

# Chinese New Year Activities

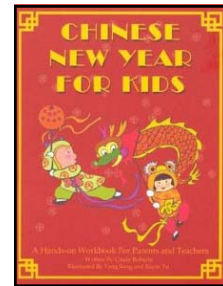


In this packet you'll find two literacy activities to use when studying or celebrating the Chinese New Year. Both activities were designed for cooperative learning teams, but they would work equally well with partners or in a small guided reading group. For more free seasonal activities, visit the Seasonal page on Teaching Resources at [www.lauracandler.com](http://www.lauracandler.com). I hope you enjoy these materials!

~ Laura Candler

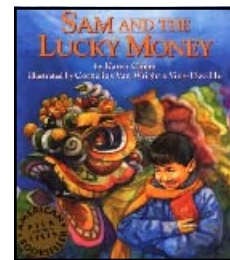
## 1. Comparing New Years Venn Diagram

This activity contains fact cards with information about the Chinese New Year and the American New Year. Students take turns sorting them onto the Venn Diagram. You can have your students do this after reading aloud a non-fiction book like [Chinese New Year for Kids](#) or after having students research facts about the Chinese New Year. Or you can use it as a “hook” prior to reading the book and conducting research. Students take turns placing the cards onto the Venn diagram and then read or research to verify the correct placement of the cards.



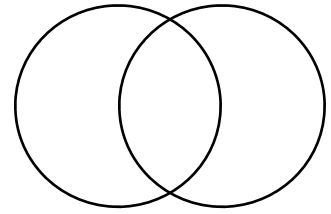
## 2. Sam and the Lucky Money Discussion Cards

Use these discussion cards after reading [Sam and the Lucky Money](#) to your students. This is a touching story with a wonderful message about what it means to be lucky. These cards work great with the [Talking Sticks discussion strategy](#) that can be found on Teaching Resources.



# Comparing New Years

## American and Chinese New Year Facts



|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>People celebrate with cheering and loud noise.</b>                   | <b>The calendar year is based on solar (sun) cycle.</b>                                      |
| <b>The calendar year is based on the lunar (moon) cycle.</b>            | <b>The first day of the new year is always January 1st.</b>                                  |
| <b>The first day of the new year is different each year.</b>            | <b>The years are named after 12 different animals.</b>                                       |
| <b>People make new year resolutions or promises.</b>                    | <b>Everyone in the country turns a year older on the same day.</b>                           |
| <b>Parents give children red envelopes with “good luck” money.</b>      | <b>Black-eyed peas are served on New Year’s Day for good luck.</b>                           |
| <b>The new year is started by cleaning house to sweep out bad luck.</b> | <b>People celebrate with parades and fireworks.</b>  |
| <b>People spend time with family and friends.</b>                       | <b>People sing “Auld Lang Syne” at midnight.</b>   |
| <b>Baby symbolizes new year and new beginnings.</b>                     | <b>At midnight families pray to ancestors for a good year and then enjoy a fancy dinner.</b> |

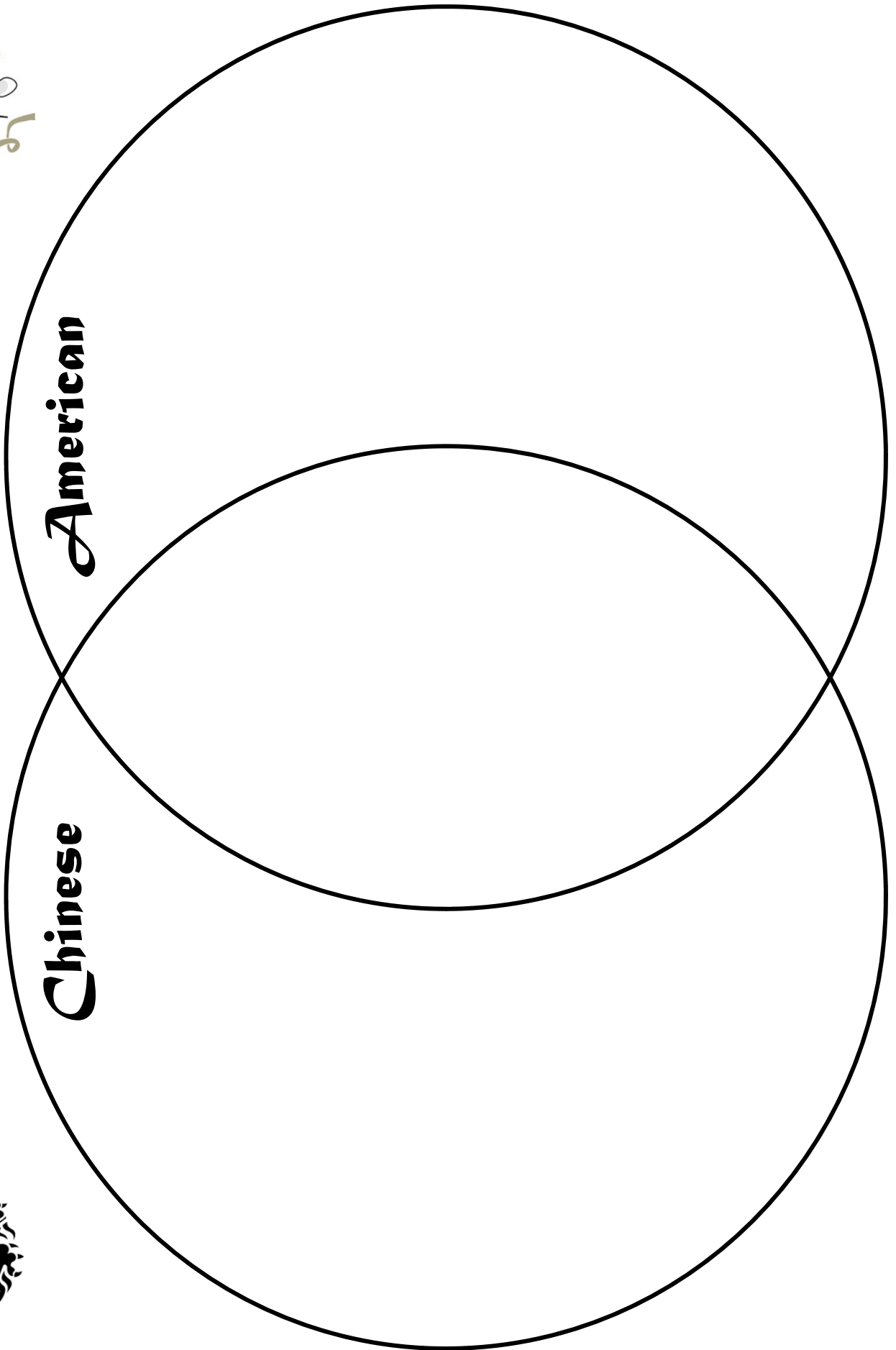
# Comparing New Years Answer Key

Color Coding: **American** **Both** **Chinese**

|   |  |
|---|--|
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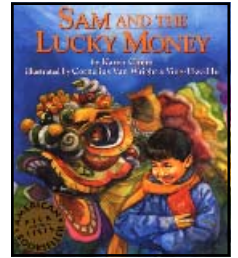


# Comparing New Years



# Sam and the Lucky Money

## Team Discussion Cards\*



What is lucky money?

Why was Sam startled when he bumped into the old man?

Why don't you think Sam was hungry after he entered the bakery?

How did Sam feel at the toy store? (How did his feelings change while he was there?)

What are some of the traditions surrounding the Chinese New Year?

What made Sam feel lucky in this story?

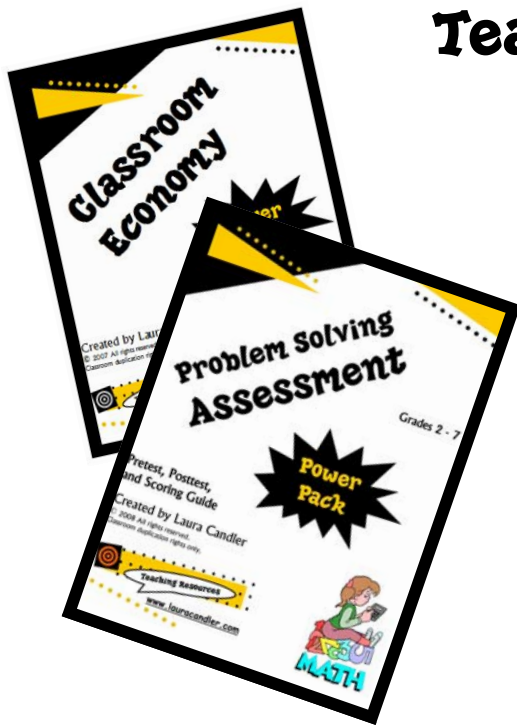
What do you think is the theme or author's message of this story?

What character traits describe Sam? Give at least one supporting detail for each trait.

\*Cards can be used with Talking Sticks discussion strategy found on [www.lauracandler.com](http://www.lauracandler.com).

# Teaching Resources Website

[www.lauracandler.com](http://www.lauracandler.com)



## Free Resources for Teachers!

- Printables and activity sheets
- Lesson plans and teaching strategies
- Cooperative learning methods
- Classroom management and motivation
- Literacy and Literature Circle strategies
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Created by  
Laura Candler  
Milken Educator