

# Masked Hero: How Wu Lien-teh Invented the Mask and Ended an Epidemic

AUTHORS

**DR. SHAN WOO LIU AND KAILI LIU GORMLEY**

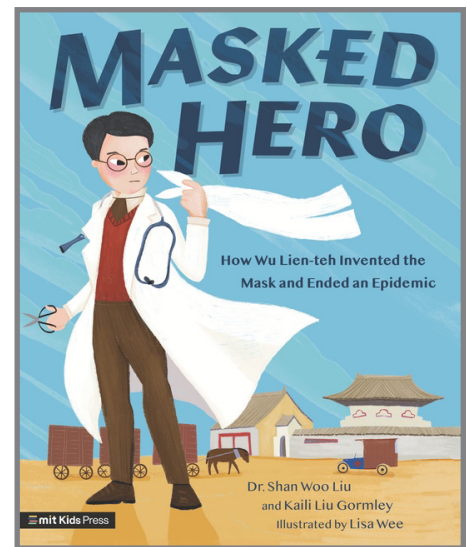
ILLUSTRATOR

**LISA WEE**

SCIS: 5466520

ISBN: 9781529515510

**RECOMMENDED FOR:** Lower to Mid Primary



## SYNOPSIS

Growing up in Malaysia, Wu Lien-teh had always loved science and wanted to be a doctor. His studies took him around the world and in 1910 he brought his expertise to China to fight the plague. There he overcame discrimination to promote trailblazing measures that will be familiar to readers today—including encouraging people to wear a face covering he designed from layers of cloth and gauze: the first version of the N95 mask.

Written by Wu Lien-teh's great-granddaughter, who is now an ER doctor who relied on his life-saving invention during a pandemic a century later, and charmingly illustrated by Lisa Wee, this is an inspiring and fascinating biography about an unknown hero of science.

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Shan Woo Liu is a great-granddaughter of Wu Lien-teh. She is an emergency medicine physician at Massachusetts General Hospital and an associate professor at Harvard Medical School. *Masked Hero*, which she wrote with her daughter, Kaili Liu Gormley, is her first picture book. The two are proud to share the story of Wu Lien-teh and to help children understand that heroes come in all shapes, sizes, genders and races.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Lisa Wee is an illustrator who loves exploring the topics of diversity, cultural identity and inclusivity with quaint and quirky characters. She is a Peranakan, with a blended cultural background of Chinese and Malay. She has had the privilege of working with *Top Chef* winner Kristen Kish, with World Vision International on the International Day of the Girl campaign, and on the magazines *Ladybug* and *Babybug*.

## STUDY NOTES

### BEFORE READING

- Before reading, view the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:
  - The title of the book
  - The author
  - The publisher
  - The blurb.
- Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? Discuss the role of the author and the publisher.
- Discuss the title of the book. Do you think this is a good title? Why or why not? If you were asked to choose an

alternative title for the book, what would it be? Remember, a good title should capture the audience's attention and give them some idea of what the book is about.

- From the cover, what information do you think will be covered in this book? What type of book is this and where would you expect to find it in your library?

### WHILE READING

- Is this book fiction or nonfiction? How can you tell?
- In groups find examples of the language of opinion/feeling and factual reporting. What is the purpose of each type of language?

#### Layout

- Nonfiction can be presented in many different ways. How does the layout of this particular book affect the readability of this text? Consider the illustrations and headings.
- Design a page of nonfiction information. How will you keep your audience interested and engaged?

#### Content

- Find the following sections in the book and explain their purpose. In what kind of other books might you find these sections?
  - Contents
  - Timeline
  - Index.
- What is the purpose of an index? In what sort of books would you find one?
- Who is the audience for this book? What makes you think that? Who do you think might enjoy this book other than the intended audience?
- Form small groups and pick your favourite topic from the book. Hold a discussion on the following:
  - What have you learnt?
  - What did you like most about how the authors presented the information?
  - How did the illustrations help your engagement with the topic?