

Strand: History/Culture

Theme: Celebrations

Purpose for Reading: To find out how birthdays are a celebration of culture.

Comprehension Strategies: Visualizing, making connections to self and world, comparing and contrasting.

Vocabulary

Dictionary Words: balloons, cake, candles, food, hat, presents

High-Frequency Words: is, it, my

Before Reading

- Invite the students to close their eyes and visualize their last birthday party. Use a think-aloud demonstration to model to students how to do this. What can they see? Who can they see? What is happening? Have them share their mental pictures.
- Read the title on the front cover and talk about the photo. How is this the same as or different from their birthday? Turn to the title page and ask the same question.

Introduce the Picture Dictionary

- Ask the students to turn to the picture dictionary. Read the picture dictionary with the students. Discuss the similarities and differences between the words/photos in the picture dictionary and their own birthdays.

Take a Photo Walk

- Pages 4–5: Ask the students whose birthday it is. Ask them what is the same or different from their birthday. Read the label and discuss what a present

is. Invite the students to talk about the presents they have received. *Are these the same as or different from the present in the photo?* Tell them the girl is saying, *It is my birthday.* Read page 4 together.

- Pages 6–7: Ask the students to find the present in this photo. Read the label *balloons*. Discuss balloons. Turn back to page 5 and find the balloons on that page.
- Pages 8–9: Read the label *hat*. Ask the students if they visualized party hats when they were thinking about their parties.
- Pages 10–11: Discuss the different types of birthday food. Invite the students to point to and name any food that they know in the photo.
- Pages 12–13: Talk about birthday cakes. Invite the students to talk about the birthday cake they like best. *Are they the same as or different from the one in the photo?* Read the label together.
- Pages 14–15: Discuss candles. Ask the students how many candles they had on their last cake. *How old is the girl in the photo?* Turn to page 13 and say how old this girl is.

Read the Book

- Ask the students to return to the title. Read the title together, encouraging the students to point to the words as they read.
- Turn to pages 2–3. Have the students point to the dictionary words as they read them independently.
- Turn to pages 4–5. Ask the students if they can remember what the girl is saying. Have them put their finger under the first word.

Read the text together, pointing to the words.

- Ask the students to continue reading the book independently. Remind the students to check with the photos, and point to the words. Provide support where necessary.

After Reading

Comprehension

- Discuss with the students how the birthdays in the book are the same as or different from their own birthdays.
- Make a chart about birthdays to show how party food and games differ among students, groups, or cultures. Discuss the chart.

Name	Food	Game
Mary-Ann	ice-cream	Pass the parcel
Paula	fajitas	Donkey piñata

Vocabulary and Word Recognition

- Ask the students to find the high-frequency word *my* on each page in the text. Add the word *my* to a high-frequency word chart.
- Discuss the compound word *birthday*. Write the word on a card and cut it to show the two words *birth/day*.
- Ask the students to name examples of birthday presents.

Oral Language

- Have the students work in pairs to use each of the picture dictionary words in sentences.

Writing

- Draw a birthday picture. Write a sentence to go with the picture.

Creative Extension Activities

- Collect birthday cards and talk about the pictures and messages.
- Make invitations and thank-you cards.
- Make a birthday hat.
- Make a birthday chart for the year. Draw a large calendar with the names of the months. Put photographs or names beside the months, to show when the students have their birthdays.

Independent Follow-Up Activities

- Reread the book to improve fluency.
- Complete the activities on page 16.
- Complete the photocopiable activities.

Name: _____

Put in the missing word. Draw the picture.

my

my

my

It is ____ present.



It is ____ balloon.



It is ____ hat.



Name: _____

Colour the picture.

Draw a line from these words to the picture – *balloon*, *cake*, *hat*, *presents*.

