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Harvest Holidays



Genre	Comprehension Skills and Strategy
Realistic fiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Realism and Fantasy• Compare and Contrast• Monitor and Fix-Up

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illustrated by Corasue Nicholas





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It was almost Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving was eight-year-old Jane's favorite holiday.

"My friend Ling will visit," said Jane's mother. "She lives far away in China."

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Ling was happy to be with Jane's family. She was excited about Thanksgiving.

"I don't know about Thanksgiving," said Ling as she unpacked her things. "We don't have that holiday in China."



Jane said, "The first Thanksgiving was at harvest time. That was when the crops were picked. People were happy that they had food to eat. They made a big feast and shared it with friends."





"Thanksgiving is a time to be with your family and friends. We say thanks for everything we have. We eat a big feast with turkey, potatoes, and pies," Jane said.

"I love pie," said Ling.



"My mom makes three kinds of pies," said Jane. "I write the name of each pie on a card."

"That sounds yummy," said Ling. "We don't have Thanksgiving in China. But we do have a holiday like it."





"It is the Moon Festival," said Ling.
"It is a big holiday for the Chinese people. It comes at harvest time."
"That is like Thanksgiving!" said Jane.
"The festival is on the night with the brightest full moon," said Ling. "It looks so big, you feel like you can touch it!"



"What happens then?" asked Jane.
"Families get together," said Ling.
"We watch the full moon high above us. We talk and sing moon songs in the bright light. But we don't eat turkey or pie. We eat moon cakes!"



“Moon cakes are made from bean paste. Some cakes have a cooked egg yolk inside. It looks like a bright, yellow moon,” Ling said.

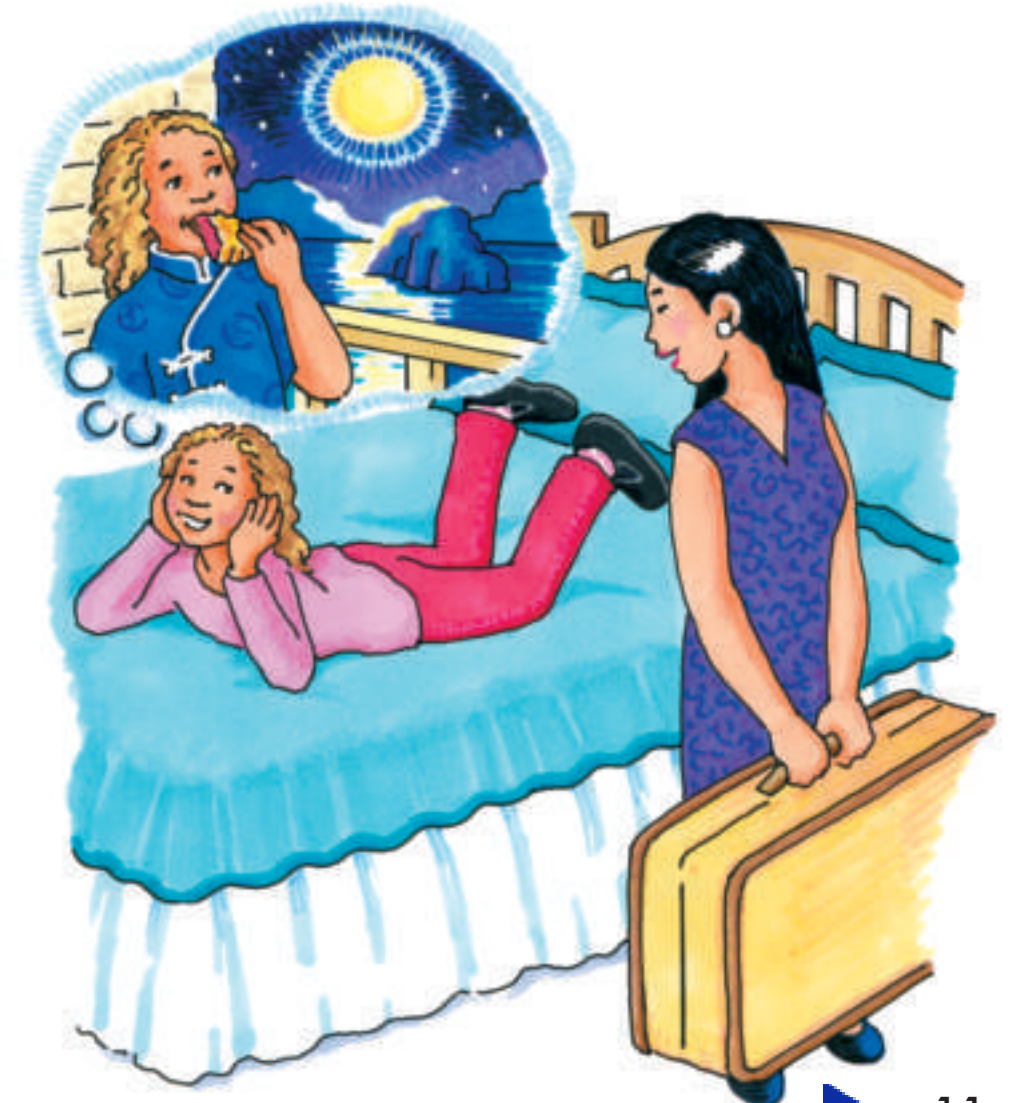
“Do they taste good?” asked Jane
Ling gave a happy laugh. “Oh, yes. One time, I had eight and then my tummy hurt.”



“The Moon Festival sounds like fun,” said Jane.

“It is,” said Ling. “It is a real treasure. Maybe one day you will visit me when it is festival time.”

“That would be great!” said Jane.





Harvest Holidays

Read Together

Harvest time is celebrated in many cultures. In Vietnam, there is also a moon festival. Like the Chinese, people eat moon cakes under the moon. In India, neighbors share their crops in a community feast. In Ghana and other African countries, people celebrate the harvest with a yam festival. People harvest the yams and then share with their friends and family.



These are giant moon cakes in a Chinese cake shop made especially for the Moon Festival.

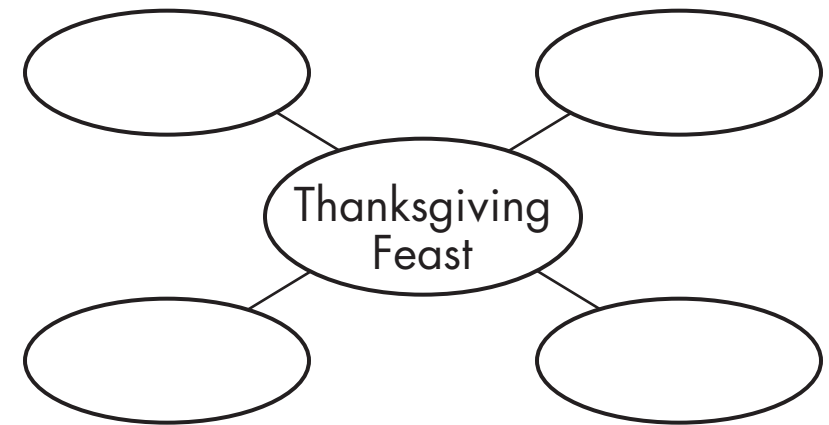


Think and Share

Read Together

1. Could this story really happen? Why do you think so?
2. On page 9 of the story, Ling says, "We eat moon cakes!" If you weren't sure what moon cakes were, what could you do?
3. Which of these words means about the same as feast?
trip meal song

Make a web like the one below to describe a Thanksgiving feast.



4. What other holidays do you like? Compare those holidays with the Chinese Moon Festival and Thanksgiving. How are they the same? How are they different?

