

Throw Your Tooth on the Roof: Tooth Traditions from Around the World

By Selby Beeler

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What do you do when you lose a tooth? Do you put it under your pillow and wait for the tooth fairy? Not if you live in Botswana! In Botswana, children throw their teeth onto the roof. In Afghanistan they drop their teeth down mouse holes, and in Egypt they fling their teeth at the sun! Travel around the world and discover the surprising things children do when they lose a tooth. Selby B. Beeler spent years collecting traditions from every corner of the globe for this whimsical book, and illustrator G. Brian Karas adds to the fun, filling every page with humorous detail. He perfectly captures the excitement and pride that children experience when a tooth falls out.

This title has been selected as a Common Core Text Exemplar (Grades 2-3, Informational Texts)

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Throw Your Tooth on the Roof: Tooth Traditions from Around the World By Selby Beeler **Bibliography**

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Eat your heart out, tooth fairy. According to the informal research of the author, the world is full of other, equally fascinating myths and traditions about what happens, or should be done, when those milk choppers part company with childish gums. If you come from Chile or Costa Rica, your parents will have the tooth made into a charm. If you're Venezuelan, you put the tooth under your pillow and hope that a mouse brings you money. (Oddly enough, mice, milk teeth, and money are associated all over the world.) Playful illustrations by G. Brian Karas include a world map, plus lots of fun depictions of the world's dentally challenged junior inhabitants. (Ages 4 to 8) --*Richard Farr*

From Publishers Weekly

Children from countries on each continent explain what they do when they lose a tooth, including throwing their teeth on the roof. PW called this volume "an eye-opener for young Americans who may have assumed that the Tooth Fairy holds a worldwide visa." Ages 4-8.

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From [Booklist](#)

Ages 4⁺-8. If children think a visit from the Tooth Fairy is the only way to trade in baby teeth, they're in for a surprise. Beeler's funny and intriguing sampling of lost-tooth traditions from around the world shows that teeth are every bit as likely to end up down a mouse hole, in the stomach of a dog, or on the roof of a house, as they are under a pillow. Written as first-person statements, the customs, identified by country, are accompanied by a small illustration in which Karas attempts to capture some distinctive feature of the area--koalas in Australia, the Eiffel Tower in France, a thatched-roof dwelling in Cameroon. The artwork doesn't always achieve the goal, but it's consistently lively and comical. For children curious about teeth in general, Beeler has rounded up some basic facts to which Karas has added a nicely captioned picture of a mouth opened to reveal a stunning array of pearly whites. Lots and lots of fun. *Stephanie Zvirin*

Users Review

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