



#10025 HENRY'S FIRST-MOON BIRTHDAY

DISNEY EDUCATIONAL PRODUCTIONS, 2002
Grade Level: 3-6
18 mins.

DESCRIPTION

The "Beyond the Page Café" kids read *Henry's First-Moon Birthday*, a story about a Chinese-American family celebrating Baby Henry's first moon, or one-month birthday. Includes an online visit with author Lenore Look and illustrator Yumi Heo and a segment about the Chinese Lion Dance.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Language Arts–Reading

- Standard: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of literary texts
 - ◆ Benchmark: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand a variety of familiar literary passages and texts (e.g., fairy tales, folktales, fiction, nonfiction, legends, fables, myths, poems, nursery rhymes, picture books, predictable books) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1 and 2.)
- Standard: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of informational texts
 - ◆ Benchmark: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand a variety of familiar literary passages and texts (e.g., fairy tales, folktales, fiction, nonfiction, legends, fables, myths, poems, nursery rhymes, picture books, predictable books) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 2.)
- Standard: Uses the general skills and strategies of the reading process
 - ◆ Benchmark: Uses personal criteria to select reading material (e.g., personal interest, knowledge of authors and genres, text difficulty, recommendations of others) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 2 and 3.)
 - ◆ Benchmark: Understands the author's purpose (e.g., to persuade, to inform) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1 and 3.)

Subject Area: Language Arts–Viewing

- Standard: Uses viewing skills and strategies to understand and interpret visual media
 - ◆ Benchmark: Understands different messages conveyed through visual media (e.g., main ideas and supporting details; facts and opinions; main characters, setting, and sequence of events in visual narratives) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1.)

Subject Area: Language Arts–Listening and Speaking

- Standard: Uses listening and speaking strategies for different purposes
 - ◆ Benchmark: Understands that language reflects different regions and cultures (e.g., sayings; expressions; usage; oral traditions and customs; historical, geographical, and societal influences on language) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 5.)

Subject Area: Geography–Human Systems

- Standard: Understands the nature and complexity of Earth's cultural mosaics
 - ◆ Benchmark: Knows the basic components of culture (e.g., language, social organization, beliefs and customs, forms of shelter, economic activities, education systems) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1 and 4.)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To show the book *Henry's First Moon Birthday* by Lenore Look and generate a thorough understanding of the story.
2. To promote the reading of children's literature, especially books by this author, illustrator, or about this subject matter.
3. To introduce the author and illustrator of the book and hear their ideas and suggestions.
4. To depict Chinese-American culture and traditional Chinese celebrations.
5. To introduce some Chinese words and phrases and their meanings.

VOCABULARY

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. advice | 11. in charge |
| 2. a.k.a. | 12. ink |
| 3. birthday | 13. lion dance |
| 4. celebration | 14. manuscript |
| 5. Chinese | 15. martial art |
| 6. dye | 16. pair |
| 7. first moon | 17. references |
| 8. ginger | 18. side by side |
| 9. good luck | 19. sip |
| 10. grandmother | 20. tradition |

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Discuss Chinese-American foods, holidays, and other traditions. Share things already known and personal experiences with the Chinese culture.
2. Talk about how difficult it can be for an older sibling to accept a new baby in the family. Discuss how other family members can help the older sibling feel better.
3. Read the book *Henry's First-Moon Birthday* by Lenore Look. Discuss why Jenny's grandmother is staying with them. Share similar experiences.

DURING SHOWING

1. View the video more than once, with one showing uninterrupted.
2. The book is narrated very quickly. Consider pausing occasionally for clarification or to point out details.

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. What clues did the kids in the "Beyond the Page Café" have to help them guess that the story would have something to do with China? What Chinese word did Shelley introduce?
2. What is a first-moon birthday? Why is it called a "first-moon" birthday and not a "first-month" birthday?
3. What did the character Jenny mean when she said that she was *in charge* of the house since her mother had a baby? Who has really been in charge of the house?
4. What things did Jenny's grandmother cook for the party? Are these things you would have at a first-month birthday party? How did Jenny help?
5. Describe how Jenny and her grandmother wrote names. Where did grandmother write good luck words?
6. Why did mother clean the house like a tornado?
7. Describe how Jenny and her grandmother dyed eggs red. Compare this to how you die eggs. What else are the *hungbaus* used for?
8. Who came to the first-moon birthday party?
9. What did Jenny and her cousins do with the knuckles after they ate the pigs' feet?
10. How much money did Baby Henry get? How does that compare to how much money you get on a birthday? Do you think this was more because it was a first-moon birthday?
11. What did Jenny's grandmother say about Jenny before she left? How did this make Jenny feel?
12. Discuss ways that Jenny's grandmother helped Jenny adjust to having a baby brother. Share personal experiences similar to that.
13. How did Jenny's feelings about her baby brother change throughout the story?
14. How did the author, Lenore Look, get the idea for the book?

15. What three things did Lenore Look suggest for someone who wants to be a writer? Why is it important to read, write, and observe?
16. Describe how the illustrator, Yumi Heo, became a book illustrator. What did Yumi Heo do before starting the illustrations for *Henry's First-Moon Birthday*?
17. Name some other Chinese celebrations. What do you almost always see at a Chinese celebration? What kind of movements do the lion dancers do?
18. Describe the traditional Chinese things that Shelley provided for the kids at the Café.

Applications and Activities

1. Read the book *Henry's First-Moon Birthday* by Lenore Look. Read other books about Chinese Americans.
2. Conduct a celebrations survey with other students and family members.
 - a. Prepare questions about what people do to celebrate birthdays and other festive occasions.
 - b. Interview people who follow customs that originated in other countries or that reflect other cultures.
 - c. Report the results of the surveys.
 - d. Locate on a world map the country in which each custom originated.
3. Formulate original questions for the author and illustrator. Send the questions to Lenore Look and Yumi Heo: c/o Anne Schwartz Books, Atheneum Books for Young Readers, Simon & Schuster; 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020-1513.
4. Look at the illustrations of Jenny and GninGnin cooking. Notice the various items "floating" in the picture.
 - a. Compare that to the illustrations when they have breakfast or when Jenny is cleaning up the ink. Discuss why the illustrations might be so different in style.
 - b. Draw or paint funny pictures of yourself cooking a favorite meal or doing another activity with an older family member. Try including "floating" items.
5. Investigate more about Chinese-American customs. Share findings with the class.
6. Review the Chinese words in the story. (Note the glossary on the first page of the book.) Find words in other common languages that mean the same thing. Create a dictionary.
7. Introduce similes as a writing technique that makes the story more visual. Review the similes in the story. Create unique similes based on these and illustrate them. Examples:
 - a. "His face is as round as the moon."
 - b. "My stomach growls like a bear."
 - c. "Her face becomes gray like a rainy day."
 - d. "Her face is pink again like the salmon on crushed ice."
 - e. "She cleans like a tornado."
 - f. "We are a pair like favorite shoes, side by side."



- g. "That makes us a pair, like matching socks, side by side."
8. Invite a Chinese American to share cultural information with the class. Allow time for questions.
9. Get real ink and brushes, and learn to write Chinese words.

SUMMARY

1. Synopsis of the video: At the Beyond the Page Café, "today's special" is *Henry's First-Moon Birthday*, written by Lenore Look and illustrated by Yumi Heo. Our host Shelley reads the story aloud to the Café's guests as we view an animation of Heo's illustrations. The illustrator combined paint and paper collages to create fun, vibrant scenes. After reading the story, the children have an online chat with Lenore Look, who gives some background to the story and advice to writers, and with the illustrator, Yumi Heo, who explains her background as an illustrator. Next the kids watch a video about Chinese tradition.
2. Synopsis of the book: Jenny's baby brother, Henry, is having a party for his first moon, his one-month birthday. At first Jenny's not sure Henry deserves a big party, since he just eats, cries, and sleeps. All day long, Jenny helps GninGnin, her grandmother, get ready. They dye eggs red for good luck, cook pigs' feet and ginger soup, and write good luck notes in Chinese. At the party, Jenny feels proud when her grandmother praises her hard work. Someday, she will tell Henry how lucky he was that his big sister was in charge of his first-moon birthday party.

CMP RELATED RESOURCES

- [Chuckie #2267](#)
- [Just a Little Red Dot #8786](#)

World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

• LET'S LEARN ABOUT CHINA

http://zone.cps.k12.il.us/Showcase/Student_Projects/China/china.html

Scroll down to see the China menu under the picture on the opening page. This site was designed for first graders and has information on making kites, Chinese food, and counting in Chinese, along with other activities.

- **DISCOVERING CHINA WITH ABC'S**

<http://www.fi.edu/fellows/fellow1/apr99/abc/>

This cute ABC slide show was made by a third grade class. Each letter provides some information about something Chinese and also has a student drawing. For example, C is for Chopsticks. Simple, yet very appropriate for young elementary age students.



- **ASK ASIA**

<http://askasia.org>

This site from the Asia Society is focused on Asia. For educators there are lesson plans, online resources, annotated bibliographies, and reviews of recent Asia-related curricular materials. More links are available.

- **CHINESE CHARACTERS**

<http://logos.uoregon.edu/explore/orthography/chinese.html>

Read about the origin of Chinese character writing and see samples of various words Chinese words.

- **CHINATOWN LOS ANGELES**

<http://www.chinatownla.com>

Go to this Web site to see what the Los Angeles Chinatown looks like and has to offer. Visit the "Photo Gallery," where you can view photos of Chinatown from the 1940s, or investigate its other sites that are listed in the "Links" section.