

Booklist

Advanced Review – Uncorrected Proof

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The Whole World Inside Nan's Soup.

By Hunter Liguore. Illus. by Vikki Zhang

Aug. 2021. 32p. Yeehoo, \$14.99 (9781953458063). PreS–Gr. 1

Knowing where your food comes from is an increasingly popular topic, and in this tale, the question of what's for dinner becomes an account of the complexities of producing a simple bowl of soup. A granddaughter asks her grandmother what's in the soup she's making. Rather than list ingredients, the grandmother starts narrating everything that goes into growing a vegetable. She works backward from seeds to gardeners, farmworkers and merchants, who are all in the pot. The environment's in the pot too, because the veggies need soil and sun. People need so much to even get to grocery stores, like bus drivers and roads, so the community's in the pot. In the end, it's an easy recipe to remember: the whole world is in there, the granddaughter smartly concludes. It's a lovely portrait of how interconnected everything is. It does paint an overly rosy picture at times with descriptions of contented and eager workers, which may warrant discussion after a pandemic that has highlighted deep inequalities for laborers in our food systems.

— *Lydia Mulvany*