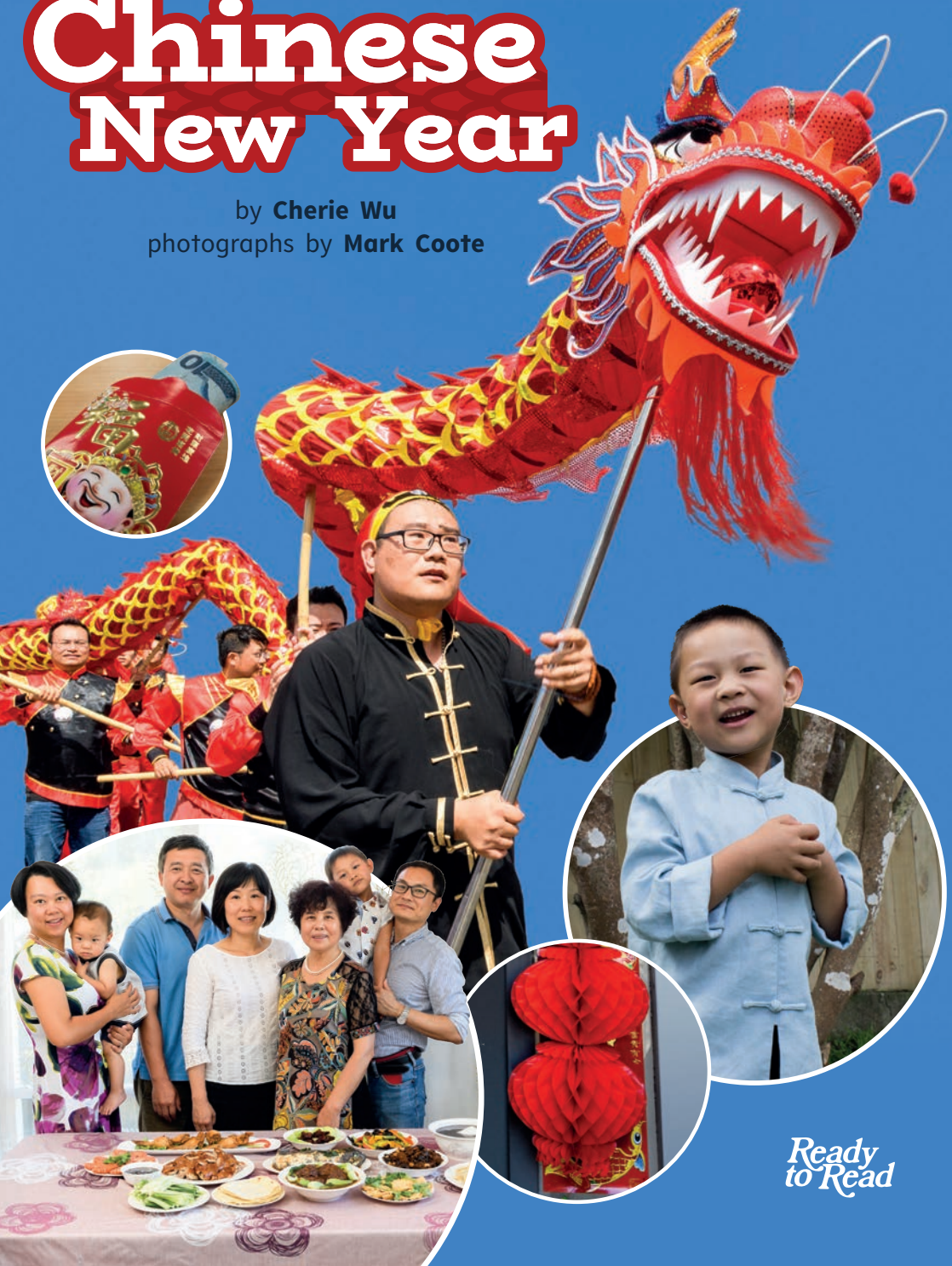


Chinese New Year

by Cherie Wu
photographs by Mark Coote



Ready
to Read

Published 2018 by the Ministry of Education,
PO Box 1666, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.
www.education.govt.nz

The Ministry of Education and Lift Education would like to thank the family of Murphy Wang for their assistance with this book.
Thanks also to Linda Lim, Asian Events Trust, and the team at the Wellington Night Markets for their support with the photo shoots at the Chinese New Year parade and the Lantern Festival.

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Enquiries should be made to the publisher.

Publishing services: Lift Education E Tū

Editor: Bernadette Wilson

Designer: Simon Waterfield

Literacy Consultant: Kay Hancock

Consulting Editors: Amy Zeng, Hōne Apanui, Emeli Sione

ISBN 978 1 77669 283 5 (print)

ISBN 978 1 77663 523 8 (online)

Replacement copies may be ordered from Ministry of Education Customer Services,
online at www.thechair.co.nz

by email: orders@thechair.minedu.govt.nz

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The teacher support material (TSM) and audio for Ready to Read texts
can be found online at www.readytoread.tki.org.nz

This book includes several words in Mandarin, the Chinese language spoken by Murphy and his family.
Another Chinese language is Cantonese, and there are also many other dialects.

This book refers to Murphy's grandmother as Wai Po. This is a specific term that refers to the grandmother who is the mother's mother. Other names for grandparents in Mandarin are:

Grandfather (the father's father): Ye Ye

Grandmother (the father's mother): Nai Nai

Grandfather (the mother's father): Wai Gong

For support with pronunciation of the Mandarin words in this book,
go to www.readytoread.tki.org.nz to hear an audio version of the text.

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Waiting for New Year

Soon it will be Chinese New Year.
Murphy is waiting and waiting.
Chinese New Year is a very special time.
It is a time for families to be together
and to celebrate. It is a time
to wish everyone happiness,
long life, and good fortune.
The celebrations for Chinese New Year
last for fifteen days.



Getting ready



In the week before New Year,
Murphy helps clean the house
to make room for the
good luck of New Year.

Everyone will dress up
for the celebrations.

Mum has bought new shirts
for Murphy and his brother Morgan
to wear on New Year's Day.



On New Year's Eve, Murphy and Morgan help Dad decorate the house. They put up red and gold decorations. Red and gold are lucky colours.



Murphy takes a photo.

Dad hangs a banner on each side of the door and a scroll above the door. Together, these signs wish happiness to visitors. He hangs a sign on the door. This sign means "Good luck".





Dumplings



Reunion dinner

Mum and **Wai Po** (Grandma) are cooking. They make lots of delicious food and special dumplings. Most of the food is for a special dinner tonight – but the dumplings are for later.

Wai Po (why por)

The special dinner on New Year's Eve is called **reunion** dinner. (A reunion is when people get together with friends and family after a long time apart.)



For Chinese families, the reunion dinner is the most important meal of the year. People travel a long way to be with their families and share this special meal. Wai Po has travelled from China to be with Murphy and his family.

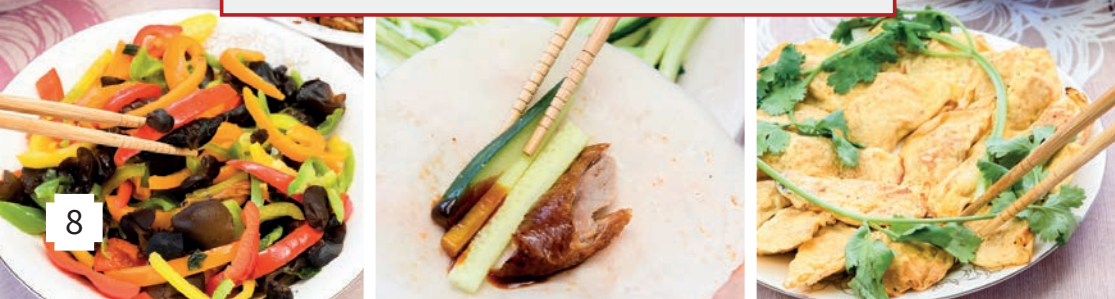


Everyone enjoys the delicious food that Mum and Wai Po have made.

After dinner, the boys are allowed to stay up and wait until midnight for the New Year to begin.



Special food for a special night



Happy New Year!

At last, it is midnight.

The New Year has arrived!

Everyone says, “**Gong Xi Fa Cai!**”

Happy New Year!”



Mum brings out the dumplings for everyone to eat. Yum!



Gong Xi Fa Cai (gong see fah tsai)

Family and friends

In the morning, Murphy's family talk to family members who are in China.

They wish each other Happy New Year.



Over the next few days, Murphy's family will visit their friends to say “Gong Xi Fa Cai!”

Wai Po gives Murphy a red envelope with money inside. This is called **hong bao**.

Murphy says, “Thank you, Wai Po.”



hong bao (hong bow)

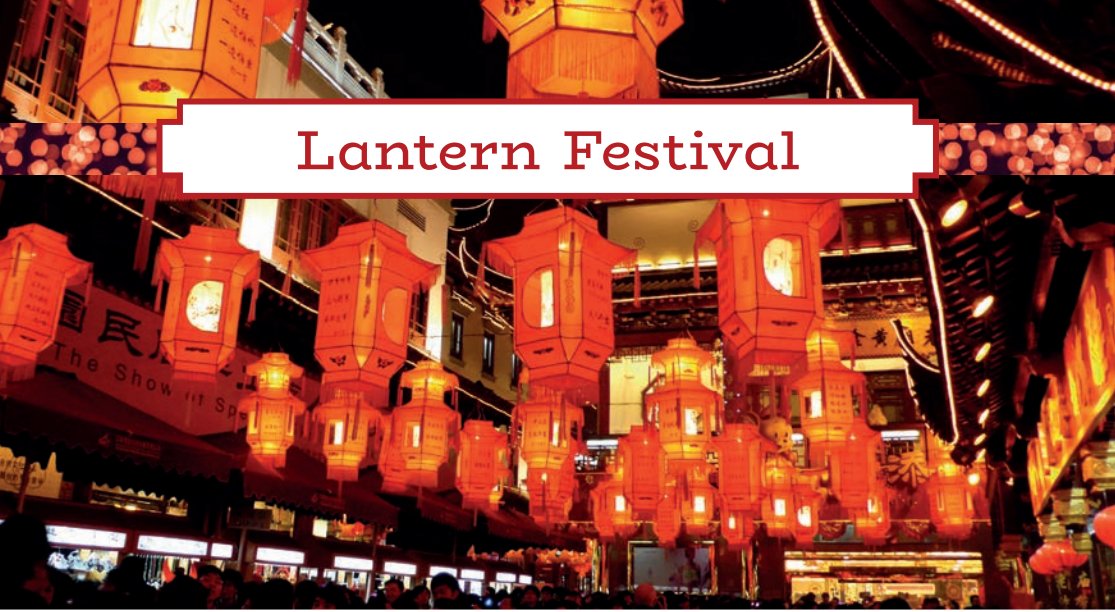
New Year parade

It is the day after New Year's Day.
Today, Murphy and Morgan are going
to the city with their parents
to see the Chinese New Year parade.

Thousands of other people are there, too.
Murphy and Morgan both love
the dragon dancers.



Lantern Festival



Lantern Festival is the last day of the New Year celebrations. Murphy helps Dad hang lanterns by the front door.

Dad says, “When I was a boy in China, the streets were lit up with thousands of lanterns. The lanterns had riddles on them, and we tried to guess the answers.”

Murphy's mother has made **tang yuan** (sweet rice balls) for Lantern Festival day. Tang yuan are the boys' favourite treat. Tonight, the family is in the city again to see all the colourful lanterns.



tang yuan (tang you-ah)



Murphy takes more photos.

Remembering New Year

Index

Now Chinese New Year is over, and soon
Wai Po will be going back to China.
Murphy has been busy.
“Here you are, Wai Po,” says Murphy.
“I made this book for you.
Happy New Year!”

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my new shirt



decorations



Wai Po



the parade



lanterns

This book is for students to read and enjoy after they have become very familiar with the big book during many shared reading sessions.

Scan the QR code or use the short URL to go directly to an audio recording of this book.



Chinese New Year

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