

Themed Activities: **Chopsticks**

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A poem and picture inspired by Jon Berkley's story



**Learning Objective**

Write dragon poems, inspired by *Chopsticks* by Jon Berkley

**Starting Points**

- Read *Chopsticks* by Jon Berkley (Random House) with the class. This magical story is set in Hong Kong and the vivid illustrations reflect its rich culture. The images of the floating restaurant and its menu, the contrasting landscapes and even the main character's name, Chopsticks, are evocative of China.
- Ask children to describe the qualities of the central characters, Chopsticks and the wooden dragon.
- Ask children to use reference books and the Internet to find Chinese illustrations of dragons, and discuss their appearance in terms of colour and shape.

**Make**

- Make a border for the art work with rolled up A4 sugar paper rolled up to represent chopsticks that you eat with.
- Make up a recipe card showing a recipe for a good poem ie:- 1. Take a pencil and sharpen well.
- Think of descriptive words for a mouse and a dragon.
- Always ask any advice on alliteration.
- Continue this creative list and add a colourful border.
- Display this next to the class poem that the children have written.
- Let the class design rice bowls and add these to the display.
- Draw Chopsticks, the mouse, cover with crunched up tissue paper and add to one corner of the display to complete the work.

**Activities**

- Ask children to write a poem about the dragon in the story. Focus on the dragon's qualities, for example, gentleness, the gift of speech and a willingness to share adventures.
- Get children to think about how they can use figurative language, alliteration, simile and onomatopoeia to increase impact and mood.
- Ask children to illustrate their poems with vibrant dragon pictures

**Develop and Extend**

Ask children to write an advertisement for a local newspaper which entices readers to book at table at a floating Chinese restaurant, like the one in the story. Include a sample menu with an eye catching heading and write in the second person. Use persuasive language, in particular, tempting and positive words, to express what the restaurant has to offer. Illustrate the advertisement.

- Print this page

Send to a friend

Adapted from:



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Chopsticks

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