



# Monthly Featured Book

Presented by ADL's Education Department

**About the Monthly Featured Book:** This collection of featured books is from Books Matter™: The Best Kid Lit on Bias, Diversity and Social Justice. The books teach about bias and prejudice, promote respect for diversity, encourage social action and reinforce themes addressed in ADL Education's programs. For parents, guardians and family members, reading the books listed on this site with your children and integrating the concepts into your interactions with them is an excellent way to help children grapple with and learn about these important principles.



## Chloe's Lunar New Year

Lily LaMotte (Author) and Michelle Lee (Illustrator)

Age Range: 4-8

Year Published: 2023

### Book Themes

Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Identity, Lunar New Year, People, Identity and Culture, Family, Holidays

### About the Book

It's almost Lunar New Year, and Chloe can't wait to celebrate! But first, Chloe and her family must prepare for the new year. They buy new shoes, lay out good-luck oranges in a bowl, decorate the red envelope, and make a crispy turnip cake. Everyone comes together to cook a fantastic feast, saving a plate for A-má, of course. Chloe enjoys the festive celebration and yummy food, but most of all, she loves spending time with her family. The back matter contains educational information about the Lunar New Year celebration in Taiwan.

### Conversation Starters

Whether you read the book aloud with your child or your child reads it on their own and you discuss it later, you can use these open-ended questions to deepen the conversation. Remembering not to judge their responses, listen thoughtfully and engage in a give-and-take that will help them expand upon their understanding of the book and its themes

- What happens in the story?
- How do Chloe and her family prepare for Lunar New Year?

- What foods does the family cook for Lunar New Year? What foods do you prepare for special holidays or celebrations?
- What do you think the red envelopes are for?
- Who does Chloe give the last slice of apple pie to? How does that help the family remember A-má (her grandmother)?
- Why do you think Lunar New Year is a special and important holiday?
- What holidays are special and important in our family? What other holidays have you heard about that your friends or classmates celebrate?
- Did you know anything about Lunar New Year before you read the book? What did you learn about Lunar New Year?
- Why do you think the author wrote this book? What is the message in the story?

## Talking Points

Below are some important considerations to highlight in order to make this a learning opportunity for your child and your family.

### 1. Lunar New Year

Talk with your child about what they learned about Lunar New Year by reading the book. Ask them what they knew about Lunar New Year, if anything, before reading the book, and what they found out by reading the book. You can watch this short video together to learn more: [Lunar New Year for Kids](#). Talk with them about whether as a family we celebrate Lunar New Year or if we know others who do, and what those celebrations and traditions are like. Share some or all of the following information about Lunar New Year:

- Lunar New Year is sometimes called the Spring Festival or Chinese New Year.
- It is celebrated by millions of people worldwide and is an important holiday in countries with large Asian communities.
- Lunar New Year is an opportunity to reunite with family and celebrate traditions dating back over 4,000 years.
- Lunar New year is celebrated in January or February. The date changes every year because it is based on the lunar calendar. The traditional lunar calendar used in Asia is based on the moon's orbit around the earth. Lunar New Year is always celebrated on the second new moon after the winter solstice.
- Celebrations to end the old year and bring in good luck for the new year often include firecrackers, fireworks and red clothes and decorations.
- Young people are given money in colorful red envelopes.
- Lunar New Year is a time to prepare a feast and to visit family members.
- Several days before the festival begins, people give their homes a thorough cleaning to rid themselves of any lingering bad luck.
- Some people prepare and enjoy special foods on certain days during the celebrations.

- The last event that is held during Lunar New Year is called the Lantern Festival. People often hang glowing lanterns in temples or carry them during a nighttime parade.

Talk with your child about what they want to know more about Lunar New Year and if there is interest, explore whether there are Lunar New Year festivities in your location.

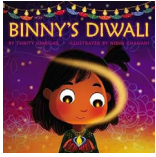
## 2. Holidays, Observances and their Importance

Talk with your child about other holidays and observances and to what extent they are important and meaningful to them. Elicit and explain that a holiday or observance is a special day(s), usually observed every year, that includes celebrating, remembering and/or honoring something or someone important or meaningful. First, ask your child, based on the book, what about Lunar New Year they think is important to Chloe and her family (e.g., cleaning the house, preparing food, having a reunion dinner and paying respect to dead family members and ancestors like they did with A-má, Chloe's grandmother). Then discuss what holidays and observances your family celebrates or participates in, asking them what they like about those holidays and observances and what is important, memorable or meaningful about them. You can also ask what holidays, celebrations and observances other family members, friends, classmates, or neighbors celebrate. This will help to stress the importance of learning about others' identities and cultures and enhance their understanding of our diverse society and world. Together look at ADL's [Calendar of Observances](#) (either the whole year, or just start with January), reflecting on what holidays you know, don't know and which ones you want to learn more about. Or you can make your own calendar and select one or two holidays/observances each month to learn more about. You can also discuss what holidays and observances are acknowledged in your school and community and which ones are not, and explore why that is—which may or may not have to do with bias, exclusion or dominant identity groups.

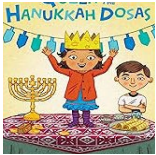
## 3. People, Identity and Culture

Talk with your child about people and culture by reminding them that Lunar New Year is celebrated by Asian families and in countries with large Asian communities. Therefore, the holiday is a cultural one. With your child, talk about what "culture" means. You can define culture as: the patterns of daily life that can be seen in language, arts, customs, holiday celebrations, food, religion, beliefs/values, communication style, music, clothing and more that a group of people share. Explain that these aspects of culture can (but not always) be handed down from one generation to the next through family, relatives and ancestors. Culture can also come from the place where your family and ancestors live or are from. Explain that culture also can include one's region of the country, whether you live in a city, suburban or rural setting, one's family traditions including how you celebrate holidays, religion, etc. Elicit what they learned from reading the book about Chloe and her family's culture (i.e., celebrating Lunar New Year, family traditions, food, specific traditions in Taiwan). Talk with your child about the aspects of culture that are important in your family. Elicit/explain how you would define your family's culture(s), and together identify what foods, holidays, customs, and other parts of daily life are important to your family. Your family may connect with more than one culture or may not have a strong cultural identity, and that can also be discussed. Talk with your child about what they know and don't know about their culture, what they may have found out about their culture from you (their parent), grandparents or other relatives, what more they want to know and the questions they have in order to learn more. Also emphasize the importance of learning about other people's culture, which helps us feel more connected to others and part of our diverse world.

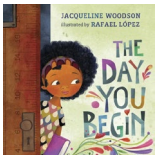
## Other Books You Might Like



Binny's Diwali <https://www.adl.org/binnys-diwali>



Queen of the Hanukkah Dosas <https://www.adl.org/queen-hanukkah-dosas>



The Day You Begin <https://www.adl.org/day-you-begin>



Watercress <https://www.adl.org/watercress>

## ADL Additional Resources

The following are curriculum and other resources on AAPI people and culture, identity, diversity, holidays and observances.

- 9 Classroom Activities for Exploring the Calendar of Observances <https://www.adl.org/resources/tools-and-strategies/9-classroom-activities-exploring-calendar-observances>
- AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander) Heritage Month Resources <https://www.adl.org/resources/tools-and-strategies/asian-american-pacific-islander-aapi-heritage-month-resources>
- Calendar of Observances <https://www.adl.org/resources/tools-and-strategies/calendar-observances>
- Children's Books About AAPI People, Identity and Culture [https://www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature?fbclid=IwAR1fFE3IJ7UuG000utovw2vVdYc9N8EzwJDZG26JnHnp0TwkfLJk\\_YsMd\\_E&f%5B0%5D=topic%3A1626](https://www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature?fbclid=IwAR1fFE3IJ7UuG000utovw2vVdYc9N8EzwJDZG26JnHnp0TwkfLJk_YsMd_E&f%5B0%5D=topic%3A1626)
- Considerations for Inclusive Holidays and Observances <https://www.adl.org/resources/tools-and-strategies/considerations-inclusive-holidays-and-observances>
- Early Childhood Frequently Asked Questions <https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/question-corner>
- How Can I Help Children Appreciate Diversity? <https://www.adl.org/resources/tools-and-strategies/how-can-i-help-children-appreciate-diversity>
- Table Talk: Family Conversations about Current Events <https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/table-talk>
- Who Am I? Identity Poems <https://www.adl.org/resources/lesson-plan/who-am-i-identity-poems>