

# The Dancing Dragon

## A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

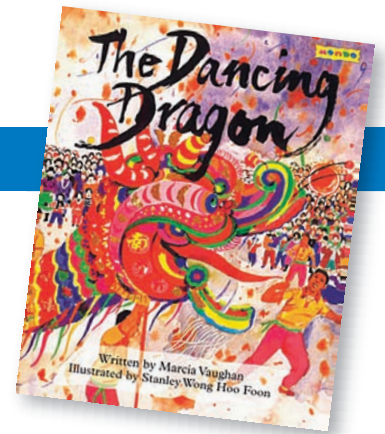
**Themes:** Chinese-American Culture, Celebrations, Traditions

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

**Book Brief:** A Chinese-American child describes the excitement, preparation and festivities of the Chinese New Year.

**Author:**  
Marcia Vaughan

**Photographer:**  
Stanley Wong  
Hoo Foon



## TIME TO READ!

**Before reading, look at the pictures:** This book folds out so you can see all of the pages at once. Unfold the book and look at the story all

together. What's going on in the pictures?

**While reading, point out the rhyming words:** The story is written like a poem. Can your child guess the rhyming word to finish the next sentence?

**After reading, ask questions:**

- ◆ Why are the people decorating?
- ◆ Why do you think the loud noise would chase bad luck away?
- ◆ Why do you think the dragon comes at the end of the parade?



## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### LONG LIFE NOODLES WITH PEANUT SAUCE

Ingredients: 2 tbs. peanut butter, 1/4 c. hot water, 3 tbs. soy sauce, 1 tsp. honey, 4 c. Chinese-style noodles or spaghetti

In large bowl, stir peanut butter with water until creamy. Add soy sauce and honey. Set aside. Cook noodles according to package. Drain cooked noodles. Add to the bowl with peanut butter mixture and toss well. Refrigerate until ready to eat.



### OUT AND ABOUT

Many major cities have a big parade or celebration for the Chinese New Year. Check to see if there's one near you. Talk with your child about your own New Year's traditions. Maybe you can think up a new one together!

### UNDERWATER "FIREWORKS"

Materials: water, oil, food coloring, tall clear glass, another glass or cup, fork

Fill tall glass with warm water. Pour 1-2 tablespoons of oil in the other glass. Add a few drops of food coloring. Stir mixture briefly. Pour oil and food coloring mixture into the glass of water. As the food coloring sinks to the bottom of the glass, each drop will explode outward like a firework!

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### OTHER BOOKS ABOUT CHINESE NEW YEAR

*The Lion Dancer*, Kate Waters and Madeline Slovenz-Low (1991),  
*Dragon Dance: A Chinese New Year*, Joan Holub (2003),  
*Celebrating Chinese New Year*, Diane Hoyt-Goldsmith (1999).



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