



READ YOUR WORLD



Themes

- Chinese celebrations
- cultural awareness
- customs & traditions
- family
- community
- gratitude

Cross-Curricular Connections

Geography

- China
- United States

Literacy

- sequence of events
- vocabulary
- summarizing
- narrative writing
- subject/predicate
- synonyms

Science

- moon phases

Language

- Chinese

Art

- Foil Stamping/Printing

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Thanking the Moon

Celebrating the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival

Go on a nighttime picnic with a Chinese-American family that is celebrating the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival – one of the most anticipated holidays of the lunar year.



Under a brightly lit sky, the family prepares to honor and thank the moon for bringing them together. From arranging the offering table to pouring the tea, everyone helps with the traditions that make this celebration unique.

Grace Lin's simple text and beautiful illustrations make the story easy to follow and engage young readers in identifying the special traditions of the Moon Festival.

Activities

➤ Identify Festival Traditions

Make a list of the traditions of the Mid-Autumn Festival.

➤ Make a Celebration Wall

Dedicate a space in your classroom for displaying student examples of Gratitude, Wishes, and Moon Art.

Gratitude & Wishes

In the book, we see how the family closes their eyes to thank the moon for bringing them together and to make secret wishes. Ask students to close their eyes and think about what they would thank the moon for. What would their secret wishes be?

- Use sentence strips to have students finish the sentence:
Thank you moon for...
- For the secret wishes, well they are secret, so students can write those on a piece of paper and seal them in an envelope with their name on the front.

Moon Art

You can't celebrate the Mid-Autumn festival without moons. Complete your *Celebration Wall* with moons.

Find links to moon crafts (and lots more) on our [blog post](#).

www.globetrottinkids.com/mid-autumn-festival/





➤ Use these sentences from the story to review a variety of skills.

Ma-Ma prepares the nighttime picnic.

Ba-Ba arranges the moon-honoring table.

Mei-Mei plays with the pomelo peel.

Jie-Jie brings out the lanterns.

I pour the round cups of tea.

We eat soft, sweet mooncakes.

We thank the moon for bringing us together and send it our secret wishes.

❖ Sequence of Events

Present the sentences out of order. Have students arrange the events to show the correct sequence of the story. Use the text for support as needed.

❖ Subject & Predicate

Ask students to identify the subject (*who or what the sentence is about*) and the predicate (*tells what the subject does or is*).

Can they identify the sentence with a compound predicate?

❖ Change the Verb

Ask students to identify the verb(s) in the sentence, and brainstorm synonyms that could replace it. (prepares: *makes, creates, arranges...*)

❖ Chinese Vocabulary

Review the Chinese character names used in the story. Ma-Ma, Ba-Ba, Mei-Mei (younger sister) and Jie-Jie (older sister).

Teach students how to say "thank you." xiè xiè (*syeh-syeh*)

❖ Illustrated Summary

Have students draw or paint a scene that represents the important traditions of the Mid-Autumn Festival. Great for sharing and retelling!



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