

Title

Thanking the Moon: Wishing on the Moon Project by HK



Thanking the Moon by Grace Lin

By Hyejeong Kim

Project Summary

This project is a part of Foundation of Reading Instruction K-12 Course at CU Boulder and the 2020 Boulder Children's Book Festival. This literacy-craft activity is related to Grace Lin's "Thanking the Moon."

The Moon Festival is common in the East Asian countries including China, South Korea, and Japan and is considered one of the most celebrated holidays in the countries. The Asian people thank their ancestry for their year-long blessing of crops and wish for better luck upon our family. Once scattered in other regions, all family and relatives get together during the holidays, honor their ancestry, and make wishes by hanging lanterns. They

share moon-shaped rice cakes with one another along with other newly harvested grain.

Grace Lin's "Thanking the Moon" is a picture book that introduces cultures of other countries to children in the United States. This book consists of sentences that are easy for students to understand and illustrations with an Asian look. Students read this book according to a strategy for comprehending informative text and acquiring knowledge about a different culture. This reading is guided by a follow-up session of questions and answers in small groups. Teachers intervene appropriately in the discussions and help them proceed to deepen understanding. Students deepen their learning by talking about their fall holidays with the Asian Thanksgiving Festival in this book. Ultimately, the teacher encourages students to find and read a variety of books on each country's autumn holidays in addition to Grace Lin's "Thanking the Moon." The activity of making a wish lantern related to this topic contributes to broadening the interest and understanding of students.

The outline of this practice is as follows: Elementary-school-age children, especially for 1st to 4th grade read the book "Thanking The Moon" along with the instructor, follow Lin's story about the Moon Festival and its supplementary text at the back of the book, and practice the book-related craft activities.

Lesson Goals and Objectives

The goal of these activities is to help students comprehend an informational text as well as practice the skills needed for future reading of informational texts. Through practice of these reading skills, such as predicting, activating background knowledge, questioning & clarifying and retelling, students can be active participants, serious readers, and even strategic comprehenders in reading informational texts.

This activity is related to the following State Standards » Reading: Informational Text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.1.1

Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.1

Ask and answer such questions as *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, *why*, and *how* to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.1

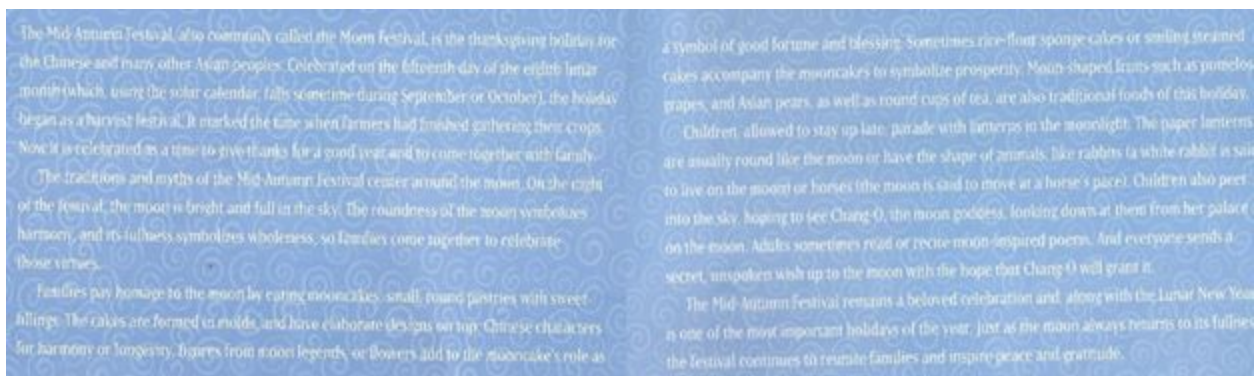
Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.1

Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

Audience

Students in 1~4 Grades



Thanking the Moon by Grace Lin

This picture book depicts a family celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival. The events on that night are listed as one or two sentences per illustration. The book is suitable as informational text for first and second graders. In addition, a supplementary text detailing the Moon Festival is added to the end of the story, as shown above, which is great for students in third and fourth grades to use to get more information about the Moon Festival in East Asia. In grades four and above, that supplementary text may be used to learn strategies to compare or contrast information from additional texts about mid-autumn festivals in other cultures.

Materials Needed



Books, "Thanking the Moon" written by Grace Lin

Paper lantern

Colored mulberry paper (Hanji)

Scissors

Clear glue

Brush

Description of the Teaching and Learning Process

The project consists of two activities, each taking about 40 minutes. First, students read books about the Asian Mid-Autumn Festival and participate in literacy activities to understand the information contained within.

Students learn and practice strategies for understanding communicative texts. Next, they will experience the East Asian culture of making wishes to the moon through craft activities in relation to the new knowledge acquired through reading.

1. Literacy lesson

For this approach to comprehend informational text, I taught the following process.

Step 1

Predicting



Guess the content of text by looking at the title and illustration.

Reading aloud.

Check and revise what you predicted and what **you** read.

Step 2

Activating
prior
knowledge



Think about what you already know.

Share your own experience and thinking.

Connect this background with the text.

Step 3

Questioning
& Clarifying



Ask and answer questions about text for clarifying comprehension and gathering other information.

Deepen understanding of the topic through evaluating contents.

Step 4

Retelling



Think and recall what you read.

Summarize.

Write down all the gratitude and wishes to send to the moon.

2. Craft Activity

The activity of making lanterns with wishes is meaningful not only to express the beauty of text design, but also to experience East Asian culture indirectly.

Step 1

Designing
letters



Cut the letters
necessary for the
wish phrase to be
pasted on the
lantern.

Step 2

Making a
lantern



Decorate a lantern
with the wish and
thanks.

Step 3

Hanging
the thanks
and
wishing
lantern



Express gratitude
for safety in the
year and wish for
peace for the next
year.

Showcase of Final Products



Additional Information and Links to Resources Used :

State Standards

<http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RI/>

A web page of the writer, Grace Lin and the book, "Thanking the moon."

https://www.gracelin.com/content.php?page=thanking_moon

A brief video of the process is available through the following link.

<https://youtu.be/jOY5w5Dq0d4>

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I am an elementary school teacher in South Korea. I am pursuing an MA in Curriculum & Instruction: Humanities education at CU Boulder.