

Strand: History/Culture

Theme: Celebrations

Purpose for Reading: To understand that many celebrations are traditional, and that many different cultures have their own celebrations.

Comprehension Strategies: Making connections to self and world, visualizing.

Vocabulary

Dictionary Words: birthday party, Chinese New Year, Christmas, graduation, Halloween, wedding

Vocabulary Words: diploma, presents, pumpkin, teapot, turkey, wedding dress

High-Frequency Words: at, is, it, look, these

Before Reading

- Discuss with the students what a special occasion is. List their answers on the board.
- Ask the students to close their eyes and picture a special occasion. Ask them to visualize the people, their clothes, what they are doing, and what they are eating. Provide a think-aloud demonstration to help the students with their visualizations. Invite volunteers to share their thoughts.
- Read the title and ask the students what they think the cover photo's special occasion might be. Read the title page together and ask the students the same question.

Introduce the Picture Dictionary

- Ask the students to turn to the picture dictionary. Tell them that each photo is a different special occasion. Invite the students to name as many as they can. Read all the labels together.

Take a Photo Walk

- Pages 4–5: Ask the students to look at the photo and predict what the occasion is. Look at page 4 and find the words *birthday party*. Have the students discuss how this party is the same as or different from a party they have had. Read the label together. Ask the students to name other important things that people have at birthday parties.
- Pages 6–7: Have the students look at this photo and predict what the label may say. Ask them to say what other things make weddings special occasions.
- Pages 8–9: Discuss Halloween with the students. Ask what else the students know about Halloween. *What is trick-or-treating? Why are there pumpkins in the photo?*
- Pages 10–11: Read page 10 to the students. Ask them who celebrates Thanksgiving. Have those students share what they do on Thanksgiving Day. Read the vocabulary word together.
- Pages 12–13: Discuss graduation with the students. Read the vocabulary word *diploma*. Introduce the word *gown* if the students do not already know it.
- Pages 14–15: Ask the students what makes Chinese New Year a special occasion. Invite volunteers to talk about what happens on Chinese New Year.

Read the Book

- Ask the students to return to the title. Read the title together.
- Turn to pages 2–3. Have the students point to the

dictionary words as they read them independently.

- Turn to pages 4–5. Read this page with the students to provide the pattern. Remind the students to point as they read. Remind them where to start reading the second line.
- Ask the students to continue reading the book independently. Remind them to check the photos as they read. Provide support where necessary.

After Reading

Comprehension

- Have the students return to the picture dictionary on pages 3 and 4. Discuss with them on which occasions people wear special clothes. *On which occasions, other than birthdays, do people give presents? On which occasions would people eat special food?* Make a comparison chart to reflect the students' answers.

Occasion	Special food	Special clothes
birthday		
wedding		

- Invite the students to choose one special occasion and compare what is shown in the photos to the way they celebrate it. Have them share what they do with the group.
- Ask the students to close their eyes and imagine that it is Halloween. Ask what they can see. What clothes are they wearing? What are they doing? What else is in the picture?

Vocabulary and Word Recognition

- Have the students find the high-frequency word *is*

in the text as many times as they can, reading the word each time. Have the students practise writing *is* until they can write it fluently. Add *is* to a high-frequency word chart or word wall.

- Expand the concept of *wedding*. Have the students return to page 7 and identify all the other things in the photo. Brainstorm and add those things which are not in the photo.

Oral Language

- Have the students take turns with a partner to ask and answer questions about special occasions. For example, *What does your family celebrate? How do you celebrate? What celebrations do we have at school? What celebrations do they have in other countries? What do you like about celebrations?*

Writing

- Have the students draw a picture of themselves at their birthday. Have them copy and complete the sentences.

Look at me. It ___ my birthday.

Creative Extension Activities

- Make invitations to a special occasion.
- Make Chinese lanterns and Halloween pumpkins.
- Make a graph of coloured balloons the students like best, using balloon cutouts glued on a wall chart.
- Have a class special occasion at school. Write the invitations, prepare food, make decorations and hats.

Independent Follow-Up Activities

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

Name: _____

Draw lines to match the words.

Use the book to help you.

Halloween

birthday party

Chinese New Year

graduation

wedding

Christmas

diploma

wedding dress

turkey

presents

teapot

pumpkin

Colour the pumpkin orange.

Read the sentence.

Look at the pumpkin.



Name: _____

Write these words.

said _____

at _____

look _____

is _____

in _____

like _____

can _____

this _____

we _____

am _____

my _____

Read the words you have written.