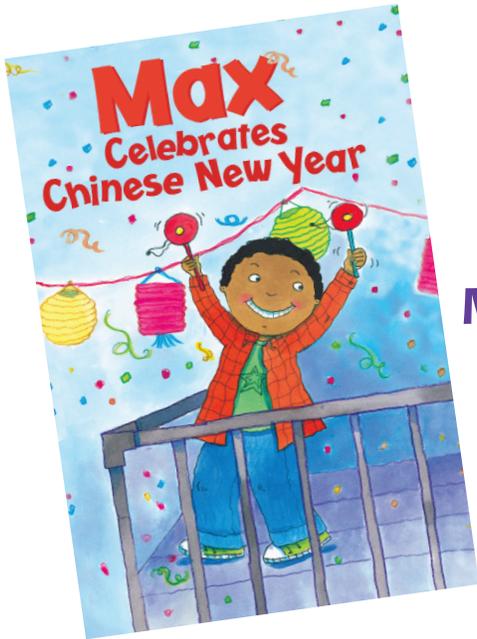


CREATIVE DRAMATICS

Picture Window™
Books



Max Celebrates Chinese New Year

by Adria F. Klein

Characters: Max
Lily

Props: Table and table cloth
Fake flowers
Oranges
Cleaning supplies (broom, dust rag, etc.)

Genre: Realistic fiction

Ages: 4-6

Max Celebrates Chinese New Year page 1

NOTES TO THE LEADER OF THE CREATIVE DRAMATICS SESSION

Before acting out the story, read *Max Celebrates Chinese New Year* to the entire class.

The leader/narrator of the creative dramatics session needs to give clear, simple clues to the children who are acting out the story. First, select the children who will be playing the separate parts. Max can be played by two individuals or by a group. The same for Lily and her parents.

The leader might want to ask the children to describe the characters before the session begins. For example, "What are words to describe Max and Lily?" Answers could include friendly, curious, smart, happy, excited, etc. Also, "What are words to describe Chinese New Year?"

The children can act out the story from their chairs, sitting on the floor, or by standing in clearly marked places where the action will take place. The front of the room could be Lily's house. It is always a good idea to make sure that all the characters and locations (if you decide to use them) are clearly established before the play session begins.

Narrator: Max and Lily are good friends.

Lily asks Max, "Do you want to come to a party with my family?"

Lily: Do you want to come to a party with my family?

Narrator: *(Narrator could prompt, "Have you been invited to a party before? What was it for? Who invited you? What did you do at the party?")*

Max says he would love to come.

Max: I would love to come!

Narrator: *(Narrator could prompt, "Max sounds excited! How do you show that you're excited or happy?")*

Lily tells Max that tomorrow is the first day of Chinese New Year.

Lily: Tomorrow is the first day of Chinese New Year.

Narrator: Lily is very excited.

Lily: *(Lily claps her hands and acts excited.)*

Narrator: Lily tells Max that the Chinese New Year is like the New Year's Day he celebrates.

Lily: Chinese New Year is like the New Year's Day you celebrate, Max.

Max Celebrates Chinese New Year page 2

Narrator: Max celebrates on January 1.

(Narrator could prompt, "Have you celebrated New Year's in the past? What did you do?")

The Chinese New Year takes place in January or February.

(Can you think of any other holidays that are celebrated in January or February? What about Valentine's Day?)

Lily tells Max that Chinese New Year lasts fifteen days.

Lily: Chinese New Year lasts fifteen days.

Narrator: Lily's family celebrates each day in special ways.

(Narrator could ask, "What are some ways your family celebrates different holidays? Do you get a tree for Christmas? Does anyone celebrate a holiday other than Christmas? What do you do?")

Max tells Lily he can't wait to come to her party.

Max: I can't wait to come to your party!

Narrator: Lily and her parents get ready for the party. They clean the house.

(Show how they clean the house or clean up their desks or cubbies. One child could sweep, one could dust, pick up toys, etc.)

Max says he will help clean the house.

Max: I will help clean the house!

Narrator: Max and Lily put a red cloth on the table.

Max and Lily: *(Spread a tablecloth over a table.)*

Narrator: Lily tells Max red is for good luck.

Lily: Red is for good luck!

Narrator: Lily puts flowers on the table. She tells Max that flowers are for happiness.

Lily: *(Puts flowers on the table with tablecloth.)* Flowers are for happiness!

Narrator: *(What are some other things that make you happy? Can you think of anything special you put out to celebrate holidays?)*

Max Celebrates Chinese New Year page 3

Narrator: Max puts oranges on the table. He says oranges are for good luck too!

(Puts oranges on the table with the flowers.)

Max: Oranges are for good luck, too!

Narrator: *(Narrator could prompt, "Do you have anything that's lucky? Like a lucky penny? Why do you think it's lucky?")*

The next day, Lily, her parents, and Max wear new clothes for the Chinese New Year.

They eat sweet rice. They eat cookies and sweet candy, too. Max and Lily say the food is yummy!

Max and Lily: This food is yummy!

Narrator: *("What are some of your favorite foods to eat? Is there something your mom or another family member always cooks at holidays that's extra yummy?")*

Lily and Max have a lot of fun watching the dragon parade.

(Students can act out the dragon parade.)

Max tells Lily he wants to celebrate Chinese New Year with her every year!

Max: I want to celebrate Chinese New Year with you every year!

Narrator: Max and Lily are good friends.

THE END