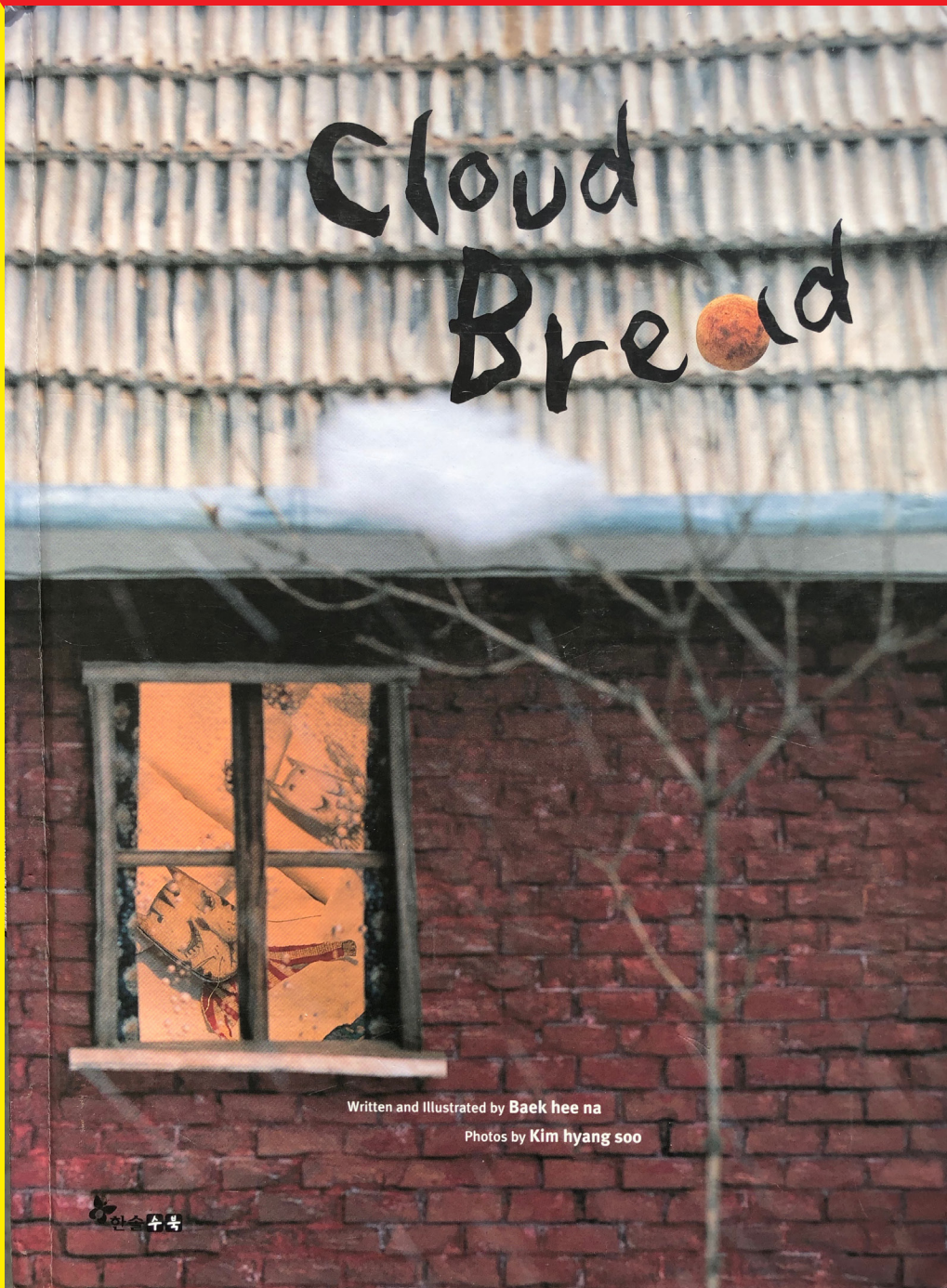


# READING GUIDE TO



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민승수북



Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award

**SWEDISH  
ARTSCOUNCIL**

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**READ! DISCUSS! CREATE!**

We're excited that you want to read *Cloud Bread* by ALMA Laureate Baek Heena. Here are some tips and ideas to inspire discussion, play and creative activities for children that you can use at home or in preschool, grade school or after-school programs. Baek Heena wants her books to uplift readers and entertain them. So, get ready to read and enjoy *Cloud Bread* and let your imagination soar!

**ABOUT THE PICTURE BOOK AUTHOR BAEK HEENA**

Baek Heena was born in 1971 in Seoul, South Korea. She worked in advertising and animation before writing her first children's picture book in 2004. She has now published over a dozen books, is popular throughout Asia and has been honored with awards both at home and abroad. She received the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award in the spring of 2020.

Baek Heena is known for her innovative visual style, and her picture books come to life through a time-consuming and uncompromising process. She builds entire miniature worlds—drawing, painting, photographing, sewing, baking, snipping, gluing and assembling tiny environments, objects and figurines. These 3D collages are then lit to enhance them further before photographing each individual image/scene. This slow craft process, inspired by stop-motion animation techniques, lends her books a uniquely scenic and cinematic quality.



Photo: Private.

Baek Heena's warm and humorous stories take up such themes as solitude, interpersonal encounters, cooperation and relationships. Just like children's own imaginative play, her books weave realism and magic together. A recurring motif is way that play and imagination bring magic into everyday life.

*Cloud Bread* was published in English by Hansol in 2011.

This reading guide was created by Agneta Edwards. Agneta is a literary educator, lecturer and author and served on the ALMA jury from 2002 to 2011



## About *Cloud Bread*

In *Cloud Bread* we meet a family of cats who live a thoroughly normal (human) life. One rainy morning, the two children in the family find a cloud and bring it home with them.

Their mother mixes the cloud into the bread she is making for breakfast, and can you imagine! After eating the cloud bread, they can fly! The children float out the window with some bread for their father, who has already left for work. And what luck—his bus is stuck in a traffic jam, but with the help of the magic bread, he flies away and gets to work right on time.

Readers will easily identify with the two cat children, who are of preschool age—about four and six—and wear yellow raincoats. The magical element of the story feels equally real and believable. Narrated in the first person by the older sibling, the story throughout stays true to the child's perspective and the world of the imagination.

The original Korean title of *Cloud Bread* is *Gu-reum-bbang* and it was first published in 2004. Although it is primarily aimed at preschoolers and early grade schoolers, *Cloud Bread* will appeal to readers of all ages—not least thanks to Baek Heena's exciting illustrative technique, which is likely to inspire not only young readers but also adults with an interest in art.

# Before you read

Before you open the book, take a few minutes to study the cover! This is a great way to get the imaginative juices flowing, help your child or school group get focused before you start reading, and set joint expectations about the book. Don't forget to look at the endpapers—the pages just inside the cover—for more clues about the story.

Ideas for discussion questions:

- What do you see in the picture?
- Who could the people be? Where are they? What are they doing? Do you think there might be more people later in the book?
- How does the picture make you feel?
- What is the book called? Does the title give any hints as to what the story is about?
- How could the cloud (on the endpapers) and the bread (on the cover) be connected?
- What do you think the book might be about?





## As you read

Picture books are wonderfully intricate constructions where words and images work in synergy. This means reading a picture book is (at least) as much about reading the pictures as it is the words. For children encountering a book for the first time, listening quietly while you read out loud may be a challenge. The primary way they access the book is through the pictures, so it's a good idea to begin by focusing on those.

### TAKE A PICTURE WALK

One idea is to start by taking a *picture walk*—in other words, explore the story just through the pictures. Talk together about what you see, page by page. Children and grownups often notice different things. For example, children are often drawn to small details. A picture walk can help you establish a common frame of reference for the book, and make it easier for children to focus on listening the next time you read the book together.

### READ TOGETHER

Even after you start reading the words of the story, you'll still want to stop every now and then to let everyone share their reflections about both words and pictures. When we read a book, we make automatic associations to our own experiences and the things we know, as well as to other books, movies and stories. When you read *Cloud Bread*, someone might want to share the fact that they have a yellow raincoat, just like the children in the book. Someone else might wonder why the characters are sleeping on the floor, or how you can carry a cloud. When the father cat comes running up, some children might think he looks dangerous, while others might think that that picture is funny.

When we read while carrying on a dialog with one another, everyone gets exposed to new ways of thinking about the book. We learn that we may each see the same picture or story quite differently. Reading becomes an interactive experience and something we do together: a social activity.

## After you read

### BOOK DISCUSSIONS

One way to deepen our experience and understanding of a book is through a book discussion. It can be helpful to have some concrete questions to use as a starting point. Some of the questions suggested here could be used for any book, while others are specifically about *Cloud Bread*. You could also use some of these questions as you read, but others can't be discussed until you've read the whole book. By no means do you have to check off every question! On the contrary, a single question could be enough for an entire discussion.

I wonder...

- Is there any picture in the book that you especially like/don't like?
- How do the pictures make you feel?
- How would you describe the pictures in the book?
- Choose two pictures that convey completely different emotions/moods.

Here's a relatively advanced but exciting question:

- Is there a dramatic climax/turning point in *Cloud Bread*?

If that seems too difficult, think about this potential clue:

- When in the book does the rain stop? Could that be connected to the story?

And of course, some questions to stretch the imagination:

- The mother floats too when the family eats the cloud bread, but we never see what she does after the children fly off with the bread for their father. What do you think she does?
- How long do you think the effects of the cloud bread last? Forever? A day? Something in between?
- If you could fly, where would you go?
- If you had magic bread or some other object that didn't make you fly, but was magical in some other way, what would it be? What would you want it to do?

### TAKE THE STORY FURTHER

Start with one of the questions above (or another element from *Cloud Bread*) that feels fun and engaging, and use the answer to create a new story. It could be an oral story, a written story, a story in pictures, a movie, a play—or any combination! It's a good idea to establish



a framework or a basic foundation for the story. For example, you could come up with an easy-to-complete sentence, such as:

If I could fly, I would go to...

My magical object would make me able to...

I would like to give...X...some cloud bread.

### EXPLORE THE ILLUSTRATIONS IN *CLOUD BREAD*

Are the pictures drawings? If not, how did Baek Heena create them? What are some different ways of drawing, painting and creating pictures? How can we figure out what she did? Put the book on a big screen to make it easier to see the details, and loan extra copies to pass around.

What details in the illustrations especially stand out? What did Baek Heena do to make these details “pop”? Examples might be the whiskers on the first page, the bread floating in the kitchen, or the plastic bag of bread and the yellow raincoats in the scene where the children float out of the window.

One of the discussion questions above was about the various moods in the book. For example, there is a big difference between the indoor scenes (like the pages where the chil-



dren come home with the cloud) and the pictures that show the children going to town with cloud bread for their father. Pictures can also convey a sense of tempo that can influence mood. Compare the breakfast scenes with the picture of the father heading off to work.

How do the choice of color and materials, the visual perspective and the lighting design affect the emotion/mood of the picture?

### MAKE A COLLAGE

Tell a story in pictures with a collage. You can make a one-dimensional collage on paper, or try Baek Heena's technique of building a three-dimensional environment. Instead of buying new supplies, try to repurpose leftover bits and pieces: fabric scraps, ends of string, toilet paper rolls, aluminum foil and plastic wrap, cardboard boxes and packages, photographs, old newspapers and magazines, old books (ask at the library; most regularly weed out and discard books), etc.

### AM I HAPPY? AM I SCARED? SHOW YOUR EMOTIONS!

One way that Baek Heena brings her characters to life is by perfectly capturing different facial expressions and gestures. Choose three pictures from *Cloud Bread* that convey different emotions. Discuss the pictures and experiment by looking in a mirror and at one another to see how our faces and body language can reveal how we are feeling.

Draw simple cat faces, like the ones in *Cloud Bread*, that show three different feelings. Act out different feelings in a game of charades.

### WHAT IS A CLOUD?

Finding nonfiction books that tie in to the storybooks you read can be a great idea. A book about real clouds would be a great partner to *Cloud Bread*. Check out your local library and ask a librarian for tips.

### BAKE CLOUD BREAD

Refer to the recipe in the book. If you don't manage to catch a cloud, what could you replace it with?

### A VISUAL RECIPE

What ingredients do you need for bread? How do you mix and bake it? Draw your recipe! Or use collage, like in *Moon Bread*. Create a series of images, comic strip-style. For an extra challenge, try not to use any words at all, so that even a non-reader can make the recipe.



Photo: Bear Books.

## Learn more

### ALMA.SE

Find a wealth of inspirational material about Baek Heena, including a film about her, pictures of her at work, and analytical pieces by members of our jury. Or dig into our archives of material about our previous laureates.

### OPSIS MAGAZINE FOR CHILDREN'S CULTURE

Issue 2/2020 of Opsis magazine includes an in-depth article about Baek Heena by ALMA jury member Maria Lassén Seger (in Swedish).

### VARLDENSALMA.SE

At Hjulsta Elementary School in Stockholm, the staff make the ALMA award part of the yearly curriculum, drawing inspiration from each laureate's books and work. Their website, [www.varldensalma.se](http://www.varldensalma.se), has a wealth of ideas for working with *Cloud Bread* and books by other ALMA laureates (in Swedish).

### @ATERSKAPA

Follow the Instagram account @aterskapa to see how *Cloud Bread* has inspired creative use of recycled and repurposed materials at libraries in Skåne, Sweden.

### GET IN TOUCH

Would you like to share how you've used *Cloud Bread* at your preschool, school, or after-school program? We'd love to hear from you. E-mail us at [litteraturpris@alma.se](mailto:litteraturpris@alma.se)—we can feature you on our website, [alma.se](http://alma.se). Or connect with us on social media by using the hashtags #ALMA or #Molnbullar (that's *Cloud Bread* in Swedish). Let's compile a treasury of information and inspiration together!

# Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA)

The reading experiences we have as children mold us for life and shape our worldview. The young have a right to excellent literature: to books that are entertaining, innovative, challenging, or complex. One who knew this was the author Astrid Lindgren. When, in 2002, her voice fell silent, the Swedish government founded an international literature award: the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. The award money is SEK 5 million (\$513,000), making it the largest international children's and young adult literature award in the world. The prize amount is a signal to the world that Sweden takes children's reading very seriously. The laureates are chosen by a jury and each year, more than 200 candidates are nominated from around the world.

Check out our reading guides for Baek He-ena's other books *Magic Candies* and *The Bath Fairy* (translated into Swedish)! On our website [alma.se/en](http://alma.se/en), reading guides for books by various ALMA laureates can be found.



# Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award