bit nervous too, for when she walks into the classroom, everything goes quiet; everyone stares. Danbi wants to join in the dances and the games, but she doesn't know the rules and can't get anything right. Luckily, Danbi isn't one to give up!

- ★ “Imaginative, irreverent, improvisational fun in kindergarten”

—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

“Kim's debut radiates positivity, inclusivity, and hope.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

**About Danbi:** Danbi is a spunky 5-year-old Korean American girl whose boundless energy and curiosity often get the best of her. Quick to take on challenges, she's impulsive and does things her own way, but she also wants to fit in, and that's a hard balancing act. Each story brings her new troubles, which she faces with ingenuity, grit, and unbridled optimism. Those are Danbi's superpowers. And as she gains confidence in them, Danbi learns that being true to herself is what earns her the respect and affection of her friends. Ultimately, Danbi's stories are about capturing those moments in children's lives when their view and understanding of the world get challenged; and offering new perspectives that help them grow as confident, resourceful, and empathetic human beings.



To learn more about Danbi and Anna, please visit:  
Instagram: [@danbiandfriends](https://www.instagram.com/danbiandfriends), [@artbyannakim](https://www.instagram.com/artbyannakim)  
Facebook, Twitter: [@artbyannakim](https://www.facebook.com/artbyannakim)  
Website: [DanbiandFriends.com](http://DanbiandFriends.com)

