



***Ladder to the Moon* - Maya Soetoro-Ng**

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Young Suhaila wishes she could have known her grandmother who died before she was born. One day she asks her mother what Grandma Annie was like.

“She was like the moon,” her mother replied. “Full, soft and curious. Your grandma would wrap her arms round the whole world if she could.”

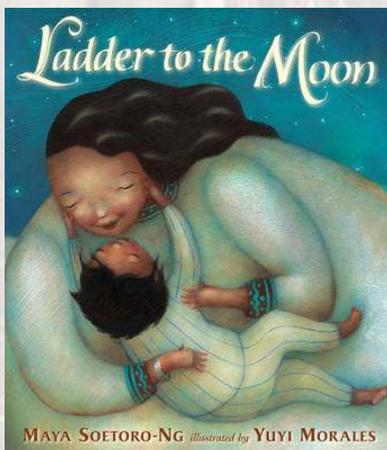
At night, Suhaila looks out her bedroom window at the moon and thinks about her grandmother. A golden ladder appears before her and a smiling woman with a kind face introduces herself as Grandma Annie. She invites Suhaila to go on an adventure and together they climb the ladder to the moon.

Grandma Annie enfolds Suhaila in her wide arms and they listen to the songs of the moon. Other voices reach them and they look down on the troubled earth below. Grandma Annie extends her compassion to people caught up in their struggles to survive. Through her grandmother's example, Suhaila learns a great deal about the strength of the human spirit, empathy and kinship.

Stunning illustrations by Yuyi Morales bathe the pages in a luminous light. Grandma Annie is a well-rounded woman who embodies the nurturing instincts of all good mothers. Tender scenes show people coming together and supporting each other.

There's much wisdom in this gentle tale about the gift of reaching out to others. The encompassing arms of Grandma Annie embrace those in need of comfort and healing. In the process, stories are shared and friendships forged. Written by President Obama's sister in memory of their mother, *Ladder to the Moon* encourages people around the world to strive to live in peace and harmony. A wonderful gift to readers of all ages.

Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett.



Promoting the enjoyment of children's literature.