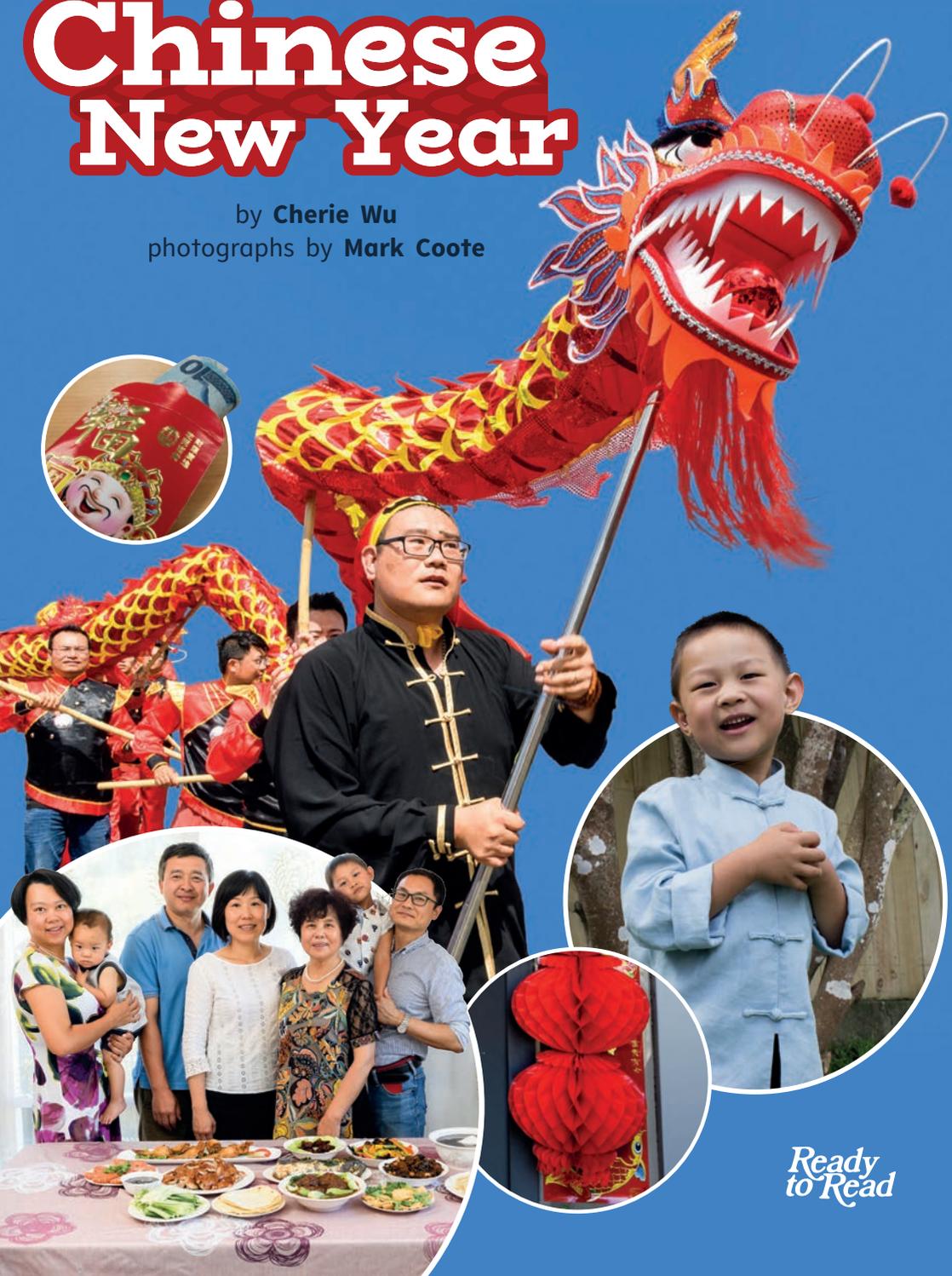


# Chinese New Year

by Cherie Wu  
photographs by Mark Coote



Ready  
to Read

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can be found online at [www.readytoread.tki.org.nz](http://www.readytoread.tki.org.nz)

This book includes several words in Mandarin, the Chinese language spoken by Murphy and his family.  
Another Chinese language is Cantonese, and there are also many other dialects.

This book refers to Murphy's grandmother as Wai Po. This is a specific term that refers to the grandmother who is the mother's mother. Other names for grandparents in Mandarin are:

Grandfather (the father's father): Ye Ye

Grandmother (the father's mother): Nai Nai

Grandfather (the mother's father): Wai Gong

For support with pronunciation of the Mandarin words in this book,  
go to [www.readytoread.tki.org.nz](http://www.readytoread.tki.org.nz) to hear an audio version of the text.

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## Waiting for New Year

Soon it will be Chinese New Year.  
Murphy is waiting and waiting.  
Chinese New Year is a very special time.  
It is a time for families to be together  
and to celebrate. It is a time  
to wish everyone happiness,  
long life, and good fortune.  
The celebrations for Chinese New Year  
last for fifteen days.



## Getting ready



In the week before New Year,  
Murphy helps clean the house  
to make room for the  
good luck of New Year.

Everyone will dress up  
for the celebrations.

Mum has bought new shirts  
for Murphy and his brother Morgan  
to wear on New Year's Day.



On New Year's Eve, Murphy and Morgan help Dad decorate the house. They put up red and gold decorations. Red and gold are lucky colours.



Murphy takes a photo.

Dad hangs a banner on each side of the door and a scroll above the door. Together, these signs wish happiness to visitors. He hangs a sign on the door. This sign means "Good luck".





Dumplings



Reunion dinner

Mum and **Wai Po** (Grandma) are cooking. They make lots of delicious food and special dumplings. Most of the food is for a special dinner tonight – but the dumplings are for later.

**Wai Po** (why por)

The special dinner on New Year's Eve is called **reunion** dinner. (A reunion is when people get together with friends and family after a long time apart.)



For Chinese families, the reunion dinner is the most important meal of the year. People travel a long way to be with their families and share this special meal. Wai Po has travelled from China to be with Murphy and his family.



Everyone enjoys the delicious food that Mum and Wai Po have made.

After dinner, the boys are allowed to stay up and wait until midnight for the New Year to begin.



Special food for a special night



## Happy New Year!

At last, it is midnight.

The New Year has arrived!

Everyone says, “**Gong Xi Fa Cai!**”

Happy New Year!”



Mum brings out the dumplings for everyone to eat. Yum!



**Gong Xi Fa Cai** (gong see fah tsai)

## Family and friends

In the morning, Murphy’s family talk to family members who are in China.

They wish each other Happy New Year.



Over the next few days, Murphy’s family will visit their friends to say “Gong Xi Fa Cai!”

Wai Po gives Murphy a red envelope with money inside. This is called **hong bao**.

Murphy says, “Thank you, Wai Po.”



**hong bao** (hong bow)

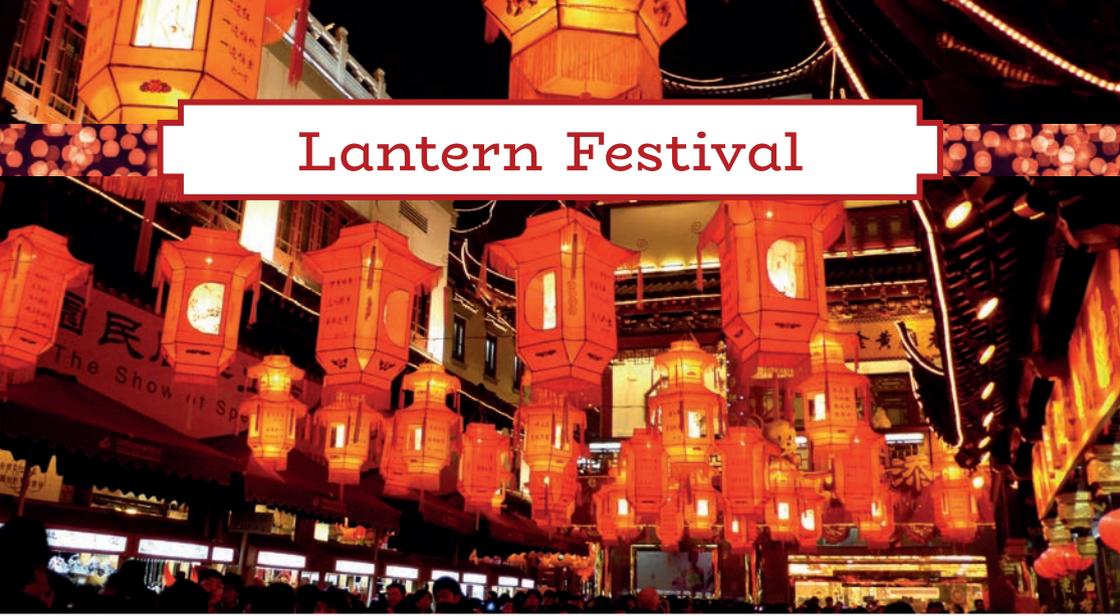
## New Year parade

It is the day after New Year's Day.  
Today, Murphy and Morgan are going  
to the city with their parents  
to see the Chinese New Year parade.

Thousands of other people are there, too.  
Murphy and Morgan both love  
the dragon dancers.



## Lantern Festival



Lantern Festival is the last day of the New Year celebrations. Murphy helps Dad hang lanterns by the front door.

Dad says, “When I was a boy in China, the streets were lit up with thousands of lanterns. The lanterns had riddles on them, and we tried to guess the answers.”

Murphy's mother has made **tang yuan** (sweet rice balls) for Lantern Festival day. Tang yuan are the boys' favourite treat. Tonight, the family is in the city again to see all the colourful lanterns.



**tang yuan** (tang you-ah)



Murphy takes more photos.

# Remembering New Year

# Index

Now Chinese New Year is over, and soon  
Wai Po will be going back to China.  
Murphy has been busy.  
“Here you are, Wai Po,” says Murphy.  
“I made this book for you.  
Happy New Year!”

Decorations .....	4, 5, 14, 15, 16
Food .....	6, 8, 9, 10, 15
Lantern Festival .....	14, 15, 16
Parade .....	12, 13, 16
Reunion dinner .....	7, 8, 9



my new shirt



decorations



Wai Po



the parade



lanterns

This book is for students to read and enjoy after they have become very familiar with the big book during many shared reading sessions.

Scan the QR code or use the short URL to go directly to an audio recording of this book.



Chinese New Year

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