

ABOUT

the Author / Illustrator

JUDE DALY is an internationally acclaimed author and illustrator whose previous titles include *To Everything There Is a Season* (Eerdmans), *The Gift of the Sun* by Dianne Stewart, which was chosen as an IBBY Honour Book for Illustration, *The Elephant's Pillow* by Diana Reynolds Roome, which was awarded a Parents' Choice Silver Honor (both from Farrar, Straus and Giroux), and *Lila and the Secret of Rain* by David Conway, which won a Parents' Choice Gold award (Frances Lincoln). Jude lives in Cape Town, South Africa, with her husband, author and illustrator Niki Daly.

PRAISE FOR

Sivu's Six Wishes

"Young people will enjoy the drama caused by Sivú's jealousy as well as the surprising end and its celebration of art."
— *Booklist*

"Daly's stylized art, in a rich, clear palette, is quietly stunning, revealing the beauty both in harsh landscapes and mundane streetscapes."
— *Horn Book Magazine*

"A stark portrait of the futility of envy."
— *Publishers Weekly*

SIVU'S SIX WISHES

Written and illustrated by Jude Daly

Hardcover ISBN: 978-0-8028-5369-1 ❖ \$16.99
10¾" x 8½" ❖ 32 pages ❖ Ages 6–10

TO ORDER

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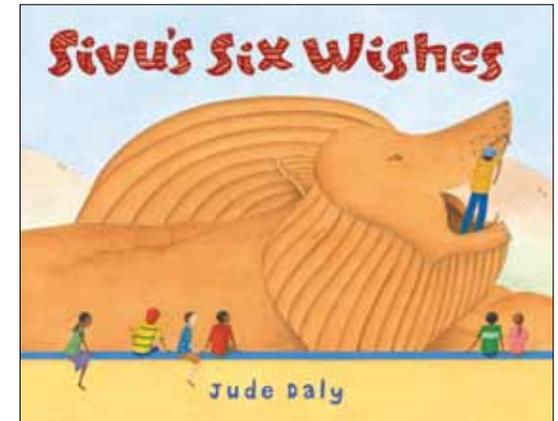
If you have any suggestions for using *Sivu's Six Wishes* with young readers, we would be happy to hear from you.

Eerdmans Books for Young Readers
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This guide was written by Ed Sullivan,
a librarian and writer who lives
in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

SIVU'S SIX WISHES

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*He gazed up at the sun shining proudly
in the sky. As Sivú gazed, he thought,
"How powerful that sun must be!"*

*And the more he thought, the more
envious he became — until he wished
he could BE the sun!*

THEMATIC CONNECTIONS

- ❖ Art
- ❖ Contentment
- ❖ Desire
- ❖ Envy
- ❖ Identity

VOCABULARY

Use an online or print dictionary to look up the meanings of the following words: compassion, envious, humility, moderation, procession, torrent.



THINGS TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE READING THE BOOK

1. If you had six wishes, what would they be?
2. If you could be anyone or anything, who or what would it be?
3. What do you think it means to be powerful? Who do you think of as a powerful person?
4. What do you think it means to be rich? How much must a person have to be rich?



QUESTIONS TO REFLECT ON AFTER READING THE BOOK

1. What is Sivu's unique gift?
2. Why does Sivu grow bitter and disappointed in his work as a stonemason?
3. When Sivu becomes a businessman with more power and possessions than he could ever want, everyone begins to dislike him. What does Sivu do to make everyone dislike him?
4. What kind of person does Sivu become when he is the mayor?

5. Why does the land become scorched and dried up when Sivu becomes the sun?

6. What makes Sivu wish to become a rain cloud?

7. What bad things does Sivu do as the wind?

8. What happens when Sivu becomes the rock? What do you think Sivu realizes about himself at this point?

9. In the afterword, the author explains that *Sivu's Six Wishes* is a retelling of a Taoist tale and that The Three Jewels of the Tao are compassion, moderation, and humility. How does Sivu learn about these virtues in the story?



ACTIVITIES

1. The setting of this story is not identified. Can you guess where this story takes place by using clues from the illustrations? How might the story change if it happened in a different time and place? Choose a different setting for the story and draw one illustration for it.

2. A symbol of Taoism is the *taijitu*, also known as the "yin yang." The classic Taoist *taijitu* is black and white with a black dot upon the white background, and a white dot upon the black background. Look at the picture of the *taijitu* on the last page of this book, and think about what it symbolizes. Try to list some

opposites that might be symbolized by the black and the white in this figure.

3. Using papier-mâché or clay, make a sculpture of your own. If possible, invite an art teacher or a local artist to your classroom to discuss their work or demonstrate the art of stonecutting or sculpture.

4. On a piece of paper, write down the three virtues underlying this story: compassion, moderation, and humility. Under each word, write a sentence or draw a picture illustrating a way you can practice this virtue.

5. Choose a scene or two from the book and write dialogue for the characters who are shown speaking in the illustrations. What would Sivu say? How might the other characters respond?



FOR FURTHER READING

Demi. *The Legend of Lao Tzu and the Tao Te Ching*. McElderry, 2007.

Kuramoto, John and Jon J. Muth. *Stonecutter*. Illustrated by John J. Muth. Feiwel & Friends, 2009.

Spires, Elizabeth. *I Heard God Talking to Me: William Edmondson and His Stone Carvings*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009.