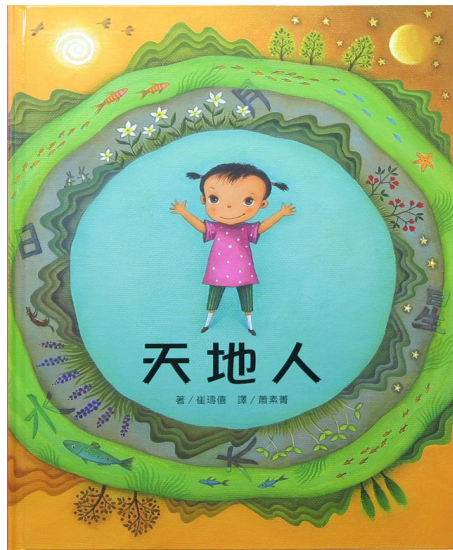


Children's Literature in Chinese: A Review

This Chinese Children's literature review is intended to provide additional resources for Mandarin language teachers in an effort to identify authentic target language resources for preK-12 teachers. Possible strategies are included for consideration. This annotated bibliography was created with support from StarTalk.





天地人

The Sun, Earth and People

Written by Cui, Shou Xi

Illustrated by Xiao, Su Jing

Printing Language: Chinese

ISBN: 9789862121320

Subject: Chinese Language, Social Science

Sharing Level: Pre-K to 5th Grade

Review:

A child describes why she likes nature objects, through observation in this simple picture book. There are twelve Chinese pictographic characters introduced and tied into the nature theme. Dedicated illustrations related to nature and Chinese character's exhibit how ancient words were formed. It's a huge treasure to be utilized by Chinese language educators and primary school students.

Strategies for enhancing instruction:

Guided Reading, Imagery, Visual Images



皇帝的新衣

Emperor's New Clothes

Written by Demi

Illustrated by Demi

Printing Language: Tradition Chinese, Culture

ISBN: 9789866833472

Subject: Chinese Language, Social Study, Visual and Performing Arts

Sharing Level: 3rd-5th Grade

Review:

Based on the original Danish story The Emperor's New Clothes, Author/Illustrator Demi's tale is set in old China. Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale lures readers into a rich cultural retelling of an arrogant emperor, who does not see what is obvious until a child points out the truth. This picture book is filled with the Chinese emperor's favorite golden color, illustrations following the four seasons of the year, and several foldout pages. This book is packed with cultural elements for readers to enjoy, with text and paintings to entice the reader.

Strategies for enhancing instruction:

Read-Aloud, Guided Reading, Making Prediction



沒毛雞

The Featherless Chicken

Written by Chen, Chih Yuan

Illustrated by Chen, Zhi Yuan

Printing language: Traditional Chinese

ISBN: 9867942248

Subject: Chinese Language, Visual Arts

Sharing level: K-5th Grade

Review:

One day, a featherless chicken sees four beautifully feathered chickens on their way to go boating, but is rejected after approaching them. Their attitudes change when the featherless chicken is coated with leaves, paper, and oddly a dinner fork, after falling into sticky mud. While on the boat, he accidentally lets out a sneeze and dumps them all in the water. The Featherless Chicken is a gentle and amusing story about looking past differences in order to reveal similarities. This well written picture book incorporates lively and sophisticated artwork, and is great reading and sharing material for teachers and parents.

Strategies for enhancing instruction:

Listen-Read-Discuss, Paired Reading, Retelling, Summarizing



荷花開

Lily Blossom

Selected from Chinese Nursery Rhymes

Published by Hsin Yi Publications

Printing language: Traditional Chinese

ISBN: 9576420954

Subject: Chinese Language, Visual and Performing Arts– Music

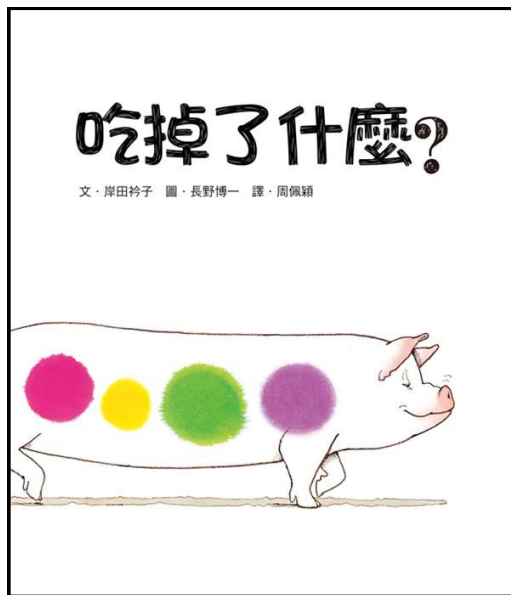
Sharing level: PreK-5th Grade

Review:

A collection of 18 Chinese folk songs. These unique Chinese rhymes include various useful and fun topics such as rain, animals, plants, body parts, etc. and combine traditional rhymes, songs, and music. For Chinese teachers, students can relate to songs as part of entertainment rather than work and can learn vocabulary through songs. With traditional Chinese melodies, this CD is perfect background music for playing in immersion classrooms.

Strategies for enhancing instruction:

Total Physical Response, Sing Along, Classroom Background Music



吃掉了什麼？

What the Pig Ate?

Written by An Tian Jin Zi

Illustrated by Chang Yei Bo Yi

Printing Language: Traditional Chinese

ISBN: 9789862112182

Subject: Chinese Language, Visual and Performing Arts

Sharing Level: PreK-2nd Grade

Review:

One very hungry pig wanders around and looks for something to eat. He munches on a big red apple, a sour yellow lemon, a huge honey dew, etc. with his body changing into the fruit's color. A great beginning picture book to introduce: taste, smell, sizes, and names of fruits and colors. Children can build their Chinese language vocabulary and proficiency rapidly by reading this fun and easy book. This is a 31 page hardcopy book for younger children.

Strategies for enhancing instruction:

Guided/Silent Reading, Vocabulary Building, Reader's Theater, Connections to the real world



螃蟹歌

The Crab Rhymes

Written by Lin, Fang Ping

Illustrated by Xu, Wen Qi

Printing Language: Traditional Chinese

ISBN: 9861611223

Subject: Chinese Language, Visual and Performing Arts— Music, PE

Sharing Level: PreK-2nd Grade

Review:

An innovative collection of Chinese rhymes are put together, helping children learn Chinese in an enjoyable way. Language content integrates basic objects, animals, and routines of life, through rhyming and acting out. Children will develop hand-eye coordination through famous Chinese rhymes. This is a 36-page book that includes one CD, a Chinese Mother Goose Rhythm book, and makes for perfect teaching materials for younger children in foreign language classrooms.

Strategies for enhancing instruction:

Finger Play, Total Physical Response, Rhyming Games, Classroom Background Music



十二生肖的故事

Chinese Zodiac Story

Written by Lai, Ma

Illustrated by Lai, Ma

Printing Language: Traditional Chinese

ISBN: 1100000004080

Subject: Chinese Language, Social Science, Chinese Culture

Sharing Level: Pre-K-5th Grade

Review:

The Chinese Jade Emperor asked animals to come together for a contest so he could give each of them a year, making it easier for the people of China to keep track of time. The animals raced for the privilege of being first. The ox was kind and strong, and agreed to give the rat and cat a ride on its back, in order to cross the water. Half way through, the rat proved it is cunning, and made it across the river first. This is one of most famous Chinese stories, which answers questions such as: What are other animals listed in the Chinese Zodiac? Why was the cat was not included in the Chinese Zodiac? This is a must-read book during the Chinese New Year Festival.

Strategies for enhancing instruction:

Role Playing, Read-Aloud, Recalling Newly Learned Information, Making Prediction, Sequencing Connection, Shared Reading, Reader's Theater



年獸來了

Nian Beast Coming!

Written by Huang, Hui Ming

Illustrated by Huang, Hui Ming

Printing Language: Traditional Chinese

ISBN: 9789864186006

Subject: Chinese Language, Culture

Sharing Level: Pre-K-5th Grade

Review:

On Chinese New Year's Eve, people are frightened by the "Nian Beast", who comes out once a year. Knowing the beast's frailties, a brave old man saved people by setting up a bamboo fire, making loud and explosive noises, and decorated houses in red paper to scare off the Nian beast. This legendary folk tale helps explain why Chinese people celebrate the New Year with lots of red, fire crackers, and dumplings. Though Nian Beast is a character in this long ago legend, Chinese New Year tradition lives on and is passed down from generation to generation. This is a fantastic Chinese New Year themed picture book. The text is simple and makes this a quick, informative story.

Strategies for enhancing instruction:

Role Playing, Interactive Read-Aloud, Preview/
Review, Anticipation Guide



老鼠娶新娘

The Mouse Marries Off His Daughter

Written by Zhang, Qin Rong

Illustrated by Huang, Zheng Wen

Printing Language: Traditional Chinese

ISBN: 9789864186013

Subject: Chinese Language, Culture

Sharing Level: 2nd-5th Grade

Review:

Father Mouse wishes to arrange a traditional Chinese wedding and arranged marriage for his daughter. However, an unwelcomed black cat interrupts the party. The mouse's parents seek the greatest and most powerful suitor for her. He first approaches the Sun, the Cloud, the Wind and the Wall. In the end he figures that the mouse is the mightiest of all. Vivid illustrations and simple, smooth text portray this interesting folktale with Chinese marriage customs from ancient China.

Strategies for enhancing instruction:

Compare and Contrast, Collaborative Reading, Role Playing, Paired Reading,



Thanking the Moon

Written by Grace Lin

Illustrated by Grace Lin

Printing Language: English

ISBN: 9780375861017

Subject: English Language Art, Chinese Culture, Visual and Performing Arts

Sharing Level: Ages 5 and up

Review:

The story begins on the night of Mid-Autumn Moon Festival, one of the most important Chinese festivals along with Chinese New Year. Everyone does his or her part to help set up the nighttime picnic and prepare for the moon-honoring table. children, just like in the old days, parade with bright paper lanterns, and everyone sends thanks and unspoken wishes up to the moon. This well written book makes an excellent companion and introduction for children about the Moon Festival celebration.

Strategies for enhancing instruction:

Think-Pair-Share, Compare and Contrast, Role Playing,



Fortune Cookie Fortunes

Written by Grace Lin

Illustrated by Grace Lin

Printing Language: English

ISBN: 9780440421924

Subject: English Language Arts, Chinese Culture

Sharing Level: K-2nd Grade

Review:

A Chinese-American middle daughter of three narrates this exploration of how fortune cookie are made for many Chinese restaurants, leading to a wider look at good luck and fortune. An author's note provides information about the fortune cookie's history and its roots in Chinese culture. It's a great introduction of Chinese culture for younger readers.

Strategies for enhancing instruction:

Connections to the real world, Recalling Experience, Silent reading



Kite Flying

Written by Grace Lin

Illustrated by Grace Lin

Printing Language: English

ISBN: 9780375815201

Subject: English Language Art, Chinese Culture,
Visual and Performing Arts

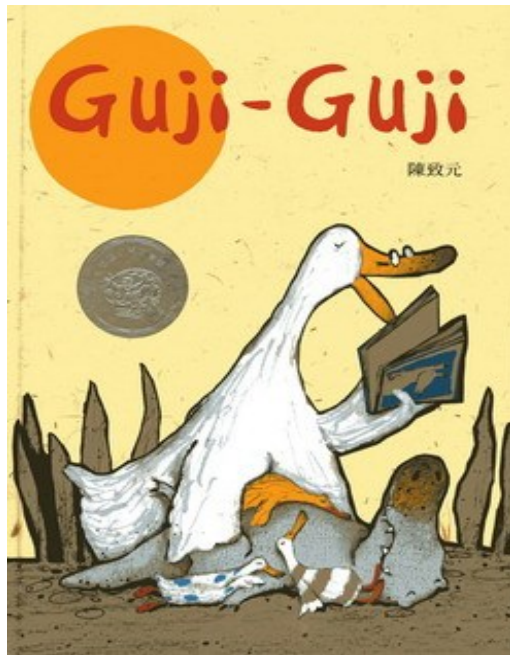
Sharing Level: Ages 3 and up

Review:

A windy day is a perfect opportunity to fly a kite, or to make one from scratch. Ma Ma, Ba Ba, Jie Jie, and Mei Mei take part in the creation of the flying paper dragon. The children take turns cutting the whiskers, painting a mouth, and adding colorful eyes. The family also attach a noisemaker and some string before heading out to fly the kite. Simple text with logical accompanying activities will interest young readers as they are introduced to this fabulous Chinese tradition. The author's note following the text summarizes the history and significance of kite flying in the Chinese culture. The endpapers feature the materials needed and the symbolic meaning of some kite shapes.

Strategies for enhancing instruction:

Craft making, Shared Reading, Compare and Contrast, Culture Festival Celebration



Guji-Guji

Written by Chen, Chih Yuan

Illustrated by Chen, Zhi Yuan

Printing language: Traditional Chinese

ISBN: 9576428297

Subject: Chinese Language, Visual and Performing Arts

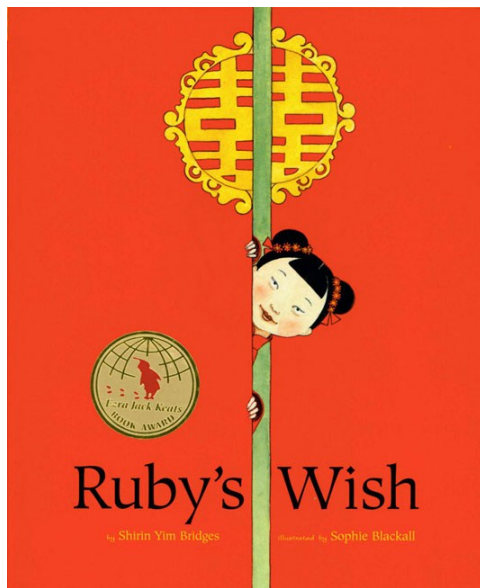
Sharing Level: K-5th Grade

Review:

One day, an extra-large crocodile egg rolls right into Mother Duck's nest, while she is busy reading. Later, a moon-like yellow duckling, a crayon-blue spot duckling, a zebra-like brown striped duckling, and an ugly blue-green crocodile hatch from the egg. Three very duck-hungry crocodiles make fun of Guji Guji and try to tempt him into betraying his family. A fantastically written picture book with information about differences and appreciation of family. The earth toned illustrations are extremely brilliant for young readers. This hilarious and funny story book is accompanied with easy to read text and will motivate students be independent readers.

Strategies for enhancing instruction:

Read-Aloud, Guided Reading, Role Playing, Reader's Theater



Ruby's Wish

Written by Shirin Yim

Illustrated by Sophie Blackall

Printing Language: English

ISBN: 9780439709583

Subject: English Language Art, Chinese Language, Chinese Culture

Sharing Level: K and up

Review:

Ruby's Wish is based on a true story of a little girl growing up in China, during the later part of the 19th century. She lived in a sprawling home of a rich patriarch, who returned to the Far East to provide for his extended family. Unlike most Chinese girls expecting to get married young, Ruby had aspirations of attending a University in the future. Ruby's Wish is not only an engaging portrait of a young Chinese girl who strives for more but also demonstrates the reward in hard work and courage through her family's support. Remarkable illustrations reflect Asian art forms and depict a spunky child. Plenty of cultural information accompanies this inspirational story, making reading this book enjoyable.

Strategies for enhancing instruction:

Read-Aloud, Guided Reading, Think-Pair-Share



國王來了

The Emperor is Coming!

Written by Kuo, Mei Zheng

Illustrated by Zen, Jing

Printing language: Traditional Chinese

ISBN: 9789862481912

Subject: Chinese Language, Visual and Performing Arts

Sharing Level: K-5th Grade

Review:

Once an emperor came to town. All of the animals had heard of him, but no one in the town had ever seen him. Then, the monkey, the bird, the cow, and the turtle got together and discussed why they had seen only partial views of the emperor instead of whole pictures of the emperor. The moral of this story is similar to The Elephant and The Blind Men because both stories see things exclusively within one's point of view. The incorporation of various animal characters and accompaniment of marvelous illustrations make this story super easy and fun to read. One theme music CD is included, which is great material for teaching Performing Art lessons.

Strategies for enhancing instruction:

Read, Pause & Reflect, Read-Aloud, Guided Reading, Reader's Theater



阿瑟找新家

Arthur is Looking for a New Home!

Written by Amanda Graham

Illustrated by Donna Gynell

Printing Language: Bilingual in Chinese/English

ISBN: 9789571425245

Subject: English Language Art, Chinese Language, Life Science

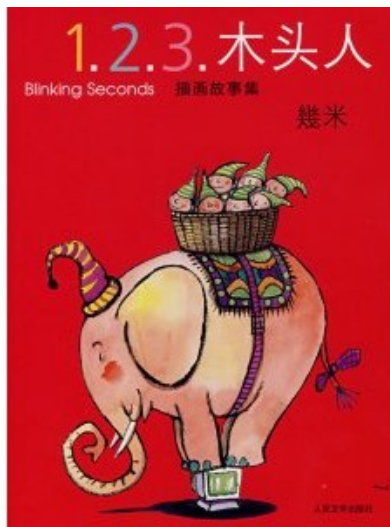
Sharing Level: K-3rd Grade

Review:

Arthur is a plain looking dog in Mrs. Han's pet store who remains unpurchased. At night Arthur pretends and practices hard to be like the bunny, the snake, or the gold fish, but no one wants to buy a common dog. Arthur desires to be like the other dogs, beloved by their owners, and to chew his master's old shoes. This hilarious story is beautifully illustrated and is designed to stimulate the interest of children in English and Chinese reading. The series of Arthur has been praised by educators internationally.

Strategies for enhancing instruction:

Making Predictions, Read-Aloud, Think-Pair-Share, Paired Reading, Retelling



1. 2. 3. 木头人

1. 2. 3. Blinking Seconds

Written by Jimmy Liao

Illustrated by Jimmy Liao

Printing Language: Simplified Chinese

ISBN: 9787020062874

Subject: The Chinese language

Sharing Level: 3-5th Grade

Review:

These adorable poems for children incorporate fantastic illustration, telling many stories utilizing each colorful page. Poetry can be fun, especially when we can read it, hear it and discover its many delights through individual personal life experiences. The author expresses his own feelings and relationships, and uses family pets, zoo animals, family, and friends to do so. Author and illustrator Jimmy Liao connects with readers through imagination, creativity, and more. This is a great collection of poetry to introduce to young children.

Strategies for enhancing instruction:

Group reading, Listen-Read-Discuss, distinguishing between fact and opinion, treasure hunts, reading aloud, surprise poetry scrambles, responds to poems.



誰偷了包子

Who Stole the Bun?

Written by Jin, Yi Shi

Printing Language: Simplified Chinese

ISBN: 9787539162171

Subject: Chinese, Math

Sharing Level: 1st-5th Grade

Review:

The daughter of a Chinese bun shop owner, Niu Niu wishes to be a great detective someday. On a day there were eight buns left, she finds one bun missing right before the shop closes. When the same thing happens the next day Niu Niu decides to catch whoever is stealing the buns. Who Stole the Bun is a wonderful way to connect mathematics skills and critical thinking. It gives children the opportunity to read the funny story and think about math at the same time.

Strategies for enhancing instruction:

Prediction, Silent Reading, Paired Reading, Think-Pair-Share, Vocabulary Building, Problem Solving



灶王爺

The Kitchen God

Written by Kim Xiong

Printing language: Simplified Chinese

ISBN: 978-1606030011

Subject: Chinese Language, Chinese culture

Sharing level: 1-5th graders

Review:

Every Chinese kitchen has a Kitchen God picture, which to the Chinese, is like a guardian angel that watches over the family and reports their behaviors once a year to the Jade Emperor. Whether a little girl tries to sneak a bite of dinner, Grandparents fight, or a child lies to her parents, they are all made to feel very guilty by looking at the Kitchen God picture. Traditionally, people make special sweet melon dessert to sweeten the Kitchen God's mouth in hopes of obtaining a good report for the Jade Emperor. The content of this book truly reflects the customs of Chinese traditional families, the illustrations are lovely, and the characters delightful. This is a great book for anyone wanting to learn about the Chinese New Year and traditions.

Strategies for enhancing instruction:

Read-Aloud Plus, KWL, Retelling Story, Preview and Review, Shared Reading



拔蘿蔔

The Turnip

Written by Retold by A. Tolsto

Illustrated by Churyo Sato

Printing Language: Simplified Chinese

ISBN: 9787544241380

Subject: The Chinese Language

Sharing Level: K-3rd Grade

Review:

Grandpa plants a gigantic turnip, one too big to pull up by himself. Beckoning Grandma, his granddaughter, the dog, the cat, and the mouse, they eventually pull the huge turnip out. This funny story, first recorded in nineteenth-century Russia by Aleksei Tolstoy, is packed with an unpredictable and fun plot that is great for young readers. The Turnip is a wonderfully hilarious folk tale featuring simple vocabulary and repetition to help children read. Sequencing each role in the story is a perfect opportunity to introduce different names of characters in the book.

Strategies for enhancing instruction:

Prediction, Brainstorming, Role playing, Guided reading, Realia Strategy.