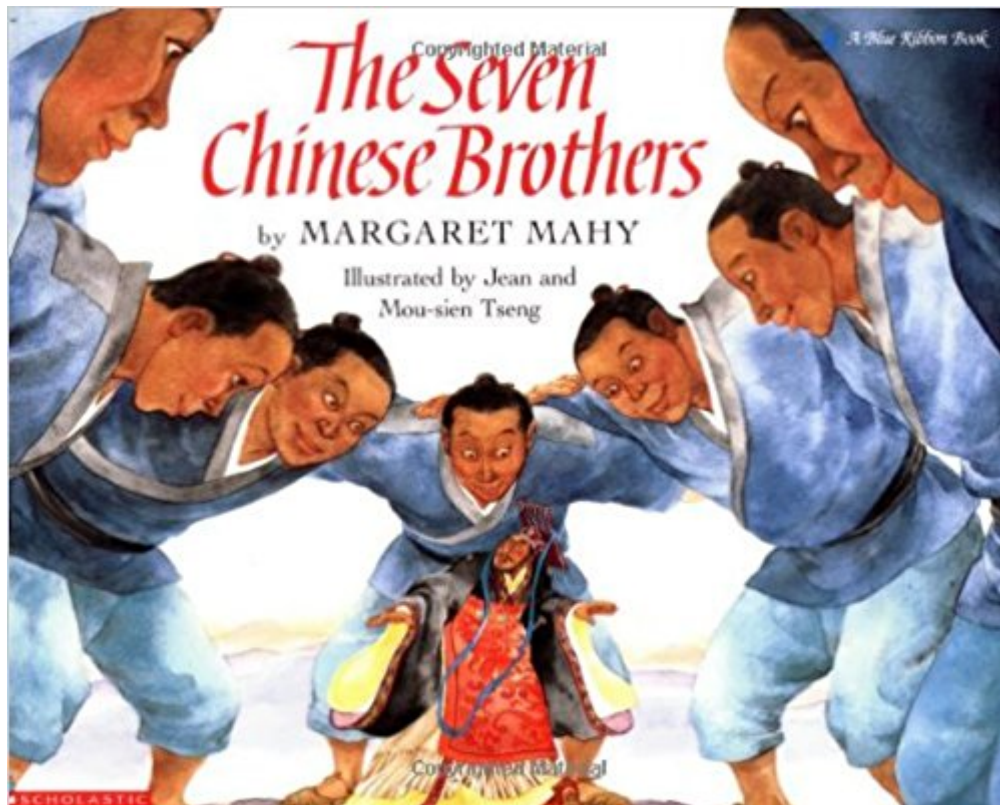




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# The Seven Chinese Brothers (Blue Ribbon Book)



## Synopsis

With humor and wit, internationally acclaimed author Margaret Mahy captures the courageous adventures of seven brothers who use their supernatural gifts to overpower a cruel emperor. This ALA Notable Book features beautifully executed illustrations full of historical detail.

Exceptional.--School Library Journal, starred review.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 820L (What's this?)

Series: Blue Ribbon Book

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Inc; 1st edition (1990)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0590420577

ISBN-13: 978-0590420570

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 10 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 46 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #61,233 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #59 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural #64 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Asia #344 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Reading & Writing

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: 06 and up

## Customer Reviews

In colorful language well suited to a story of ingenuity and valor, Mahy presents the Chinese folktale about brothers with amazing powers. Although the broad outline is the same as *The Five Chinese Brothers* by Claire Huchet Bishop, illustrated by Kurt Wiese (first published in 1938), Mahy's stirring retelling is very different from and just as good as the earlier effort. She has elaborated on the story, spicing it with more action and adding ironic humor. Replete with striking character portraits, the Tsengs' dramatic watercolors evoke the Orient and provide authentic, historical details. As in all fine picture books, text and illustrations blend, creating an inviting world for young readers and listeners and heightening the story's dramatic impact. Children will be caught up in the many narrow escapes and will benefit from the subtle lesson on the importance of working together. Ages 4-8. Copyright

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Kindergarten-Grade 4-- The seven brothers walk, talk, and look alike, but each has his own special power. When the third brother runs afoul of the emperor and is sentenced to be beheaded, the fourth brother, who has bones of iron, takes his place. The emperor then tries drowning and burning but each time a different brother foils his scheme. Mahy retells this traditional Chinese tale in graceful, witty prose. She uses classic storytelling elements to their best advantage and, without any attempt to imitate Chinese syntax, her choice of words gives a feeling of time and place. Both jacket notes and an editor's foreword give background information about the tale. Beginning with the cover, which shows the smiling brothers looming over a cowering emperor, the Tsengs' rich watercolors complement and enhance the story. With great skill, they interweave elements of ancient Chinese painting with lively pictorial storytelling. The emperor, encased in voluminous ceremonial robes, is an embodiment of corrupt yet insecure power, and the beautiful faces of the seven brothers, although alike, glow with life. Many readers will be familiar with the classic Claire Bishop/Kurt Wiese version of the *The Five Chinese Brothers* (Coward-McCann, 1938). The style of both text and illustrations is so different from the Mahy/Tseng book that comparisons are inappropriate. An exceptional new telling of the story. --Karen James, Louisville Free Public Library, KY  
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Bought this for my grandson. He loved it! He told me he read it several times. I had the original when I was a child, but this version is just as good. Beautiful art work, and an engaging story that any child would love. What I like about this story is that it sparks the imagination. You find yourself wishing (just like a child would) about which one of the brother's unique gifts you would like to possess, and how would you use it. This creates great conversation for the adult, and child. Love it!

This was my favorite book when I was in the 3rd grade. I bought it for my 8 year old grandson who is starting the 3rd grade. After it arrived, we read it together and I think it is now at least one of his favorite children book too. It gave me the same feelings I got when I read it for the first time many years ago.

this isn't what I thought.but it is still a good book

I thought this was a retelling [updated with different powers and circumstances] of the old story of the same name. It is different and very much enjoyable as the classic story. You are not buying a replica.

Received quickly and in good condition. And of course love this new version of the old favorite "5 Chinese Brothers"

Came exactly as described, very happy with purchase.

Got this book for my son, he read it at school and loved it so much it's now in our home collection.

I got this book read to me when I was in 5th grade and I wanted to pass on something to my child that she could also appreciate and at this time she is in the imaginary state of her development, she is obsessed with it. Very good book, that is why it is a blue ribbon book. Love it.

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