

Lesson Title: China through Children's Literature

Class and Grade level(s): Kindergarten

Goals and Objectives

The student will:

- gain appreciation of others
- understand the definitions of the words embroidery, lantern, calligraphy, and Chinese New Year
- actively listen to the story being read
- compare and contrast Ruby's family life to their own
- understand that the world has many different foods and celebrations
- locate China on the map and create their own copy of the Chinese flag

Time required/class periods needed

Lesson 1: 40 minutes (Literature session/geography/flag)

Lesson 2: 30 minutes (Silkworms/Embroidery)

Lesson 3: 40 minutes (Writing Systems-Calligraphy)

Lesson 4: 30 minutes (Chinese New Year)

Lesson 5: 45 minutes (Building Lantern)

Primary source bibliography



China Map



The United States





silk worms



Chinese Lanterns

Other resources used

Ruby's Wish by Shirin Yim Bridges

Embroidery: The Development of Embroidery Throughout Chinese History handbook #25

Lion Dancer Ernie Wan's Chinese New Year by Kate Waters and Madeline Slovenz-Low

www.shirleys-preschool-activities.com/preschool-lesson-plan-china.html

Teachers' Guide to *Ruby's Wish*: http://www.chroniclebooks.com/landing-pages/pdfs/Ruby_wish.pdf

Required materials/supplies

Lesson 1: *Ruby's Wish* by Shirin Yim Bridges, text vocabulary, geography, flags (either coloring <http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/china-flag-colouring-page> or collage)

Lesson 2: *Ruby's Wish* by Shirin Yim Bridges, *Embroidery: The Development of Embroidery throughout Chinese History handbook #25*, Silk worm image

Lesson 3: *Ruby's Wish* by Shirin Yim Bridges, paper, calligraphy pins

Lesson 4: *Lion Dancer Ernie Wan's Chinese New Year* by Kate Waters and Madeline Slovenz-Low

Lesson 5: *Ruby's Wish* by Shirin Yim Bridges, construction paper, crayons, glue, string, markers, gold foil paper, colorful wrapping paper, tissue paper, and thin colored paper, water, and stapler

Vocabulary

Lesson 1: market, terrapins, porcelain, celebration, calligraphy, embroidery, poem, lantern, university, China. Chinese New Year

Lesson 2: silkworms, embroidery

Lesson 3: calligraphy

Lesson 4: Chinese New Year, lion dance, wok, uniforms, ceremony, Buddha, red envelope

Lesson 5: lantern, lantern festival

Procedure

Lesson 1:

Anticipatory Set: Have you ever made a wish? What was the wish for? Did your wish come true? (Share with a partner)

1. Show students cover of book, identify the author and illustrator
2. Question: What does an author do? What does an illustrator do?
3. Read-aloud *Ruby's Wish* by Shirin Yim Bridges
4. Students play vocabulary bingo
 - a. Prepare and print out a large Bingo Board for the class.
 - b. Write a list of vocabulary words on the board. Write the definition for each word on an index card.
 - c. Read-aloud the definition and call on students to make the match.
5. After reading the text, ask the following questions for comprehension:
 - a. Where did the story take place?
 - b. In discussion, point out that while Ruby had a wish, she also worked hard toward making her wish come true. What can you do to make your own wishes come true?
 - c. Chinese customs: Did you notice things that were different from your life? (roles of men and women, family relationships and structure, types of clothing, etc.)
6. Have students examine the map and find China.
7. Students locate the United States and the state of Kansas on the map.
 - a. Ask students to compare and contrast the United States flag with the Chinese flag
 - b. Have students create their own Chinese flag
 - c. Display flags in classroom

Lesson 2:

1. Reread text, *Ruby's Wish* by Shirin Yim Bridges
2. Talk about silk worms
3. Questions: What is the importance of a silk worm? What is the job of the silk worm? What can be made from their cocoons?
4. Share aloud the Lady Xi Ling Shi "Yellow Emperor" story
<http://womenrockscience.tumblr.com/post/71698653529/meet-leizu-the-legendary-chinese-empress-who-is>
5. Define embroidery and show images from the *Embroidery: The Development of Embroidery Throughout Chinese History handbook #25*
6. Embroidery combines painting and calligraphy and presents traditional Chinese culture through its colorful threads.

Lesson 3:

1. Review-text *Ruby's Wish* by Shirin Yim Bridges
2. Introduce the idea of characters used in Chinese writing
3. Show images from the text
4. Compare the American letters to the Chinese characters
5. What do we see that is different? Why do people write?
6. Chinese is written in a pictographic alphabet, very different from English. Each symbol is a word.
7. Show students writing from the text, *Beyond the Great Mountains: A Visual Poem about China* by Ed Young.—reveals a great deal about the way Chinese people see the world. You'll find ancient Chinese character writing on every page and information about Chinese characters, ancient and modern, at the end of the book.
8. Have students choose a character and write it using a marker.

Lesson 4:

1. Read aloud *Lion Dancer Ernie Wan's Chinese New Year* by Kate Waters and Madeline Slovenz-Low
2. Introduce vocabulary: Chinese New Year, lion dance, wok, uniforms, ceremony, Buddha, red envelope
3. Questions after read-aloud:
 - a. What is Chinese New Year?
 - b. When is it?
 - c. How is it celebrated?
 - d. What happens in Chinatown at the Chinese New Year?
 - e. What is a lion dance?
 - f. What tradition activities do Ernie and his family participate in?
 - g. Is food a part of the celebration?
 - h. What is the red envelope?
4. Refer back to *Ruby's Wish* by Shirin Yim Bridges
5. What things do you and your family celebrate?

Lesson 5:

1. Have students recall events from *Ruby's Wish*
2. Explain that the Lantern Festival or Yuanxiao Jie is a traditional Chinese festival, celebrated on the 15th day of the first month of the Chinese New Year. It is the last day of the two-week long Chinese New Year celebration. Adults and children make and display the paper lanterns they create. The most beautiful lantern wins a prize. The festival consists of holding lanterns under the full moon, watching lions and dragons dance, playing Chinese riddles and games, and setting off firecrackers.
3. Students will create their own lanterns
4. Materials needed to make lanterns: 12x18 white construction paper, water, glue, gold foil paper, markers, colorful wrapping paper, tissue paper, and thin colored paper

Instructions for Paper Lanterns

- 1) Tear (do not cut) the wrapping paper, tissue paper, and thin colored paper into 2-inch squares.
- 2) Thin the glue slightly with a little water.
- 3) Using the paintbrush to spread the glue, randomly paste the torn paper onto the construction paper, making sure the entire piece of construction paper is covered.
- 4) Cut two 1x18-inch strips of gold foil paper.
- 5) Holding the construction paper the long way, paste the gold foil along the top edge and the bottom edge.
- 6) Fold the decorated paper in half the long way.
- 7) Make 4-inch cuts across the fold every inch. End each cut an inch before the edge of the paper.
- 8) Unfold the paper and bring the short sides together. Staple along the top, middle and bottom.
- 9) Cut a strip of paper and tape or staple it across the top for a handle

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CeZKYGmuZn0> (lantern-making video)

Assessment/evaluation

The students will be assessed informally through observation. They will be evaluated on

1. participation,
2. responses to questions during the lessons
3. self-to-text connections
4. understanding of the story
5. ability to identify the problem and solution
6. knowledge of vocabulary
7. ability to find China on a map
8. ability to follow steps in making flags and lanterns
9. their respect for one another and acceptance of one another's differences.

Assessment/evaluation