

**Title: *Outrun the Moon***  
**Author: Stacey Lee**  
**Perspectives Category: Race and Ethnicity**

**Reviewer Name and Grade: Kevin D., 9th Grade**

**Date Reviewed: May 28, 2024**

*1. What is the main plot of this book?*

"Outrun the Moon" by Stacey Lee follows the story of Mercy Wong, a Chinese-American girl in 1906 San Francisco who is determined to get a better education despite the racial barriers of the time. Using her intelligence and determination, she secures a place at an exclusive girls' school. However, when a devastating earthquake strikes, Mercy must rely on her resourcefulness and perseverance to survive and help others in the aftermath.

*2. Which character did you most identify with and why?*

The character I most identified with was Tom, Mercy's childhood friend, because of his loyalty and support for Mercy throughout her journey. Tom consistently stands by Mercy, offering practical help and emotional encouragement. His willingness to aid Mercy, despite the risks and societal pressures, showed his courage and loyalty, which are some qualities I strive to have/relate to.

*3. What do you believe is the main message of this book?*

I believe the main message of "Outrun the Moon" is about the power of determination in the face of adversity. Mercy's journey shows the importance of challenging oppressive barriers and using one's strengths to overcome obstacles. For example, Mercy's efforts to get into the girls' school and her leadership during the earthquake showed her ability to rise above her circumstances and make a significant impact.

*4. Do you think the main message of this book was effectively integrated into the story, or did it come across as too "preachy"?*

I think that the main message was excellently woven into the story. Mercy's personal growth and the challenges she faces were displayed naturally in the narrative in a way that helped convey the central message of courage in the face of adversity. Some examples of this were her clever strategies to gain admission to the school and her courageous actions during the earthquake.

*5. If two or more perspectives on an important topic were explored/presented in this book, which one did you agree with and why?*

"Outrun the Moon" presents multiple perspectives on racial and gender barriers, specifically through Mercy's Own experiences and those of her classmates and community. Mercy actively challenged these barriers with her intelligence and determination, while some of her peers were more resigned and accepted societal limitations. I agree with Mercy's perspective because her resilience and active stance demonstrates how pushing against discrimination/social oppression can create opportunities and inspire others to do the same.

*6. In what ways (if any) were your beliefs about a topic changed or reaffirmed through reading this book?*

My beliefs about the importance of resilience and the impact of societal barriers were reaffirmed and the book kind of reminded me about them. "Outrun the Moon" effectively displayed how determination and smarts can help individuals overcome significant challenges, which reminded me of the importance of these qualities.

*7. What perspective, if any, do you think was missing from this book?*

I think the book could've included a perspective/approach (from another character) that involved working within the system to bring about gradual change. While Mercy's approach is direct and confrontational, advocating for immediate change, another perspective could have shown characters attempting to navigate and subtly influence the oppressive systems from within. This would provide a different viewpoint on how to address discrimination and challenges, potentially being more or less effective in some cases.

*8. Did this book encourage you to pursue any topics further through more reading, research, action, etc., and if so, how?*

No, not really, though I was reminded about some of the harsh racial discrimination that occurred in the past.

*9. What type of reader (based on age, interests, perspectives, etc.) would you suggest this book to?*

I would suggest this book to young adult readers, particularly those interested in historical fiction, stories about resilience and overcoming adversity, and readers interested in exploring themes of racial and gender discrimination. In my opinion, "Outrun the Moon" has a strong historical context and a determined protagonist that make it suitable for those who appreciate inspiring and thought-provoking stories.

*10. What other book(s) have you read that you think would make a good addition to this category of the Perspectives Bibliography, and why?*

Another book that would make a good addition to the category of "race and ethnicity" is "American Street" by Ibi Zoboi. This novel follows the story of Fabiola Toussaint, a Haitian immigrant navigating life in Detroit while struggling with issues of identity, family, and belonging. Similar to "Outrun the Moon," "American Street" explores themes of racial prejudice and the resilience required to navigate challenges.