

# The Dancing Dragon

## A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

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

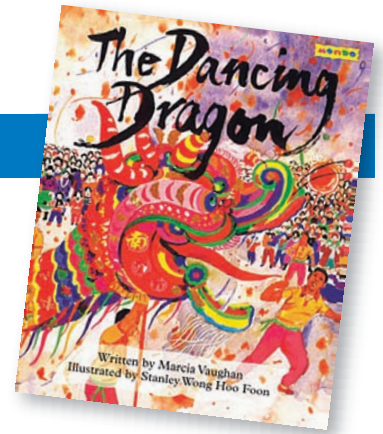
**Grade Level:** Pre-K to 2nd grade

**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

**Content Connections:** Art, Social Studies, Science



## TIME TO READ!

### BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

**The Cover:** Have students make predictions about the text based on the title and

front cover illustrations. Where do they think this story takes place? When? How can a dragon dance?

**The Pictures:** This book folds out so that all the pages can be seen at once. Have students help you unfold the book to look at the pictures. What do the pictures show? What do you notice about the people in the pictures? How are they dressed?

**Prior Knowledge:** Find out what students know about the Chinese New Year. Point out China on a map or

globe. Briefly describe how the ancient Chinese used a lunar calendar, so the Chinese New Year falls on a different date each year. Make sure to tell students that the holiday is celebrated in places other than China. Do any of the children celebrate New Year's on a day other than (or in addition to) January 1?

**Vocabulary:** scrolls, charge (charging), lantern, kin, whirls

**Purpose for Reading:** Students can practice listening for rhyming words. "This story is written as a poem. It has a lot of words that rhyme. As we read today, listen for words that have the same ending sounds, like *floor* and *store*."



## WHILE WE READ

### MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ Why are the people working so hard to clean up?
- ◆ How do you think the loud noises chase bad luck away?

- ◆ Why are the people so excited?
- ◆ Does the dragon really have feet?
- ◆ Why does the dragon need sixty dancers?

## LET'S THINK ABOUT

**Our Purpose:** Revisit the purpose: "Let's look back and see if we can find some of the rhyming words in the story."

**Extending Our Thinking:** Encourage students to explore deeper into the text by asking how the celebration in this story compares to the traditional American New Year's celebration. How are the two celebrations alike? How are they different? Make a Venn diagram or chart on the board to compare them. Did the celebration in the story remind students of any other holidays?

### NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



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