

Interdisciplinary Ideas

LANGUAGE ARTS

1. Together make a "story door." Cover your room door with wrapping paper. Indicate the title of the story and the author's name; write the attribute JUSTICE in English and Chinese (See *Teacher's Guide, Resources*); draw, color, and cut out main characters; write New Year's wishes for the old man; and add festival objects such as leisees. Decorate the door for all to see.
 2. Make copies of the illustrated story, "Ralph Helps the People Keep Warm."* Read the story with a partner and together create your own illustrated story about helping someone in need. Compile class stories in a booklet.
 3. Ask the librarian to help you find stories and poems about China with dragons in them. Write your own story or poem about a dragon and make a dragon to accompany your story (see Art #1).
- * Visit www.heartwoodethics.org and choose Teaching Heartwood, Activities, Primary, for the illustrated story "Ralph Helps the People Keep Warm," and comic strip story paper.

ART

Find directions online for making Chinese dragons. (Keyword: Chinese New Year crafts dragon) Bring empty egg cartons to school, assemble supplies, and follow the directions.

MATH

1. Show many different combinations that add up to four dollars (e.g., 16 quarters).
2. Find out how much warm socks might cost. Will the old man have money left over? If so, how much? If not, how much more does he need?

Sam and the Lucky Money

*Karen Chin
1995
New York: Lee & Low*

JUSTICE

*Chinese American
Realistic Fiction
Reading Time: 7 minutes*

CONCEPTS

**Justice
Caring
Generosity**

SUMMARY

Sam receives the traditional New Year's gift of "lucky money" from his grandparents. He excitedly sets out to spend it, only to meet an elderly man huddling in the cold with no socks or shoes. Sam responds generously and learns that for the needy person four dollars is a treasure. Children will respond to the story's simple depiction of the injustice of poverty in the midst of plenty. Vibrant watercolor paintings by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu celebrate the sights and sounds of festive Chinatown streets.

OBJECTIVES

The student will be able to identify, define, and discuss justice, caring, and generosity as they apply to this story. The student will become aware of ways to share with those who are less fortunate.

After the Story

Sam and the Lucky Money

DISCUSSION

1. Why does Sam have money to spend? What is "lucky money?" Why do you think the old man doesn't have "lucky money?" Does that seem fair? Why or why not? Find examples of justice and injustice (fairness and unfairness) in this story.
2. What was Sam's reaction when he first saw the old man? All through the story, Sam's mind goes back to the old man. Why?
3. Why doesn't Sam buy the things he wants? How does the old man react when Sam's mother gives him a quarter? Why does this surprise Sam?
4. Why does Sam give the man all his lucky money? How do you think he feels afterwards? Look at the last illustration in the book. How does Sam's family feel about what he does with the money?
5. Sam is generous and caring. How could you be generous and caring to a needy person?

ACTIVITIES

1. Locate a city such as New York or San Francisco on the world map. (These cities have large Chinese American communities.)
2. Find out how your class can help people like the man in the story. With a parent, older sibling, or school volunteer research ways children have helped those who are homeless. (Keyword: kids help homeless)
3. Invite someone from a social service agency to speak to your class about ways your community helps needy people. Choose a service project, make a plan, and carry it out.
4. Make leisees. Decorate with gold paint and glitter, and fill each leisee with a certificate or coupon promising to do a kind deed for someone you know. Give the leisees as an act of friendship and love.

WRAP-UP

1. In *My Heartwood Journal* draw a picture of yourself sharing. Write a sentence explaining your picture.
2. Imagine a just world where everyone is treated fairly. Draw or write about what you would see in this kind of world. Share with the class.

EXTENSION

1. Complete Home Connection pages and take home to share with families.
2. Ask grownups at home to tell about times they were able to share with someone in need.

VOCABULARY

leisees (lay-sees)
dispersed
fanfare

devoured
festival
embossed

mandarin
halt
reluctantly

Chinese junk