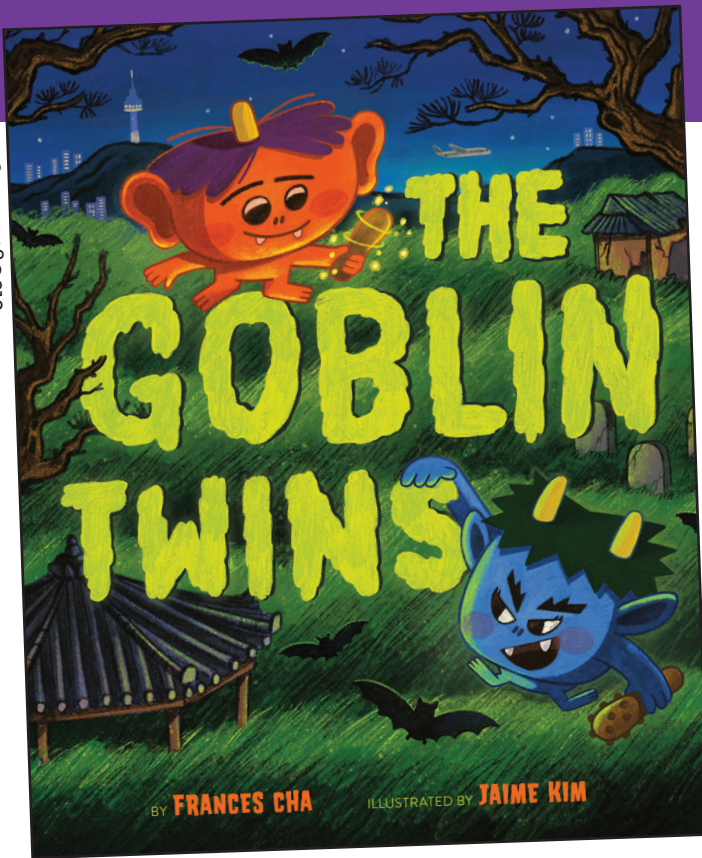
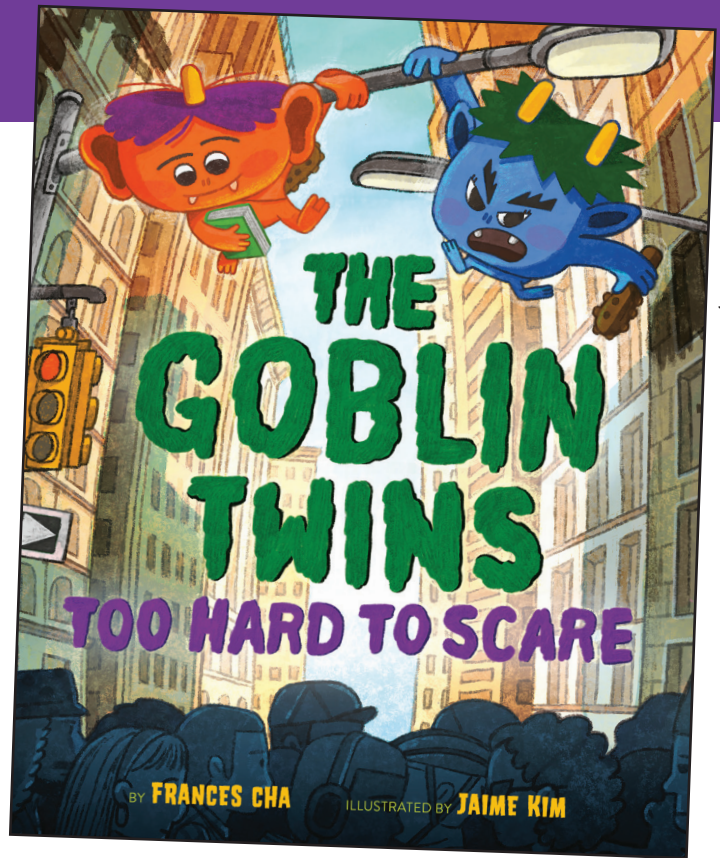


# CURRICULUM GUIDE

9780593480212



9780593480267



★ “A frightful delight.”

—*School Library Journal*, starred review

“An amusing tale of sibling love and mischief.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*



Two 601-year-old Korean goblin tricksters discover Manhattan in these funny and heartwarming picture books by Frances Cha and *New York Times* bestselling illustrator Jaime Kim.



**DOKI AND KEBI** are magical goblin twin brothers who couldn't be more different. Kebi loves to scare people (maybe a little too much) and explore! Doki would rather give gifts or read a book.

In their first adventure, *The Goblin Twins*, the brothers move to New York City and discover Halloween. In *The Goblin Twins: Too Hard to Scare*, Doki and Kebi learn that seasoned New Yorkers are hard to prank!

Dokkaebi are mythical creatures that figure prominently in Korean art and history, and stories about them have been passed down for thousands of years. These engaging picture books introduce a fascinating aspect of ancient Korean culture to modern young readers.

# A Note about Dokkaebi

First introduced in *The Goblin Twins*, Doki and Kebi are dokkaebi, mythical creatures from Korean culture, dating back to when Korea was divided into the Three Kingdoms (37 BCE–668 CE). Many folktales and legends have been passed down over the centuries, and dokkaebi images can be found in paintings, children’s books, village totems, door handles, columns, and stone tiles of ancient buildings. These likenesses were thought to possess protective qualities against natural disasters—floods, wind, and fire—and evil spirits.

In lore, dokkaebi are often depicted with their magical objects, especially their clubs, which function much like wands in Western mythology. They also possess hats—called gamtu—which render the wearer invisible. In particular, they love to play tricks on human passersby.

Dokkaebi are known to be immortal tricksters that can bring great wealth to the good, or ruin to the wicked or greedy. Associated with special fire and supernatural powers, dokkaebi tend to appear at night and disappear with the dawn. Sightings and flickering nighttime lights at cemeteries were referred to dokkaebi fire and added to the aura of fear surrounding the legends. Children’s stories in Korean folklore occasionally depict dokkaebi as being foolish but always otherworldly and capricious, living in run-down abandoned houses that people know to stay away from.

—Frances Cha, author of *The Goblin Twins* and *The Goblin Twins: Too Hard to Scare*

## Dokkaebi Art for Protection









## Questions for Students

- 🥁 What trickster characters, like dokkaebi, do you know from other cultures?
- 🥁 Dokkaebi have magical clubs and hats that make them invisible. What magical objects can you name from other folklore?
- 🥁 Dokkaebi images are signs of protection from natural disasters. Can you think of other symbols placed on buildings or in gathering places to ward off evil?
- 🥁 Dokkaebi are thought to live in cemeteries and in abandoned buildings. How does this reinforce the concept of these places being scary or unsafe?

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



-  Describe Doki and Kebi. Do you think that dokkaebi are real or mythical? What information from the text and the illustrations helps you form an opinion?
-  Doki and Kebi are twins. Compare and contrast how the two characters are alike and how they are different from one another.
-  What happens to Doki and Kebi that makes them want to move to a new land? How are their actions different from the other dokkaebi?
-  Why do you think that Kebi “breath[es] a secret sigh of relief” when Doki agrees to come with him?
-  When Doki and Kebi arrive in New York City, they find it very different from Seoul, Korea. How do the illustrations of their observations of New York compare with the text descriptions of what they’re seeing?
-  Doki and Kebi are excited to learn about Halloween from their new neighbor, a ghost. Why do you think the two are terrified when the first trick-or-treaters come to their door?

# ACTIVITIES for Students

**Hello, New York!** Doki and Kebi travel all the way from Seoul, Korea, to New York City. The city is so different from their life in Seoul! Create travel diary entries of Polaroid photos (drawings) with short captions that capture Doki and Kebi’s first impressions of New York City.

**Home, Sweet Home** Doki and Kebi are searching for the perfect abandoned old house. Kebi settles on one that has a large library for Doki. What type of house might Kebi have picked if he wasn’t trying to make Doki happy? Draw and label the house of Kebi’s dreams. Remember, he loves to play tricks on humans!

**Capture the Scene** What is your favorite scene from the story? Create a colorful, three-panel comic strip depicting the beginning, middle, and end of the scene using pictures and words.

# WRITING PROMPT

The beginning of the story shows the different ways that Kebi and Doki spend their days. Write a diary entry for each of these two characters. You can begin each entry with, “Dear Diary, Today I . . .” Look to the story and its illustrations for ideas to include in your diary entries.



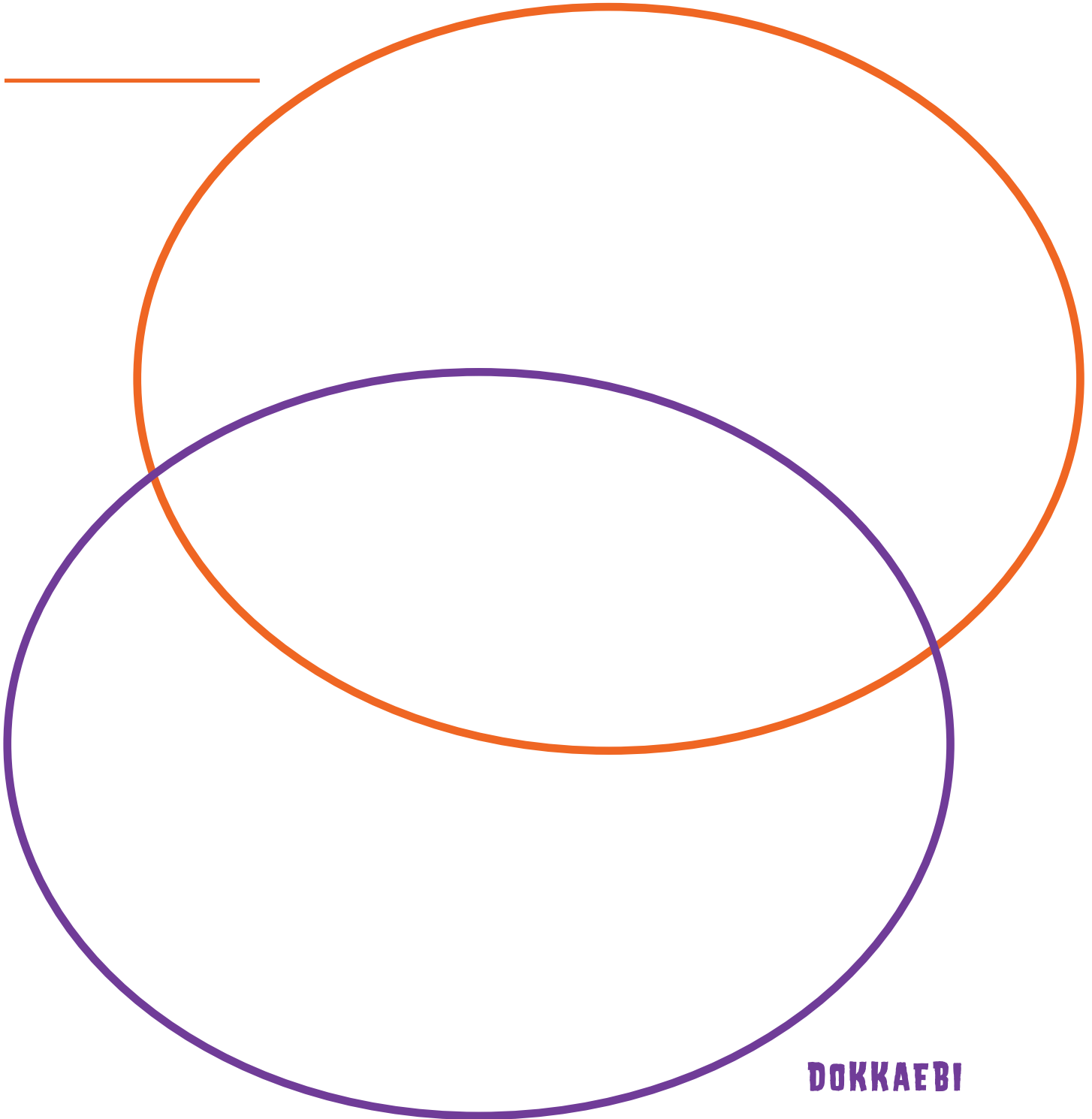
The discussion questions, activities, and worksheets in this guide were created by Leigh Courtney, Ph.D. She teaches in the Global Education program at a public elementary school in San Diego, California. She holds both master’s and doctoral degrees in education, with an emphasis on curriculum and instruction.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Comparing Mythical Creatures









Many cultures have mythical creatures as part of their identity and history—Bigfoot, mermaids, ghosts, unicorns, dragons, ravens, and other creatures fill stories from cultures worldwide. Choose a mythical creature from another culture and learn a bit more about it. Compare it to dokkaebi. Write words that describe each creature in the Venn diagram to show what the two have in common and what makes each creature unique.



**DOKKAEBI**

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



-  Doki is thrilled about the abandoned house that he and Kebi share because it has an enormous library. How does Kebi feel about life in their new city?
-  What does Doki suggest Kebi do to overcome his boredom? Why do you think Kebi has trouble making friends?
-  Kebi is a trickster who delights in causing chaos for humans. What types of tricks did Kebi try to play on the people in New York City? Why didn't Kebi's pranks have any effect on them?
-  What is Doki's plan to comfort Kebi when he finds Kebi hiding in the attic feeling sad and lonely?
-  Do the new pranks the twins play together have any effect on the New Yorkers? How does pranking with Doki make Kebi feel?
-  In the story we read, "Even if no one else cares, all you need is just one person to love you." How does this quote reflect what happens at the end of the story?

# ACTIVITIES for Students



**Making Friends** Kebi struggles to follow Doki's advice to make new friends. Work with a partner to brainstorm a list of ways to make new friends. Share the list with your class. Compile all of the best ideas for making friends on a poster to display in your classroom.

**Story String** Create a story string to help you retell the story. Cut a piece of yarn or string about 30 inches in length. On 3 x 5 cards, draw pictures of the setting, characters, main problem, some of the important "happenings" in the story, and the final solution. Tape the illustrated cards to the string in this order: setting, characters, problem, happenings, and solution. Meet with a partner to share story strings as you retell the story of *The Goblin Twins: Too Hard to Scare*.

**Just One Word** Choose ONE word to describe the feeling that you had after reading the story. Write your descriptive word in big letters on a piece of art paper. Surround your word with pictures and descriptions of events from the story that helped you arrive at your one feeling word.



# WRITING PROMPT

Kebi has a gamtu, a hat that makes dokkaebi invisible. As a newcomer to New York City, Kebi already feels invisible, without the hat, in his new land. Think of a time that you were a newcomer to a neighborhood, school, team, or circle of friends. In a personal narrative, describe your experience and compare it to Kebi's experience of going unnoticed in a new place or group.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Charting Kebi's Emotions



Kebi has many different feelings in this story. Look back through the book and identify words, illustrations, and actions that describe his emotions. In the boxes below, describe how Kebi is feeling at the beginning, middle, and end of the story. Include a drawing of Kebi and a caption in each section that shows why he was feeling this way.

## BEGINNING

## MIDDLE

## END