Books to Treasure
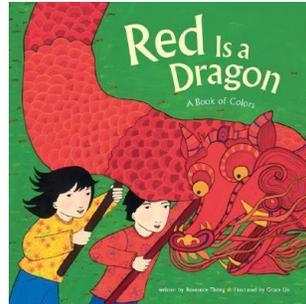
Red is a Dragon
Written by Roseanne Thong
Illustrated by Grace Lin
2001
ISBN: 0811831779

Language Arts
Lesson Plan by Kristen Gettys
Youth Librarian, Herman and Kate Kaiser Library

Summary: In this lively concept book, a little girl discovers a rainbow of colors in the world around her. Red is a dragon in the Chinese New Year parade, yellow are the taxis she sees on her street, green are jade bracelets and the crunchy kale growing in her garden. Many of the featured objects have their origin in Asia. All are universal in appeal with rich, boisterous illustrations, a fun-to-read rhyming text and an informative glossary.

Activity #1

Pass Objectives: Language Arts

Reading/Literature: The student will apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, appreciate, and respond to a wide variety of texts.

3.1   Words in Context - Expand vocabulary in language and writing by reading and listening to a variety of text and literature.

5.2a   Make inferences about events, characters, and ideas in fictional texts by connecting knowledge and experience to the story.

5.3a   Retell or act out narrative text by identifying story elements and sequencing the events.

Writing/Grammar/Usage and Mechanics: The student will express ideas effectively in written modes for a variety of purposes and audiences.

1.1   Introduce a variety of prewriting activities such as brainstorming, clustering, illustrating, using graphic organizers, and webbing.

1.5   Publish and present final writing products with various audiences such as peers or adults.

Supplies: Writing material such as paper and pencils, illustrating materials such as crayons, markers, etc., or old magazines for cutting out pictures and a copy of *Red Is a Dragon*

Process: Have students write and create their own personalized versions of this story. In this story, the main character lists the color of the rainbow and her personal contexts and correlations with that color, i.e. red is to dragons, drums, fire crackers, watermelons and lychees. You could also briefly introduce rainbows and that color order. The topics for the color references can be as varied as their imaginations but should be of the student's own choosing. Encourage students to be specific and possibly use culturally specific examples like the text when they create their sentences for each color. As the students construct their color books using the writing process, they can reference *Red Is a Dragon*. These personal books could be presented or shared in the classroom.

Activity #2

PASS Objectives: Mathematics and Science

Mathematics Content Standards
5.1a   Collect, sort, organize, and display data in charts, bar graphs, and tables (e.g., collect data on teeth lost and display results in a chart).
5.1b   Summarize and interpret data in charts, bar graphs, and tables.

Science Processes and Inquiry
1.1   Observe and measure objects, organisms, and/ or events using developmentally appropriate standard units of measurement (e.g., inches, feet, yard, degrees Fahrenheit) and the International System of Units (SI) (i.e., meters, centimeters, grams, and degrees Celsius).
1.2   Compare and contrast similar and/or different characteristics in a given set of simple objects, familiar organisms and/or observable events.

Supplies: An outdoor garden space, potting soil, kale or another leafy green seeds or plants, gardening tools and a cold frame, floating row cover, or other method to protect plants from winter winds.

Process: "*Green are the toads beneath my pail, Bottle gourds and crunchy kale.*" Have students participate in planting kale or another leafy green outside. Kale is very frost resistant and a hardy plant. Students will tend to the plants and document the growth of a plant. Have them measure growth by week with metric system and standard system. Students can analyze data via charts and graphs. When ready for harvest, students can taste the kale raw and cooked.