

LPF Reading Exemplar

The Chinese New Year

Task Description

In this reading activity, students read a Chinese legend about a quarrel among twelve animals who all wanted the New Year to be named after them. Students then responded to the related questions.

Preparation

Before the reading activity, the teacher drew students' attention to the zodiac of the Chinese New Year by asking them the Year they were born in. Students were then guided to read the book cover and predict the story by answering the following questions:

- How many animals can you find? Can you name all of them?
- Were the animals happy with one another?
- Can you guess what they were talking about?

Learning Outcomes: CVO s 3-4

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CVO '3

Understanding and inferring information, ideas and feelings in a small range of simple texts, using and integrating a small range of reading strategies as appropriate

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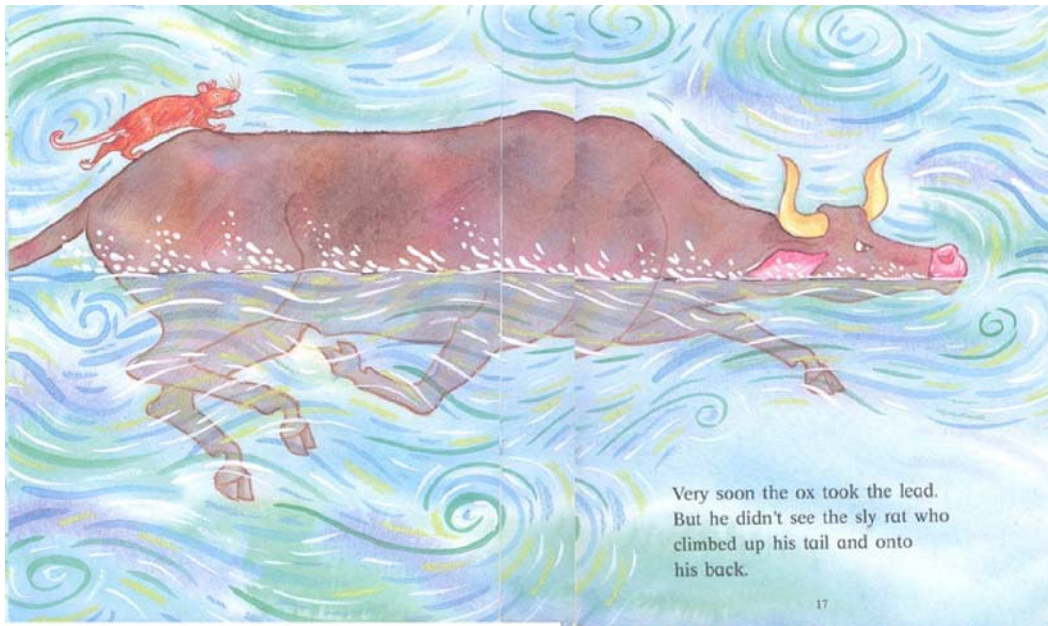
CVO '4

Understanding and inferring information, ideas and feelings in a range of simple texts, using and integrating a small range of reading strategies as appropriate

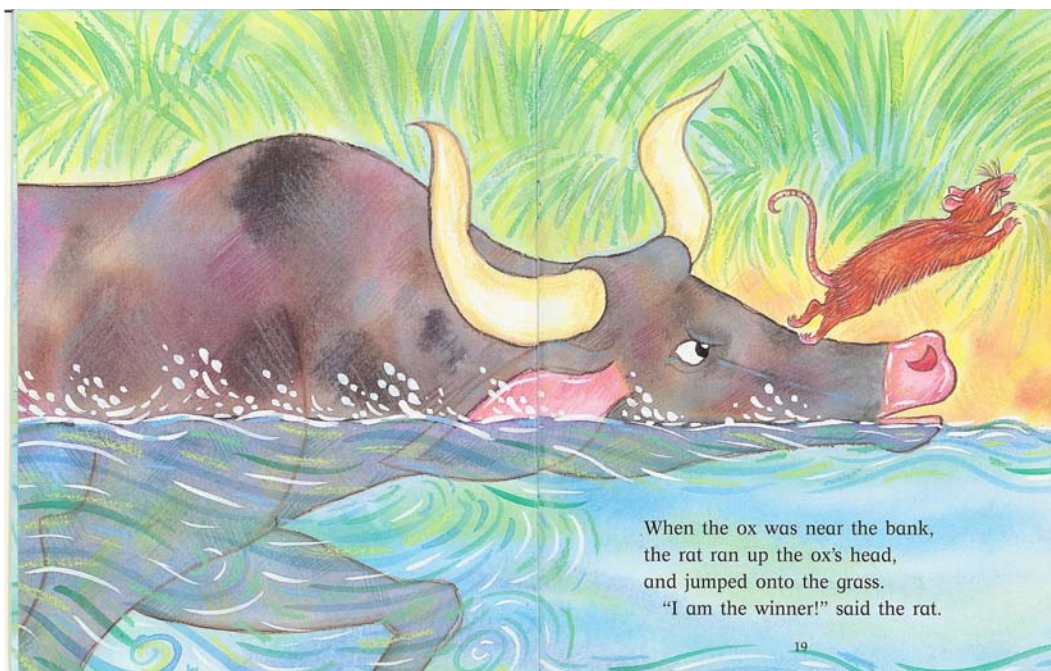
Questions	When students respond to the questions appropriately, they can:
1. What did the princess ask the animals to do to stop the quarrel? <u><i>She asked them to have a swimming race across the wide river. The New Year will be named after the winner.</i></u>	ATM 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">locate specific information by recognising the simple text structure of a story, e.g. a conflict to be followed by a resolution
2. Read up to page 17. What would the rat do next? <u><i>He would climb to the ox's head / nose / horns or ride on the ox's back.</i></u> <u><i>(Accept any reasonable answers.)</i></u>	ATM 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">make predictions about the likely development of the story by identifying key words, e.g. 'climb up his tail', 'onto his back' ATM 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">follow ideas by understanding the use of simple cohesive devices, e.g. the possessive adjective 'his' to refer to the ox's

<p>3. a) Read up to page 19. Who came first in the race?</p> <p><u><i>The rat came first.</i></u></p> <p>b) How did the writer feel about the winner?</p> <p>a. honest</p> <p><i>b. cunning</i></p> <p>c. stupid</p>	<p>3a)</p> <p>ATM 2</p> <p>locate specific information by identifying key words, e.g. ‘the winner’, ‘said the rat’</p> <p>3b)</p> <p>ATM 4</p> <p>work out the meaning of the word ‘sly’ by</p> <p>- using semantic and syntactic clues, e.g. ‘But he didn’t see...’ to understand that the rat managed to climb up the ox’s tail without being noticed</p>
<p>4. Who was the slowest in the race? How do you know?</p> <p><u><i>The pig. His name is the last in the order.</i></u></p>	<p>ATM 4</p> <p>deduce ideas by using</p> <p>- semantic clues, e.g. ‘And so the order is, Rat, Ox,... Pig.’ to show the pig in the last position</p> <p>- syntactic clues, e.g. the connectives ‘And’ and ‘so’ to show the causal relationship between the swimming race and the order</p>
<p>5. Do you think the ox was happy with the result of the race? Why?</p> <p><u><i>No, because the rat cheated in the race.</i></u></p> <p><i>(Accept any reasonable answers.)</i></p>	<p>ATM 4</p> <p>infer the feeling of characters from pieces of information in the story, e.g. ‘But he didn’t see the sly rat...’, ‘... the rat ran up the ox’s head, and jumped onto the grass.’</p>

Extract from **The Chinese New Year** by **Joanna Troughton** (pp. 16-19 & 22-23)



(Materials adapted from **The Chinese New Year** – Text by **Joanna Troughton** with the permission of **Cambridge University Press**)



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"The next eleven years can be named after the other animals," she said.

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And so the order is, Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Ram, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig.

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