

'Chinese New Year'

TEXT USED: 'The Four Dragons' retold by Michael Foreman.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES:

- To look at the traditional Chinese story and reflect on the country from which it comes.
- To consider the four dragons in the story and the part they all play.
- To learn that about what happens when we disobey.

THE WORKSHOP:

STARTER ACTIVITY (*To develop listening skills & communication in a safe environment*)

- Introduce the story and play 'cross this space' as if the children are dragons, Emperors & thirsty people.
- Think about what drama is. Ask the children what they know about drama.
- Think about Chinese New Year. Ask the children what they know about it.

SMALL GROUP WORK (*To encourage team work and contributions from whole group*)

- In small groups imagine you are the villagers. You are thin, weak, thirsty & hungry because there has been no rain. What might you say? How would you walk?

WHOLE GROUP WORK (*Using drama to motivate and bring the text to life*)

- Choose children to play the four dragons & the Emperor. The rest of the class take the part of the villagers. Act out the story as it is told. Try to 'act' as much like your character as possible.

CONCLUSION: (*An opportunity for reflection on the session.*)

- Why should we always do what we are told? Think about why our parents & teachers tell us to do things for our *own* safety.
- Think about where China is and what Chinese influences we have in our country.
- Round of 'I have enjoyed...'