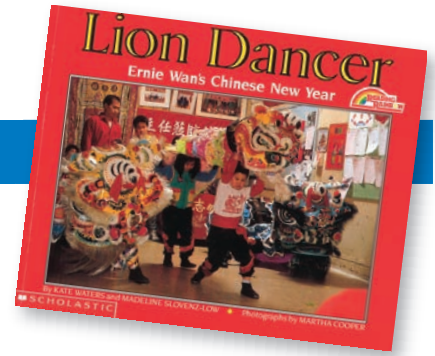


Lion Dancer



A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Family, Chinese-American Culture, Celebrations, Traditions

Grade Level: Pre-K to 2nd grade

Book Brief: Ernie Wan prepares to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

Authors:

Kate Waters and Madeline Slovenz-Low

Photographer: Martha Cooper

Content Connections: Social Studies, Math

TIME TO READ!



BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Look at the cover carefully. What do you notice? What are the children doing? What kind of writing is on the wall in the background? What is a "lion dancer"?

The Pictures: Flip through a few of the pages in the book. Why do you think this book uses photographs instead of drawings? What do the pictures tell you about the boy and his family?

Prior Knowledge: Ask if any students celebrate New Year's with their families. What are some of the things that their families usually do? Do any eat special food on New Year's Day? Explain that different cultures celebrate the new year at different times. Does anyone in the class celebrate the new year on a day other than (or in addition to) January 1?

Vocabulary: apartment, celebrations, kung fu, martial, recognize, envelopes, uniforms

Purpose for Reading: Students can practice asking questions. "As we read the story, think of a question you would like to ask the authors. What would you ask the children in the book?"

WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ Name some of the ways that Ernie practiced for the new year celebration.
- ◆ Why is the Lion Dance important?
- ◆ What are some of the traditional foods Ernie and his family eat?

- ◆ Why do Ernie and Jenny have to get up at 11 PM? What special event happens?
- ◆ Why is Ernie so tired at the end of the book?



LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: Revisit the purpose: "What question would you like to ask the authors?" "Do you have questions for Ernie or Jenny?"

Extending Our Thinking: Ask these open-ended questions: "Why is it important for Ernie to learn to read and write Chinese?" "Why does Ernie stay back when the Buddha leads the big lions close to the firecrackers?" (This is an opportunity to talk about firecracker safety.)

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



PROUDLY SPONSORED BY ★macy's
©2011 Reading Is Fundamental, Inc.

Reading Is Fundamental