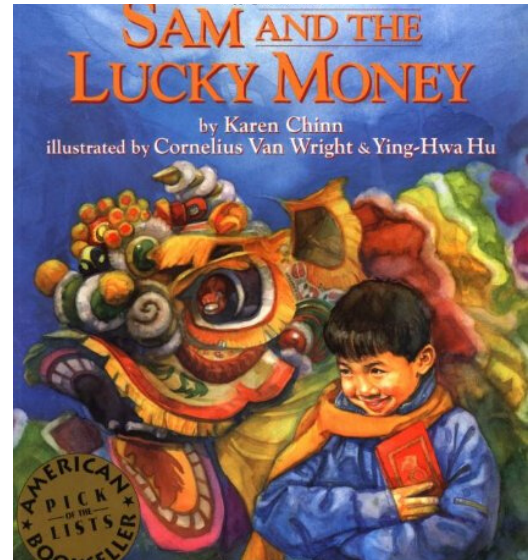




# SAM AND THE LUCKY MONEY

KAREN CHIN

Sam can't wait to go shopping in Chinatown with his mom. He has his traditional gift of "lucky money" to spend - anyway he chooses! But when Sam realizes he doesn't have enough money to purchase the things he wants, his excitement turns to disappointment. Is there something more important he can do with his money?



## Questions:

1. In Sam's culture, a gift for New Year's is money in red envelopes. Do you and your family have any special cultural traditions or holidays?
2. How do you think Sam feels getting to spend his money however he wants?
3. Do you like being places that are crowded and full of people? Why or why not? How do you feel? Does everyone feel the same way about crowds?
4. Why didn't the man have shoes in winter? How do you think Sam felt about kicking him? How do you think he felt about getting kicked?
5. Why doesn't Sam want the buns when he thinks of the old man outside?
6. Have you ever seen anything like the giant festival lion? How do you think you would feel if you saw one in person? How do you think Sam feels?
7. How do you think the crowd feels as they shout at the lion together?
8. How do you feel when you go to the toy store? How do you think Sam felt seeing all the new toys he'd never seen?
9. How do he feel when he doesn't have enough money? What does he do? How do his actions make his mother feel? What could he have done instead when he didn't have enough money?
10. "When someone gives you something you should appreciate it." Have you ever been disappointed in a gift you were given or gotten a gift you didn't like? How did you act? How do you think the person who gave you the gift felt?
11. How does Sam feel when he sees the shoeless man again? What do you think he will do?
12. How do you think the man feels when Sam gives him his lucky money? How do you think Sam feels? How do you think his mom feels?
13. Why does Sam think he's the lucky one? Are you lucky in the same way? How can you show people you love them so that they can be lucky too?