

Readers' Theater

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The Chinese New Year Surprise



GRL: I
DRA: 16

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Each reader's part is highlighted in color.

List of Characters
(in order of appearance)

Narrator: Red
Ms. Hall: Green
Group 1: Blue
Group 2: Orange
Ting: Light Blue
Grandmother: Purple



Ms. Hall: Smile!

Group 1: The camera clicked and the flash went off.

Group 2: We sent the photo to Ting's grandmother along with a note.

Narrator: Thanks so much for the DVD. You surprised us all, it's true! Here's a photo of our class. We send it with love to you!

Happy New Year!



The Chinese New Year Surprise



Narrator: Winter break was over. It was time for more school fun. Ms. Hall had new things to teach, To each and every one.

Ms. Hall: Welcome back! Let's have some fun and learn something new. We will celebrate the new year, the Chinese New Year, right here in our class.

Group 1: Everyone was excited to hear the news. Everyone smiled and clapped—except Ting.

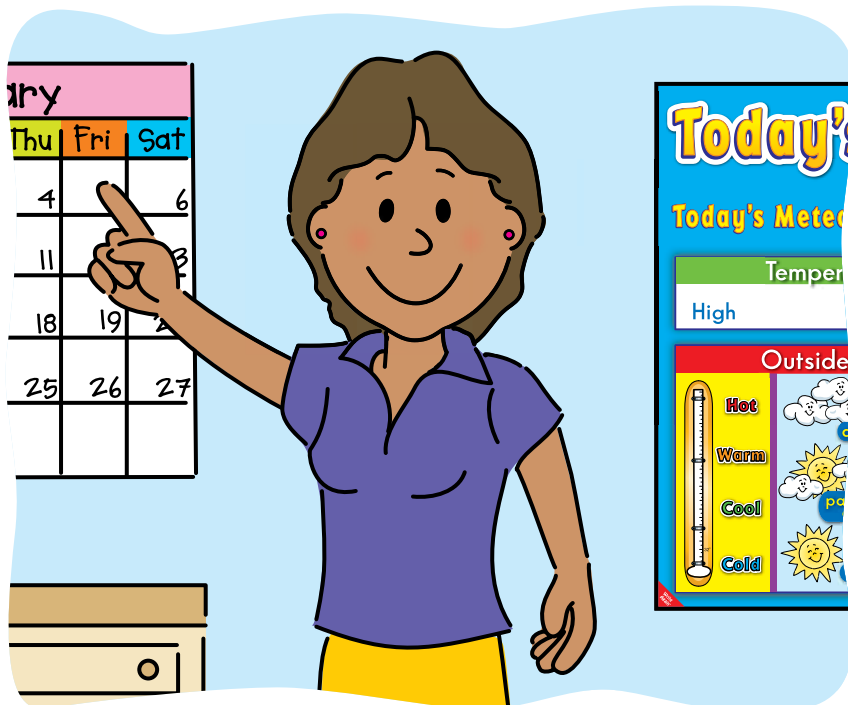
Group 2: When Ting heard the news, she looked very sad.



Narrator: Ms. Hall had an idea.
She could not hide her grin.
She told the kids about her plan.
They could not wait to begin.

Group 1: We stood together in a group.
We held our lanterns and dragon puppets.
Ting's mom and dad stood next to their daughter.

Group 2: Ms. Hall set the camera on a stand.
Then she pressed a button and joined our group.



Ms. Hall: Ting's grandmother sent us this DVD all the way from China.

Group 2: Ting was smiling. She thanked her mom and dad for the surprise.

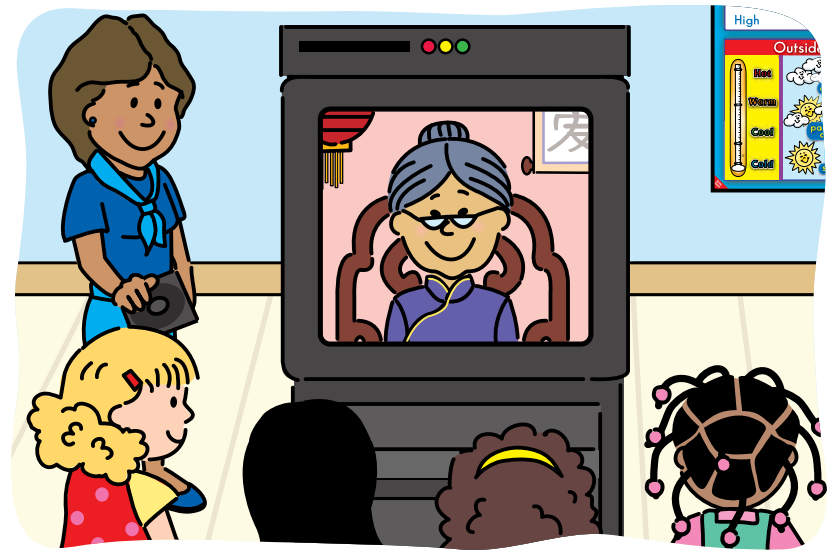
Ting: I feel better now. I wish Grandmother could see my smile. I wish Grandmother could see our Chinese New Year celebration at school.



Group 1: Ting took out a photo and held it in her hand.

Group 2: Ms. Hall walked over to Ting and spoke with her quietly.

Ms. Hall: Ting, can you tell me what is wrong? Who is in the picture?



Ms. Hall: Please sit quietly. I have something to show you.

Group 2: Ms. Hall put a DVD into the slot. She pressed PLAY.

Group 1: A small woman came on the TV.

Ting: Grandmother! My grandmother is on TV!

Grandmother: Hello, Ting. Hello, Ting's classmates. Happy New Year! Ting, please do not feel sad. I will come to visit you soon.

Narrator: Chinese New Year came at last. The party was about to begin. Someone knocked on the classroom door. Ting's mom and dad walked in.

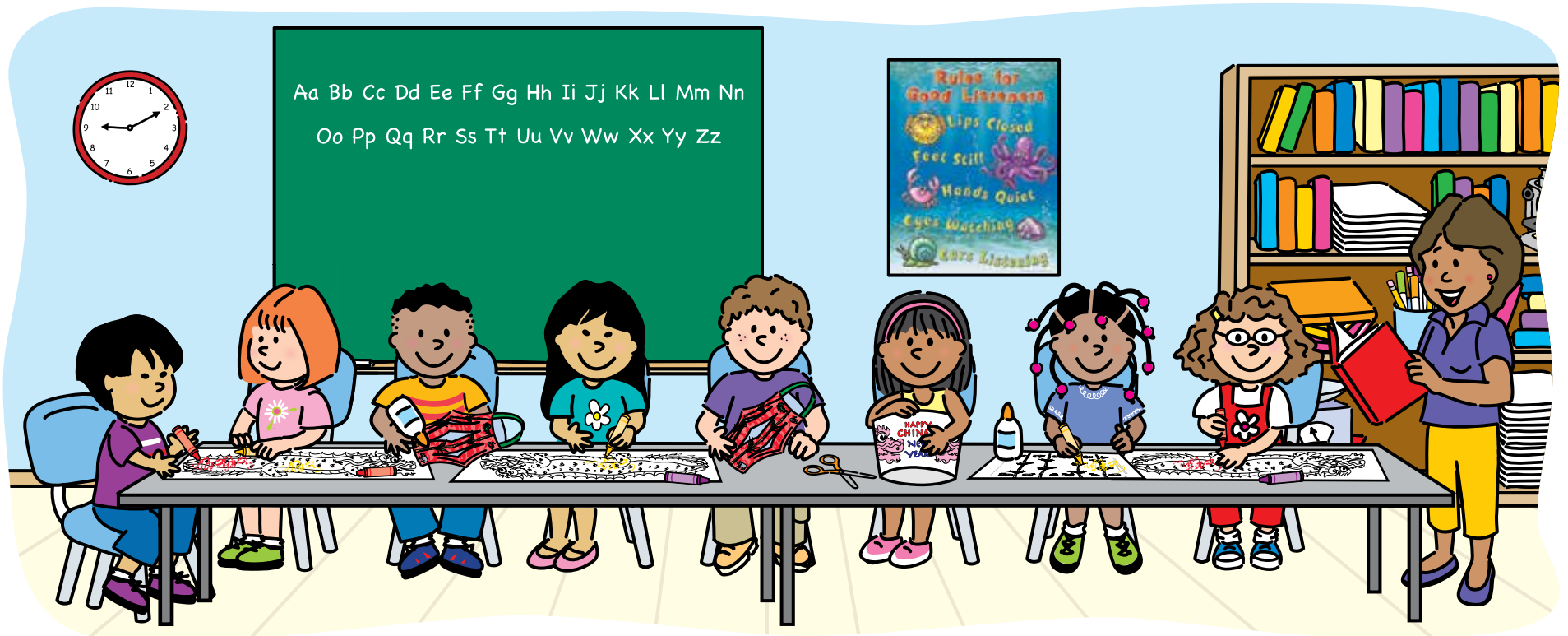
Group 1: Ting's dad handed something to Ms. Hall.



Ting: This is my grandmother. When my family moved here, my grandmother stayed in China.

Ms. Hall: You must miss your grandmother very much.

Ting: Holidays are not the same for me. They make me sad. They make me miss my grandmother even more. We used to celebrate together.



Ms. Hall: Ting, let's show the class where you lived in China. Let's tell them about Chinese New Year.

Group 1: Ms. Hall and Ting showed us on a map. Then they helped us learn about Chinese New Year.

Ting: Chinese families welcome in the new year with fireworks. They decorate with lanterns, dragons, and flowers.

Ms. Hall: Bands play music, and people dance in parades.

Ting: Each new year has its own special animal: tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog, pig, rat, or ox.

Group 2: So we decorated lanterns and made dragon puppets. Then we planned our own dance and parade.