

## New Year Surprise!

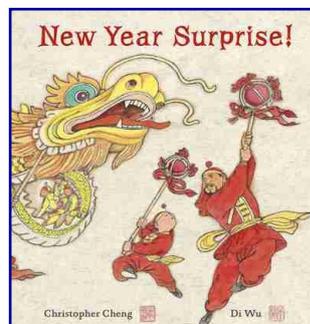
By Christopher Cheng & illustrated by Di Wu

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Little Brother is told by his brother and his friends that he's too small to help out at the Spring Festival. He's too little to fly a kite and he's not strong enough to hold a dragon pole. But Father says he has a special job to do. What can it be? He knows it's not hanging the lanterns up, as Father has already done that. He knows it's not choosing the treats from the hawkers as Father has already chosen a duck. He knows it's not serving tea or lighting fire crackers as he did those jobs last year. Follow Little Brother through the village to find out what his special job is.



Teacher notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher, The National Library of Australia.

### Discussion Points & Activities:

- *See, Think, Wonder* - For each illustration, create a 'See, Think, Wonder' activity for students to complete individually or in groups. Compile and discuss the students work. What do you see? What do you think about that? What does it make you wonder?
- Investigate Chinese culture, its food and festivals through digital media (e.g. YouTube), through class discussions, or with local Chinese identities.
- Discuss food and celebrations, the use of spices and tools (e.g. brooms), party poppers, drinking tea and lanterns.
- Have you experienced a Chinese festival before? Have you experienced a similar festival?
- *The Boy's Red and Yellow Clothes* - How does this clothing make the boy more powerful? Compare his clothes to the clothes worn by other people in the book. What do red and yellow symbolise?
- *Red Envelopes* - Explore the meaning of red envelopes and the culture behind them. Discuss how it is decided how much money is given to people (e.g. some families give money only to children who are unmarried). Can you think of examples from other cultures where people give gifts?
- *The Dragon* - Investigate the importance of dragons in Chinese culture. Investigate how the dragon costume is constructed and how the dancers prepare. Discuss the symbolism of dragons in Chinese culture.
- *Wisdom* - What is wisdom? Discuss wisdom. How do children portray wisdom?
- *Character Exploration* - Find evidence in the text that shows that these characters are wise: father, sister, mother, brother, boy. How do you know the characters are wise?
- *Explore the Pearl of Wisdom* - What is the Pearl of Wisdom? Why is it important in a Dragon Dance? Why do you think the role falls on the young boy?
- Design and make banners that the villagers could use in their celebrations.