

SAM AND THE LUCKY MONEY

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Book by Karen Chinn, illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright & Ying-Hwa Hu

Themes: Chinese Culture/ Decision Making

Grade Level: K-3

Running Time: 11:00

SUMMARY

This Chinese New Year, Sam's parents tell him that he may spend his "lucky" money on anything he wants. When he arrives at the festivities in Chinatown, he is tempted by many nice things. But a homeless man without shoes or socks helps Sam decide on the best way of all to spend his "lucky" money.

OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn Chinese customs and celebrations.
- Children will explore decision making.
- Children will investigate the value of money.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Share the book *Sam And The Lucky Money* with the children. Then ask:

- What did Sam's grandparents give him to use during the Chinese New Year celebrations?
- Who did Sam meet during the festivities?
- What did Sam decide to do with his money at the end of the story?
- How do you think Sam felt as he left Chinatown at the end of the day?

Talk with the children about the different ways they celebrate the New Year. Encourage them to compare and contrast their own celebrations with

those of the Chinese New Year. Ask:

- Which of Sam's New year traditions would you like to try?
- Which of your own traditions would you like to share with Sam?
- What special foods do you have that you would like to introduce to Sam?

Collect library books that describe the Chinese New Year, sharing pictures, photographs and information with children. Plan a Chinese New Year celebration in your own classroom.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Talk with children about the decision Sam made to share his money with the man in need. Ask:

- What would you do if you had seen the same man on the sidewalk?
- What kinds of things can you do to help those who have less than you do?
- How do you feel when you help others?
- How do you think others feel when they know they are being cared for?

Explain to children that rice is very important to the diets of Chinese people. Investigate some rice dishes and cook up a rice recipe with the children. See if you can find a recording of some traditional

Chinese music and have children listen as they enjoy the rice dish.

If possible, invite a guest knowledgeable in Chinese customs and traditions to the classroom to share this information with the children. Encourage children to ask questions of the visitor.

Have children work together to paint a mural of a Chinese dragon. Encourage children to make the dragon as colorful and fanciful as possible. When dry, supply art materials such as pom poms, glitter, crepe paper, ribbon, etc. that children can attach to the dragon to make it even more dramatic.

OTHER VIDEOS AND FILMS ABOUT CHINESE CULTURE AVAILABLE FROM WESTON WOODS

INCLUDE:

THE FIVE CHINESE BROTHERS, by Claire Huchet Bishop, illustrated by Kurt Wiese
THE STORY ABOUT PING, by Majorie Flack
TIKKI TIKKI TEMBO, by Arlene Mosel, illustrated by Blair Lent

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