

# It's About Time!



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**TCM**

Teacher  
Created  
Materials

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## Chapter One



# What It's Like to Be Me

Mom and I stroll through the Koreatown Spring Festival. The festival happens in our city every year.

I drag my feet, bored. I've already been to the festival a thousand times.

But my mom is smiling. Dancers swirl past us on the street. We pass under paper lanterns shaped like lotus flowers.

"This reminds me of when I was your age, living in South Korea," Mom says.



I frown. “I’m so tired of hearing about Korea. I wish I were at Emily’s sleepover instead.”

Mom pauses to buy spicy rice cakes from a food truck.

“I want you to know more about our culture, Yuri,” my mom says. She frowns. “It makes me sad that you don’t know much about my life before I came to America.”



“It makes *me* sad that you won’t let me go to Emily’s,” I say. I picture my friends having fun without me. I glare at my mom. “You’ll never understand what it’s like to be me.”

My mom shakes her head. “Well, I guess you’ll never understand what it’s like to be me either.”

We look at each other.

And then, something very strange happens.





The world around us begins to spin.  
The festival whirls by in a blur of color. I  
feel dizzy.

When I open my eyes, I'm in a crowded  
marketplace. Except...I've never seen this  
place before! I look around. Everywhere,  
the signs are in Korean. One says: "The  
Best Food in Seoul."

"Mom?" I yell. "Where are you?"

A woman turns around. "I'm right here,  
Sun-young," she says to me. "Come help  
me choose fruit for dinner."

I stare. Sun-young is my mom's  
name, not mine. I see my reflection in  
the window of a nearby shop. I almost  
scream. I'm wearing a school uniform I  
don't recognize. I don't have my own face  
anymore! I look just like...

I look like the pictures I've seen of my  
mom as a child!

# It's About Time!

Eight-year-old Yuri's mother wants to share her culture with her daughter. When Yuri and her mother argue about it, something strange happens. She finds herself in a new place and in a different time!

## Reading Levels

Guided Reading: N

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