

# A Story About Chinese New Year

All around was red. Red lanterns, red garlands and red banners decorated every building as far as the eye could see. At last, the preparations were almost complete. We had been cleaning for days already to get rid of the bad luck which had gathered over the last year. We had made the traditional red and gold banners for the front door with our friends and now it was time to prepare the most important meal of the year.

"There is plenty to do in here," called Mum. "Come and help!"

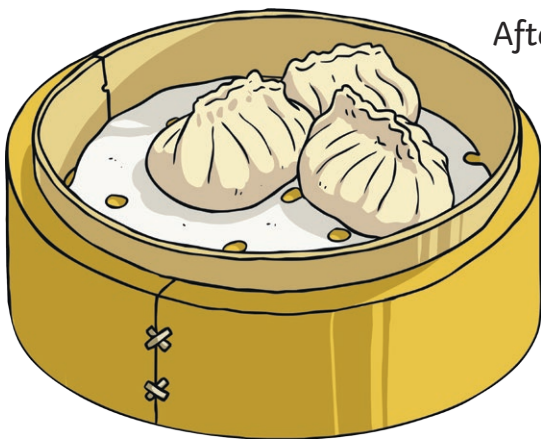
"Can I prepare the dumplings, Mum?"

I loved trying to make the dumplings the right shape to look like gold ingots. This year, we were making our favourite pork dumplings and spinach and mushroom dumplings which Dad had chosen.

Rushing along the crowded streets, Dad was caught in a sea of people all heading out of their offices to make the journey home. He'd remembered to buy the all-important firecrackers and was looking forward to setting them off after the meal. First, though, he had to squeeze onto the busy train out of the city.

"Dad, at last you're home!" I shouted excitedly. It felt like I'd been looking out for him for hours!

Before long, we were sharing the wonderful food which had been prepared. Everything had a meaning, from the long noodles for a long life to the dumplings for good luck. It all tasted delicious.



Afterwards, I was thrilled with my lucky red envelopes with a gift of money inside and the wish for health and a long life.

The evening of celebrations came to an end at midnight with Dad lighting the firecrackers outside the house to keep bad luck away for another year.





The best thing about new year is that we celebrate for two weeks! So, the next day, we travelled into town to see the dragon parade and meet more friends. Seeing the dragon parade through the streets is a spectacular sight.

On the 15th day, it was time to celebrate the lantern festival. We watched in amazement as thousands of lanterns were released into the sky to symbolise the longer days of spring and the light of the full moon. There was just time to eat a few more delicious rice dumplings before we went home to bed with all the wonderful experiences to remember for another year.

# Questions

1. Why has the narrator been cleaning for days? Tick one.

Their rooms were untidy. ☐

They were tidying up after the new year. ☐

They were getting rid of the bad luck. ☐

They were preparing for Dad's birthday. ☐

2. What is placed on front doors? Tick one.

lanterns ☐

red and gold banners ☐

firecrackers ☐

dumplings ☐

3. Which two different dumpling fillings are being prepared?

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4. What important role does Dad play in the preparations? Tick one.

He buys the firecrackers. ☐

He prepares the meal. ☐

He hangs the banner on the door. ☐

He releases lanterns. ☐

5. What do the following things symbolise?

long noodles: \_\_\_\_\_

dumplings: \_\_\_\_\_

6. What do family and friends exchange at new year?

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