

# Suki's Kimono

## A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

**Themes:** Self-Confidence, Courage, Global Cultures

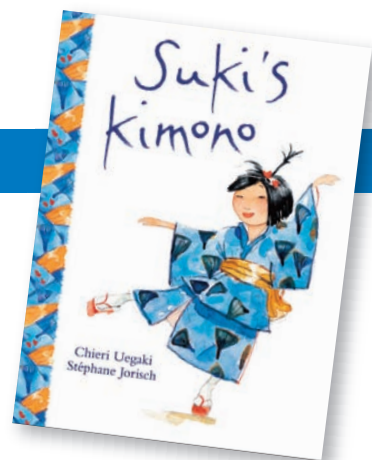
**Grade Level:** K to 2nd grade

**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

**Content Connections:**  
The Arts



## TIME TO READ!

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

**The Cover:** Have students make predictions about the text based on the title and front and back cover illustrations. Is Suki the girl on the cover? What is a kimono? Why is Suki wearing one? What kind of shoes is she wearing? Where do you think she's going?

**The Pictures:** Take a brief picture walk through the book. What do the pictures tell you about the settings of the story? Where and when does it take place?

**Prior Knowledge:** Show the students a map of the world. Point out Japan and the United States. Explain that people who live in the United States come from many cultures. The little girl in this story is a Japanese-American who celebrates both cultures.

**Vocabulary:** festival, graceful, handkerchief, paces, pale, rhythm, snug

**Purpose for Reading:** Students can practice inference. "As we read, think about how the author shows that Suki is self-confident."

## WHILE WE READ

### MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ What does each Japanese word mean? How do you know?
- ◆ Why don't Suki's sisters think she should wear her kimono to school? What are they wearing?
- ◆ Where did Suki get her kimono? Where did she first wear it? Why is it important to her?
- ◆ How does the author describe the taiko drums?

- ◆ How do you think Suki felt when she was teased about her kimono? What clues tell you this? Have you ever been teased for wearing something different?
- ◆ What clues tell you that Penny was already Suki's friend?
- ◆ How do Suki's classmates feel about her kimono at the end of the book? How about her sisters?

## LET'S THINK ABOUT

**Our Purpose:** Revisit the purpose: How do we know that Suki is self-confident? What does it mean to be self-confident?

**Extending Our Thinking:** Think about presents you have gotten from either your grandmother or someone else. Are they "cool"? Are they "weird"? Have you ever gotten a present that *you* think is cool but *your friends* think is weird? How did that feel? What did you do?

### NOTE TO EDUCATORS

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



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