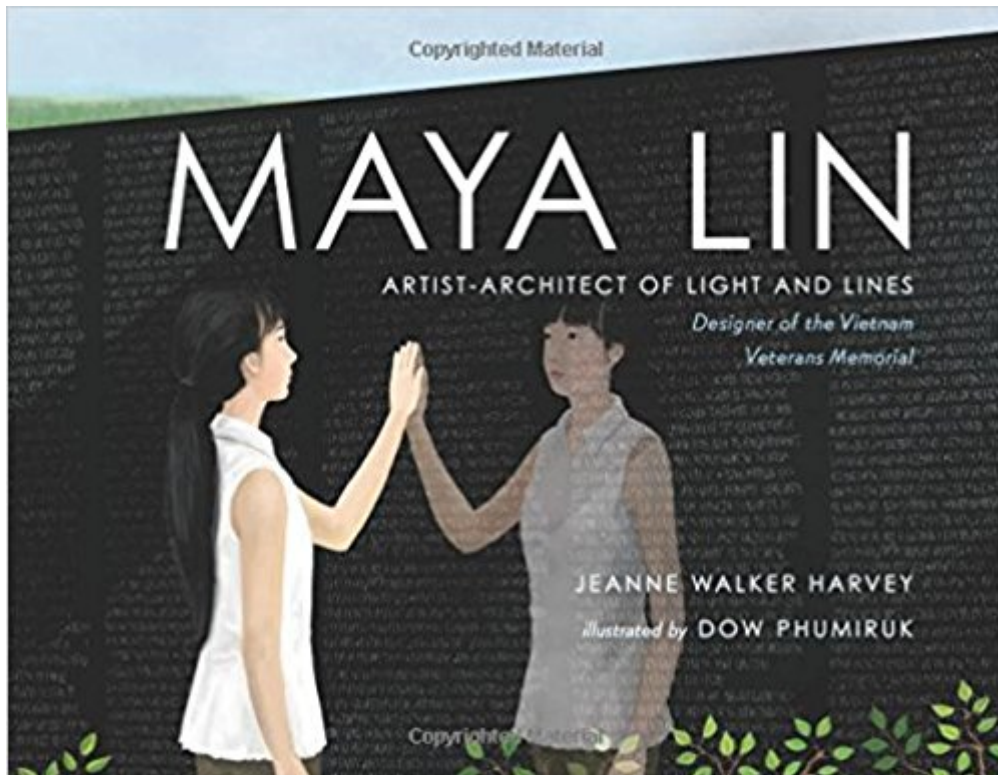




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# Maya Lin: Artist-Architect Of Light And Lines



## Synopsis

The bold story of Maya Lin, the visionary artist-architect who designed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. You may be familiar with the iconic Vietnam Veterans Memorial. But do you know about the artist-architect who created this landmark? As a child, Maya Lin loved to study the spaces around her. She explored the forest in her backyard, observing woodland creatures, and used her house as a model to build tiny towns out of paper and scraps. The daughter of a clay artist and a poet, Maya grew up with art and learned to think with her hands as well as her mind. From her first experiments with light and lines to the height of her success nationwide, this is the story of an inspiring American artist: the visionary artist-architect who designed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. A Christy Ottaviano Book

## Book Information

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Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

"Phumiruk's use of perspective is often striking. . . Harvey's text makes thoughtful, relatable connections between Lin's work and the themes of her life."--The Horn Book, starred review  
"The clean lines in Phumiruk's deliberately sparse, light-infused spreads and the placement of slender, pillar like passages of text reinforce the breathtaking beauty of Lin's sleek landmark. With a closing author's note detailing Lin's motivations for projects past and present, this is an artful resource for dreamers of all ages."-Booklist  
"Quietly inspiring . . . The simple yet lyrical narrative flows effortlessly . . . an ideal

choice to pair with STEAM-related activities. The soft color palette of the digital illustrations provides a complementary backdrop to the words, and Phumiruk ably conveys Lin's determination."--School Library Journal"Phumiruk's clean-lined, crisp illustrations, done in Photoshop, and light palette emphasize connections between Lin's concepts and the strong influences of nature on Lin's art. . . A fine celebration of a renowned woman artist."--Kirkus Reviews"Textual and visual sparseness that echoes Lin's minimalist style."-Publishers Weekly

Jeanne Walker Harvey studied literature and psychology at Stanford University and has had many jobs, ranging from being a roller coaster ride operator to an attorney and, most recently a middle school teacher of Language Arts and writing workshops. She is the author of several books for young readers, including *My Hands Sing the Blues: Romare Bearden's Childhood Journey*. She lives in California. Dow Phumiruk is a general pediatrician with a passion for art. She lives in Colorado with her husband and three girls. When she is not teaching medical students or drawing, she can be found hiking on the trails near her home. *Maya Lin* is her picture book debut.

With the help of a bookish "friend" on Instagram, I found this little gem hidden among the overcrowded stacks of biographies. What makes this one so special is that we don't hear about many Asian people's remarkable lives, though surely there are too many to tell. My youngest son, not one to gravitate toward books (I know, I know...) saw it on my bed, picked it up, read it cover-to-cover, and then we talked about his recollection of when we went to the Vietnam Memorial in DC with his grandfather-himself, a Vietnam veteran. I look forward to sharing this with my students in the fall when we begin the year with our look at biographies, autobiographies, and memoirs!

This wonderful book is well-written, beautifully illustrated, and inspiring. The language matches the thoughtful, compassionate style of Maya Lin's masterpiece, the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial. The illustrator adds little jewels on the margins of the pages that add depth to the story. This book shows that no dream is out of reach for the person who works hard and persists.

While the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is an iconic dedication to the 58,000 brave soldiers who lost their lives, not many people know about the artist behind the landmark visited by three million people annually. Her name is Maya Lin. And she was a college student when she anonymously

entered the competition to design the memorial. I think Jeanne Walker Harvey has done a beautiful job capturing who Maya Lin was as a child, the influence her artistic parents had on her, and her vision for the memorial -- "a quiet place to remember all those who died during the war...a place to be experienced by walking down, then up past names that seemed to go on forever." The writing is elegant and simple. And there's a helpful Author's Note at the end, which provides additional details and a photograph of the Maya Lin holding a scale model of her design in 1981. The illustrations by Dow Phumiruk are gentle and gorgeous -- a perfect match to the words. I particularly love the pages that are framed with drawings of art supplies or cardboard buildings or pottery -- as if each moment of Maya Lin's life is a work of art itself. My 8-year-old daughter loves this book and takes it out regularly to read, re-read or just look at the pictures. I got one for her class library and the other students loved it as well. My daughter likes reading stories about people. But biographic chapter books without pictures can turn her off. This book is a great way to get her attention and spark her curiosity to learn more. Although it's a quick, uncomplicated read, you might want to be prepared for questions about what is the Vietnam War.

An excellent picture book biography of Maya Lin, the architect who designed the Vietnam Memorial her senior year in college. The story is told simply and lyrically, and the illustrations are beautifully done, bringing the story to life. The muted palette with bursts of color, the varying perspectives, and artistic vision all complement the story of a young woman of extraordinary talent.

Simply wonderful with beautiful illustrations.

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