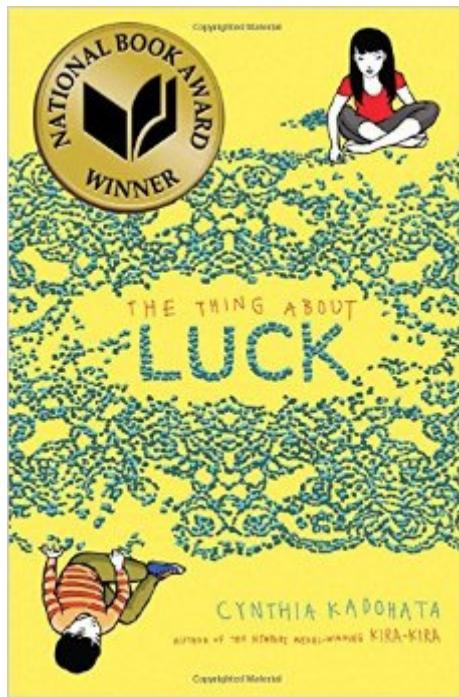


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# The Thing About Luck



## Synopsis

There is bad luck, good luck, and making your own luck--which is exactly what Summer must do to save her family in this winner of the National Book Award by Newbery Medalist Cynthia Kadohata. Summer knows that kouun means "good luck" in Japanese, and this year her family has none of it. Just when she thinks nothing else can possibly go wrong, an emergency whisks her parents away to Japan--right before harvest season. Summer and her little brother are left in the care of their grandparents -- Obaachan and Jiichan -- who come out of retirement in order to harvest wheat and help pay the bills. The thing about Obaachan and Jiichan is that they are old-fashioned and demanding, and between helping Obaachan cook for the workers, covering for her when her back pain worsens, and worrying about her lonely little brother, Summer just barely has time to notice the attentions of their boss's cute son. But notice she does, and what begins as a welcome distraction from the hard work soon turns into a mess of its own. Having thoroughly disappointed her grandmother, Summer figures the bad luck must be finished--but then it gets worse. And when that happens, Summer has to figure out how to change it herself, even if it means further displeasing Obaachan. Because it might be the only way to save her family. Cynthia Kadohata's ode to the breadbasket of America has received six starred reviews and was named on numerous "best of" lists for 2013.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (49 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 10 - 14 years

## Customer Reviews

The Thing About Luck by Cynthia Kadohata digs down into the roots of human behavior, life, and events that all have this thing, called luck, around them. In doing so, Kadohata spurns a surprisingly modern story-plot about a farm family, in which a young girl receives a constant dosage of bad luck. However, the tricky thing about this book is that the reader actually has to analyze what exactly that bad luck is, because it is all but obvious. Overall, after reading this book, one should feel enlightened on how life works its way around luck, and how to deal with bad luck. "The thing about luck is that it's like a fever. You can take fever meds and lie in bed and drink chicken broth and sleep seventeen hours in a row, but basically your fever will break when it wants to break," spoken by Summer, the main character. If that quote interests you even the slightest bit, you should read this book. Even more, if you have ever experienced bad luck (or good luck, for the matter), you should read this book. Therefore, everybody should basically read this book. There is an inevitability of human nature that traps us in tracks of bad luck and tracks of good luck. Think of the most perfect person you know of, and I bet he/she still fits that description. It's simply life, and The Thing About Luck guides the reader along this shortcut of life that still encounters all sorts of luck, but with a mind that is ready for anything. Summer, the main character, has experienced all magnitudes of bad luck, from contracting malaria to living in minor-poverty, and is basically an expert when it comes to discussing luck, or the lack thereof.

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