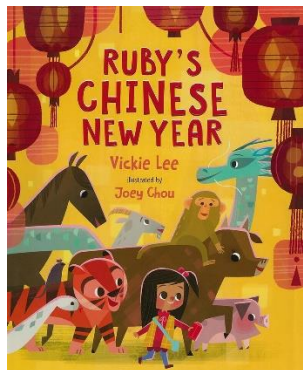


Book of the month: Ruby's Chinese New Year by Vickie Lee (4-8 years old)

Introducing the book:



Exploring the Cover:

Look at the cover. Ask children to name the animals they see. Explain to them that the objects they see hanging are Chinese lanterns, and they are a symbol of celebration for Chinese New Year.

Building Background:

Ask children if they celebrate the Chinese New Year, also called the Lunar New Year. Explain to children the difference between the solar calendar and the lunar calendar. Make a list of the animals the children think will appear in the book. Explain to them this year is the Year of the tiger.

Reading the book:

-As you read the book, compare the animals listed by the children to the ones shown in the book. They all reveal a tradition, a type of food or a tradition related to this celebration.

- Make a list of those items, such as fish, dumplings, rice cake, lanterns, ribbons, cards, etc. and make a list of those items to be displayed in the class.

- At the end of the story, the author explains why those animals were chosen to be in the Chinese Zodiac and what they represent. Ask children to name their favourite animals.

After reading the book:

Paper lanterns:



Resource: <http://www.sheenalovessunsets.com/cny-crafts/>

- Print a paper lantern template (link above).
- Cut some red paper into squares.
- Provide some crayons, tape/glue and let children decorate the lantern.
- Cut out the lantern template after decorating
- Attach a yellow square paper at the bottom (Taped it at the back) and let children cut it to make vertical stripes.
- Attach a strip of yellow paper at the top to make the handle.

Chinese Zodiac Stick Puppets:

Children can use these when rereading the book!

- Download a set of Chinese Zodiac animal clipart (link below)
- Children cut and colour them.
- Stick them on popsicle sticks.

Making drawings for good luck:

Ask children to draw on a piece of paper nice things they wish for the Chinese New Year and display them on a poster or the classroom wall.

Link for the templates here:

<https://kiddyhouse.com/CNY/tangloong.html>

<http://coloringway.com/education/zodiac-signs-coloring-pages.htm>