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in japan so her old fashioned japanese grandparents must work in summer s parents stead traveling across the united states as wheat harvesters the thing about luck is a 2013 illustrated children's novel by japanese american author cynthia kadohata the book is narrated by twelve year old japanese american summer who learns about her identity and heritage while working to support her family in texas a bildungsroman or coming of age story the plot focuses on summer s maturation simon and schuster jun 4 2013 juvenile fiction 269 pages the winner of the national book award for young people s literature from newbery medalist cynthia kadohata there is bad luck realizing that the thing about luck is set in the present time and there are girls like summer out there today wandering the nation s breadbasket with their migrant worker parents or grandparents makes this an even more powerful read about an america that is a whole different world the thing about luck is the protagonist narrated story of summer a twelve year old japanese american girl who over the course of a season of hard work with her difficult family comes to a greater understanding of herself of her family and its heritage and of her relationships what is luck do life events happen to you or do you make them happen posted july 16 2021 reviewed by tyler woods key points people who believe in luck tend to see life events as something the thing about luck kindle edition by cynthia kadohata author julia kuo illustrator format kindle edition 247 see all formats and editions national book award winner 2013 overview 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 with masterful characterizations and quiet strength cynthia kadohata goes straight to the heart of twelve year old summer her troubled brother and her japanese american grandparents during one grueling season of a contemporary midwest wheat harvest the thing about luck cynthia kadohata simon and schuster jun 4 2013 juvenile fiction 288 pages there is bad luck good luck and making your own luck which is exactly what summer dr barbara blatchley professor of psychology and neuroscience at agnes scott college in decatur georgia and author of the book what are the chances why we believe in luck says that western psychology once considered a belief in luck to mean that a person lacked self efficacy and was incapable of making change 5h 14m ratings 21 borrow by cynthia kadohata read by joy osmanski the winner of the national book award for young people s literature from newbery medalist cynthia kadohata there is bad luck good luck and making your own luck which is exactly what summer must do to save her family 269 pages 20 cm just when twelve year old summer thinks nothing else can possibly go wrong in a year of bad luck an emergency takes her parents to japan leaving summer to care for her little brother while helping her grandmother cook and do laundry for harvest workers ages 10 14 includes unpaged reading group guide in newbery winning author cynthia kadohata s the thing about luck japanese american summer is used to the life of a migrant worker she gets out of school in may and doesn t return until late fall after she helps her family with the harvest many of these studies have found that what a person might perceive as luck has more to do with psychology than probability luck is actually just her own positive attitude that keeps her the thing about luck by cynthia kadohata release date june 4 2013 readers who peel back the layers of obsessions and fears will find a character who is determined compassionate and bookshelf shop now twelve year old summer and her japanese american family work every harvest season to earn money to pay their mortgage luck is a bigger contributor to success than 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