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Move Over Harry Potter

by Noelle Robbins

photo by Lane Hartwell

ALAMEDAN BRIAN WONG is an award-winning abstract/classical music composer, a martial arts enthusiast and a published author who recently released the first installment of a fantasy trilogy. And, by the way, he's 11 years old.



Wong, a Lincoln Middle School sixth grader, is the author of *The Aader*, the first book in his *Dragondaire Trilogy* (iUniverse, Inc). Wong began writing *The Aader* at 9-his fingers flying across the keyboard at 80 words per minute. Sixty thousand words later, Wong finds himself receiving local acclaim and international attention.

"It simply does not occur to him to do mediocre work. He is destined for great things," says teacher Clyde Wilson of his former fifth-grade student, who has made the nightly news on KPIX Chinese Channel 26 and graced the front page of *Sing Tao USA*, the top Chinese language newspaper in America.

Wong maintains serene focus through all this excitement-not unlike his novel's main character, 16-year-old Aaden Oaks, a simple farm boy who discovers adventure and danger in a world inhabited by dragons and elves. Ultimately, his hero will face an epic battle between good and evil. The final outcome? Still unknown. Even Wong, halfway through book two, doesn't yet know all the twists and turns to come.

What he does know is that he wants his success to "inspire kids my age to follow their dreams." Wong's Chinese name translates as "do very well, benefit the people," and as a newly published author, he's determined to do just that.