

Suki's Kimono

A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

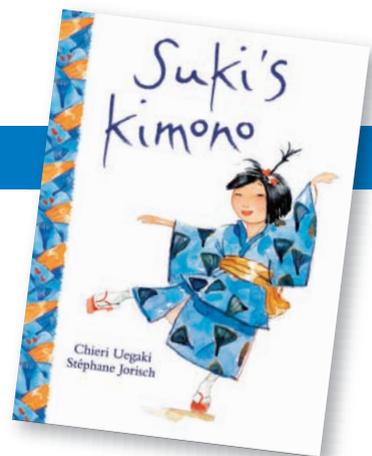
Themes: Self-Confidence, Courage, Global Cultures

Grade Level: K to 2nd grade

Book Brief: A joyful story of a little girl whose spirit leads her to march—and dance—to her own drumbeat.

Author:
Chieri Uegaki

Illustrator:
Stéphane Jorisch



TIME TO READ!

Before reading, make connections: Talk about a time when your child wanted to wear something

special or out of the ordinary to school.

While reading, look at the pictures: How do the pictures help you know how Suki feels during the story? How do the other kids react when she wears her kimono to school?

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ Why did Suki's sisters think she shouldn't wear the kimono?
- ◆ What happened when her class saw Suki in her kimono?
- ◆ How do you know that Penny was already Suki's friend?
- ◆ Do you think Suki is self-confident? How would you have treated Suki if she were in your class?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

EDAMAME (*green soybeans*)

Ingredients: edamame pods (sold in most regular grocery stores), water, salt

Wash edamame pods. Boil water in a small pot. Add 2 tbsp. of salt. Add edamame. Boil for 3-4 minutes. Drain; add salt to taste. Spread edamame on a tray to cool. Pop the seeds out of the pods and enjoy a favorite Japanese snack!

OUT AND ABOUT

If there is a cultural festival near you, take your child. Compare the activities and the food to those in *Suki's Kimono*. You can also experience Japanese culture online: www.web-japan.org/kidsweb/virtual/

PAPER FISH

Materials: 2 sheets of paper, tissue paper, stapler, markers, string

1. Draw or trace a fish on one sheet of paper. Stack the two sheets on top of each other and cut out two identical fish.
2. Cut tissue paper into streamers.
3. Staple fish together. Staple streamers inside the tail so most of streamer is outside the fish.
4. Use markers to decorate head, fins and tail.
5. Punch two holes on the fish's head. Thread some string through the holes. Hang your paper Japanese Koi fish.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



OTHER BOOKS ABOUT JAPANESE CULTURE

Japanese Celebrations: Cherry Blossoms, Lanterns and Stars! by Betty Reynolds (2006), *The Way We Do It in Japan*, Geneva Cobb Iijima (2002).



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