

Leilong's Too Long!

AUTHOR

JULIA LIU

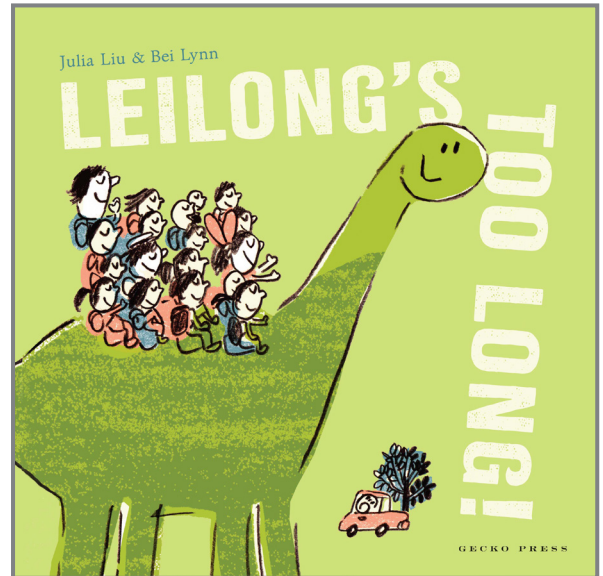
ILLUSTRATOR

BEI LYNN

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

Every morning, Leilong the school bus shuttles through the city, picking up children as he goes. But a brontosaurus longer than a tennis court causes big problems in the busy streets. The school decides he can't be the bus anymore. The children must find a way to help their long friend fit in.

Loose and vibrant illustrations bring to life the charming world of Leilong, where brontosauruses share the city with ordinary vehicles, and sliding out the bedroom window down the neck of the dinosaur school bus is an everyday activity.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Julia Liu has worked as an editor of children's fiction and has published picture books, illustrated biographies of Einstein and Archimedes and a collection of fairy tales.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Bei Lynn is an award-winning Taiwanese illustrator who has written and illustrated picture books, stories, magazines and comics.

THEMES

- Dinosaurs
- Differences
- Acceptance

BEFORE READING

- Before reading *Leilong's Too Long*, view the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:
 - The title of the book
 - The author/illustrator
 - The publisher
 - The blurb.
- Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end? Write your own story using the title *Leilong's Too Long*.

EXPLORING THE TEXT

- Who do you think the audience for this book is? Why?
- Is *Leilong's Too Long* an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? How can you tell?
- Leilong gets taken off the roads because he keeps causing accidents. Do you think this is fair? Why or why not?
- 'Leilong notices when people need help'. How does Leilong help people around him? What signs can you look out for that suggest someone might need your help?
- Leilong feels awkward and out of place on the road. Have you ever felt like Leilong does? How did you resolve it? How do Leilong's friends support him when he's feeling down? What could you do if one of your friends was also feeling like they didn't belong?
- Take turns describing/retelling the story as if you were explaining it to someone who hasn't read it yet. What do you think are the most important parts of the story? Why do you think that?

EXPLORING THE ILLUSTRATIONS

- How do the illustrations add to the story? How would the story be different if there were no illustrations?
- The illustrations in *Leilong's Too Long* use a limited colour palette. What does that mean? What colours are prominent throughout the book and why do you think the illustrator, Bei Lynn, might have chosen these colours? What might the colours tell you about how the characters are feeling, or about the world the story is set in? Choose another picture book from your library, identify the colour palette used, and discuss how it is similar or different to *Leilong's Too Long*.
- Leilong goes through a range of feelings in the story. Look at each spread and discuss how Leilong might be feeling. Discuss situations when students have felt the same way and why.
- Draw a scene from your favourite book in the same style as *Leilong's Too Long*. Explain why you have chosen the colours and materials you used.

FURTHER ACTIVITIES

- Leilong is a brontosaurus. Using the internet and books from your school library, find out more about brontosaurus. Have the author and illustrator done a good job of portraying this type of dinosaur? Think about what they would eat, what colour they were, their size. If you do not think Leilong is accurate, explain why the author and illustrator have chosen to do this.
- How do you get to school? Do you walk, drive in the car, take the bus or train? As a class, do a survey and see which ways different students get to school. What's the most common? What are some other ways kids might go to school in other parts of the world?
- Julia Liu and Bei Lynn are from Taiwan. Research Taiwanese culture on the internet. Make a presentation to share with the class. You might include examples of Taiwanese food, traditional clothes, their national flag and animal, and places in Taiwan you would like to go on a holiday.
- Write a short story imagining Leilong is transporting you to school, or that you're on the road and see Leilong out your car window! How would the experience make you feel?
- Look for *Leilong the Library Bus* by Julia Liu and Bei Lynn in your library. How is it similar or different to *Leilong's Too Long*? Which one is your favourite and why?