

Why We Eat Fried Peanuts

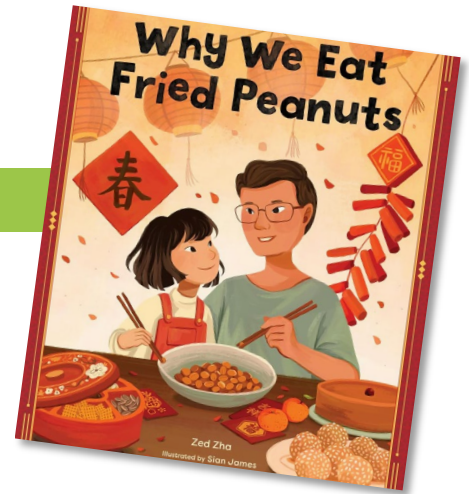
READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Chinese Culture, Family, Lunar New Year, Traditions

Book Brief: Mèng, a Chinese American girl, prepares for the Lunar New Year festivities and learns a lesson about kindness through the story of Tài Nǎi Nai, her great-grandmother.

Author:
Zed Zha

Illustrator:
Sian James



BEFORE READING

The Cover: Read the title. Ask, “Why do you think the girl and her dad are eating peanuts?” (Optional: Pair Share)

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

The Pictures: Flip through some of the pictures. What do you notice about the family? What do you think they are doing?

Purpose for Reading: “As we read, think about what Mèng learns about the importance of family and traditions.”

Prior Knowledge: This story is about Lunar New Year. Use RIF’s [Why We Eat Fried Peanuts Anticipation Guide](#) to activate students’ prior knowledge, build curiosity about the topic, and set a purpose for reading.

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- Why does Mèng’s dad say they eat fried peanuts every New Year?
- Who is Tài Nǎi Nai? What is she like?
- Why doesn’t the family know Tài Nǎi Nai’s name?
- How does Tài Nǎi Nai help the mother and her baby?
- What happened to Little Peanut when he grew up?
- What do you think Mèng’s dad means when he says, “a small snack can have a big meaning?”

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: What did Mèng learn about her family’s legends? What traditions or legends are important in your family? (Optional: Pair Share)

Extending Our Thinking: This book was a fictional story that included facts about Lunar New Year. Extend your students’ thinking, practice independent or partner reading, and reinforce vocabulary from the story with RIF’s accompanying [Nonfiction Reading Passage](#).

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more by reading other books about Lunar New Year such as [Goldy Luck and the Three Pandas](#) and [The Dancing Dragon](#).