

Celebrating Chinese New Year with Pip

Learning objective: To understand the traditions and significance of Chinese New Year through a short descriptive text.

Read the story about Pip the caterpillar below. Use the word bank to help you understand the tricky words. Answer the questions in the boxes provided.

Pip the caterpillar is excited. Today is Chinese New Year! This festival is also called the Lunar New Year. It begins when the new moon appears. Pip watches his friends get ready. They hang up bright red lanterns to bring good luck. Red is a very special colour because it means joy and happiness. Pip sees a family sharing a big feast. They eat fish and dumplings. The children receive bright red envelopes with money inside. The envelopes are a sign of prosperity. Everyone wears their best clothes to welcome the new year. Outside, there is a loud, colourful parade. Pip watches a long, dancing dragon made of silk and paper. It weaves through the street while drums play. Even though Pip is small, he feels very happy. He learns that this holiday is all about family, kindness, and wishing everyone a bright future. As the sun sets, the fireworks start to sparkle in the sky. Pip thinks it is the most wonderful time of the year.

Word bank: Tradition: something people do every year · Festival: a special celebration · Lunar: related to the moon · Prosperity: having good luck and wealth · Envelope: a paper cover for a letter or gift

1. What two foods does the family eat for their feast? (2 marks)

2. What colour are the lanterns and the envelopes? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think the family gives red envelopes to the children? (2 marks)

4. How can you tell that Chinese New Year is a happy time? (2 marks)

5. Which part of the festival would you like to see the most? Explain why. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a bright red lantern hanging from a tree branch with a happy Pip the caterpillar looking at it.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are giving a red envelope to a friend. Write a short sentence inside the card to wish them good luck for the new year.