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This Next New Year



Synopsis

Celebrating the Chinese New YearA young boy looks forward to Chinese New Year - also known as the Lunar New Year, the day of the first new moon. It is a time of hope, and you don't have to be Chinese to celebrate it! His best friend, Glenn, who is French and German, and his cousin Evelyn, part Hopi and part Mexican, like the food and the envelopes of money, while he celebrates the fresh start the day offers. He cleans the house to make room for luck, and is glad the palms of his hands itch - that means he is coming into money. Most of all, he vows not to say things such as "can't do / don't have / why me" because he has dreams he is ready to make come true. Janet S. Wong's spare, lyrical couplets voice a child's determination to face the new year with courage and optimism. Yangsook Choi captures the spirit of celebration in her vibrant, energetic pictures.

Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Frances Foster Books - Farrar, Straus and Giroux; 1st edition (September 18, 2000)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.5 x 10.2 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #920,408 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #50 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Chinese New Year #338 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Asian & Asian American #562 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Non-religious

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool and up

Customer Reviews

I read this beautifully illustrated book to my class of 25 preschoolers on Chinese New Year's day. They loved it! They could so identify with the young boy and his quest for good luck. One student exclaimed at the end of the book..."that's it, I'm going right home to clean my closet!" I overheard several children saying that their palms were itching. I have a very diverse group of children this year, from many countries, so this book really spoke to them.I highly recommend it!

I sent this to my grandson who is now living in Hong Kong and he loves it so much he sleeps with it. He is almost 3 and insists on having this read to him every night. I think it makes him feel more at home in this new place by incorporating the Chinese traditions that he experienced for the first time this year. Although I haven't read it, I can only comment on it from a child's point of view, and that should be a good barometer for other children.

My 4-yr-old son has three shelves of children's books in his closet, and out of all them this is my favorite. The beautiful flow of the text makes it a joy to read every time!

My small daughter was thoroughly entertained by this prettily-illustrated book about a little boy who is trying hard to ensure luck in the Chinese New Year. Even I learned a little bit about the celebration. I appreciated that it mentioned that even people who were not Chinese celebrated the holiday; that's a great message for young readers. Highly recommended.

Lunar Year Traditions by Janet S. Wong: Ice Cubes at the Door: A Survey of Lunar New Year Traditions <http://multiculturalchildrensbookday.com/ice-cubes-at-the-door-a-survey-of-lunar-new-year-traditions-by-janet-wong/>

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