

The Dancing Dragon

A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

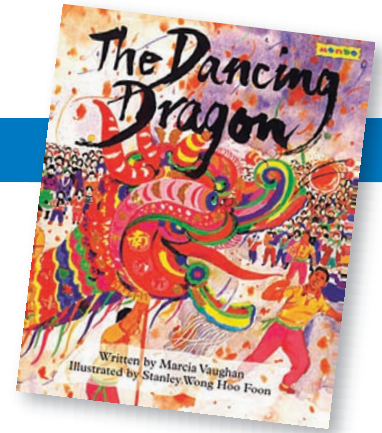
Themes: Chinese-American Culture, Celebrations, Traditions

Grade Level: Pre-K to 2nd grade

Book Brief: A Chinese-American child describes the excitement, preparation and festivities of the Chinese New Year.

Author:
Marcia Vaughan

Photographer:
Stanley Wong
Hoo Foon



TIME TO READ!

Before reading: This book unfolds so you can see all the pages at once. Have kids help you unfold the book to look at the pictures. Explain that different cultures celebrate the new year on different days. Do any of the children celebrate New Year's on a day other than (or in addition to) January 1?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

DANCING DRAGON (AGES 4-9)

Materials: paper, pencil, markers, scissors, tape, 2 straws

Draw the head and tail of a dragon on a piece of paper. Cut out and decorate with bright colors. Fold another piece of paper in half lengthwise. Cut along folded line. Fold each half of the paper like an accordion or fan; unfold. Tape each end of the paper together to make dragon body. Tape the head to one end and the tail to the other end. Attach straws to each end.

FIREWORKS POEM (AGES 9-12)

Write a poem about fireworks. Try to use words that paint a picture of the sound, sight and feelings you get when you watch them. Write your poem on a piece of white paper. Use bright colors to draw fireworks around your poem.

PAINTING FIREWORKS (AGES 4-9)

Materials: black paper, paint, stick or paint brush, straw, glitter (optional)

Give each child a piece of black paper. Drip small drops of brightly colored paint on each paper. Blow paint drops with a straw to make fireworks shapes. Before the paint is dry, have children sprinkle glitter on the paint. Did you know that fireworks were invented in China?



CHINESE ZODIAC (AGES 9-12)

Kids can check out the Chinese Zodiac (www.chinesezodiac.com) to find out the animal for the year they were born. Do the traits of that animal match their personality?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT CHINESE NEW YEAR

The Lion Dancer, Kate Waters and Madeline Slovenz-Low (1991), *Dragon Dance: A Chinese New Year*, Joan Holub (2003), *Celebrating Chinese New Year*, Diane Hoyt-Goldsmith (1999).

TECHNOLOGY LINK FOR KIDS

www.rif.org/kids



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