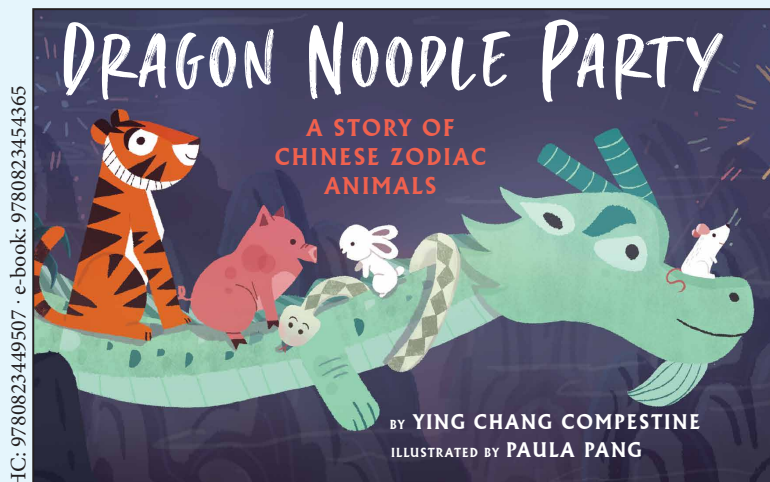


# HOLIDAY HOUSE | LESSON PLAN



## *Dragon Noodle Party* *A Story of Chinese Zodiac Animals*

by Ying Chang Compestine  
illustrated by Paula Pang

Join the animals of the zodiac as they make noodles for a party in this festive book from an award-winning author and dynamic illustrator.

Grade Level: K-2

### INSTRUCTIONAL STANDARDS AND OBJECTIVES

**Reading Literature:** RL.K.1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 10/RL.1.1, 2, 3, 5, 7

**Speaking and Listening:** SL.K.1, 2, 3, 4, 6/SL.1.1, 2, 3, 4, 6

**Learning Objectives:** Make predictions and inferences, identify parts of a book, identify roles of the author and illustrator, and understand that drawings or photographs add to the ideas and information in a text.

### BUILD BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Share some basic information about the Chinese New Year prior to introducing the book.

- The Chinese New Year has been celebrated for many centuries. The date is determined by the Lunar calendar and usually falls between January 21 and February 21. During the festivities, ancestors are honored and traditional ceremonies are held with customs that bring good luck, fortune, and happiness.
- Red is considered a lucky color. It is used in decorations, lanterns, clothes, and money envelopes.
- Dragon and lion dances are performed in parades and other celebrations to scare away evil spirits.
- A popular food eaten during the celebrations are long noodles as a symbol of good fortune as well as a long life.
- As is ancient tradition, the Chinese zodiac attaches animal signs to each lunar year in a cycle of 12 years. Each year, a different animal is celebrated. These animals (rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig) are featured in *Dragon Noodle Party*.



## BEFORE READING

- Identify the author and illustrator and define the role of each.
- Discuss the front and back cover illustrations and the book title. Which animals of the Chinese Zodiac do you see?
- Identify the title page and its contents.
- Do you think this is a fiction story or nonfiction text? Explain your thinking.

## DURING READING

As you read aloud the text, ask questions in order to help students make predictions and demonstrate comprehension. Use these as a guide. Have partners discuss. After sufficient time of partner discussion, have a couple students share their thinking with the class.

- Where is Horse going?
- What is he carrying?
- Which word tells how he is moving?
- Repeat for each animal.
- What are they cooking?
- Why are they celebrating Snake's birthday? Hint: Remember our discussion about the Chinese New Year before reading.

## AFTER READING

Have students share their responses to the story. Encourage them to listen and respond to each other's thinking. Use some of these questions during the discussion. Encourage students to refer back to the text and illustrations to support their thinking.

- Where does the story take place? Or, what is the setting?
- How are the main characters in the story?
- What did the characters do in the story?
- How does the story end?
- Review the roles of the author and illustrator.
- Review the parts of a book (front and back covers, title page).



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## DRAGON NOODLE PARTY

### CREATE YOUR OWN CHINESE LANTERN DECORATION!

Copy this activity sheet on red paper. Fold the paper in half to make a long rectangle with the lines on the outside. With an adult's help, cut on the dotted lines. Unfold the paper and glue the two short ends together to make a tube. Cut strips of yellow paper. Roll them around a pencil to make them curl. Glue them to the bottom of the tube. Cut a long red strip of paper and glue it to the top of the tube to make a handle.



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