

## THROUGH THE BAMBOO Synopsis

### SHORT:

When Philly's Lola (grandma) dies, she finds herself in the fantastical land of Uwi. Will she be able to end the reign of the Three Sisters, find her Lola and bring her back home?

### SAVING THE WORLD, ONE GRANDMA AT A TIME.

Inspired by Philippine mythology, THROUGH THE BAMBOO is an action-packed adventure about the value of storytelling, and how families deal with loss. A Filipino-Canadian tale you've never heard before, told in the tradition of The Wizard of Oz, The Chronicles of Narnia and Alice in Wonderland.

Suitable for kids 7+, grandparents and families.

### LONG:

*Through the Bamboo* begins with Lola ("grandmother" in Tagalog), reading a story to her baby granddaughter, Philly. She tells the story of a tropical land ruled by a Datu, his wife and four daughters. When the Datu's wife dies, he bans stories about the mother. Eventually, the hearts and minds of the three eldest sisters, Isa, Dalawa and Tatlo ("one," "two" and "three" in Tagalog) are twisted and they take over the land. They ban all storytelling in Uwi, exile the Datu and force their youngest sister, Nale, away.

In present day Toronto, we meet Philly, now twelve years old, in her Lola's basement. Lola has just died and the family is at her house sorting through her things. Philly finds a storybook that her Lola used to read to her and a *malong* (Philippine sash) falls out. She hears her Lola's voice singing and is magically transported into the storybook.

Confused, Philly finds herself in the fantastical land of Uwi where she meets two duwende (dwarf-like creatures) who are part of an underground resistance called the Taas Taasan. The duwende mistake her for Nale - the daughter of the Sultan and wife of the Prince of the Sky, who disappeared many years before, and who has been prophesied to return to free Uwi from the evil reign of the Three Sisters. Philly agrees to go with them to Matalino the Wise, the leader of the Taas Taasan to find a way home. As Philly and the duwende traverse the land, she meets a host of creatures including Bunny (a baby cyclops), Kap (a giant who lives in the trees) and Koyo (a merman). Philly meets Matalino the Wise at a secret location, and he reveals that her Lola is there in Uwi. Philly's quest is to find her and help bring her home. With a renewed sense of hope, Philly finds her Lola, learns that Lola is in fact Nale, and vows to help bring her to her ancestral home so that they can fulfill the prophecy and free Uwi from the clutches of the Three Sisters.

Philly and the duwende help Lola get to the Ancestral Palace, where Lola is captured and brought to the sisters, who want to perform a ritual to gain Nale's immortality. Lola makes one last appeal for her sisters to remember their mother and with Philly's help, the sisters finally allow their hearts to heal from their mother's loss. Families are reunited, Uwi is restored and Philly decides it's time to go home with Lola. As Philly begins to magically transport home, Lola reveals that she cannot go with her.

Philly, wracked with grief, calls out for Lola as she returns home to her Lola's basement in Toronto, where her mother rushes in to console her. For the first time, Philly faces her loss and grief, and together with her mother, they begin their healing process by telling stories about Lola.

When Philly's Lola (grandma) dies, she finds a storybook that her Lola used to read to her, which transports her to the fantastical land of Uwi.

Confused and in a foreign place, Philly meets two duwende (dwarf-like creatures) who mistake/(insist) her for Nale - the daughter of the Sultan and wife of the Prince of the Sky who disappeared many years before, and who has been prophesied to return to free Uwi from the evil reign of the three sisters. As Philly tries to find her way home, she learns that her Lola is in this land. With a renewed sense of hope and a drive to find her Lola and bring her home, Philly traverses the land. Along her travels she meets a host of creatures including, Bunny - a baby cyclops who has also lost his Lola, Kap - a giant who lives in the trees and is mourning the loss of his best friend, Tree, and Koyo, a merman and right hand of the resistance leader Matalino. When Philly learns that her Lola is in fact Nale, she vows to help her save the land from the clutches of the three sisters. Will Philly be able to free Uwi and bring her Lola home?