

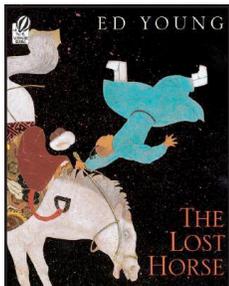


CRUCHLEY'S COLLECTION

Diana Cruchley is an award-winning educator and author, who has taught at elementary and secondary levels. Her workshops are practical, include detailed handouts, and are always enthusiastically received. Check her website for dozens of books with teaching ideas for grades 4-9.

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THE LOST HORSE

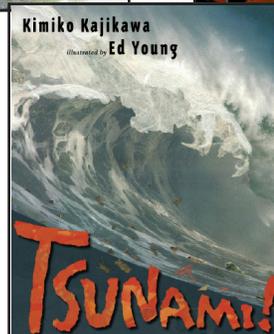
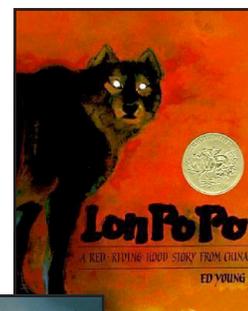
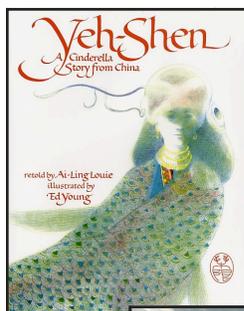


A classic Chinese folktale, of a man who owned a horse and at each turn of fate believed that things were neither as good, nor as bad, as they might seem.

Ed Young, Voyager Books, Harcourt, ©2004, ISBN 0-15-201061-5

ED YOUNG'S BOOKS

Ed Young immigrated to the US from China when he was 20. Many of his stories feature the stories of China for the English reader. Three of those are *The Lost Horse*, *Lon Po Po* (Chinese Red Riding Hood), and *Yeh-Shen* (Chinese Cinderella). There are specific websites for most of his books. The *Lon Po Po* site even includes games (vickieblackwell.com/lit/lonpopo.html). *Tsunami* is another Ed Young book in "Cruchley's Collection."



WRITE YOUR OWN "PERHAPS IT MIGHT NOT BE A GOOD THING" STORY...

Create a scenario and then write a story in which a character repeats your catch phrase - each time saying "it might not be so great" or "it might not be so bad". This can involve something simple like forgetting your homework, lunch, library book, etc. It could even be set somewhere such as the middle east, with the issue involving a camel.

This one is done in only 207 words in total, and 17 sentences, so it is not a huge challenge.

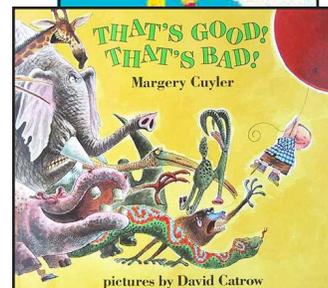
CREATE YOUR OWN WISDOM

What do you think the "moral" of the story is? Discuss with the students.

Talk about using the idea of "what I learned from this was..." when they write their own personal writing anecdotes. We take away a lesson from a lot of the things we do in life...that's how we avoid making the same mistakes over and over again.

FORTUNATELY, UNFORTUNATELY

Fortunately, Unfortunately (by Remy Charlip) is a longer picture book with the same pattern. At each turn of fate the story is moved ahead by alternating the lines, *Fortunately*, or *Unfortunately*. Another is *That's Good, That's Bad* (Margery Cuyler). The style of both books is easy for students to imitate.



THE LOST HORSE, P. 2

ORAL LANGUAGE: THE UNFORTUNATELY GAME

Ask students to stand in a large circle. Start with a line such as *James went to the library*. Continue from there with the next student saying, *Fortunately...* Students alternate a *fortunate*, *unfortunate* circumstance as they go around the circle. This requires students to be a little inventive, and warms them up to the idea of writing their own book.

Once students understand the system, playing in smaller groups creates more participation for each individual.

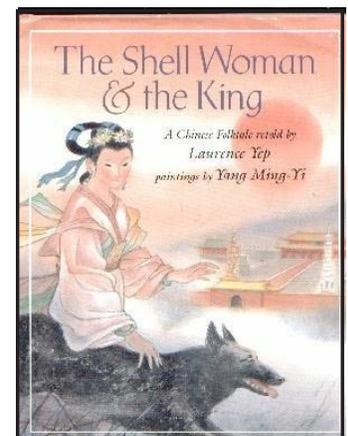
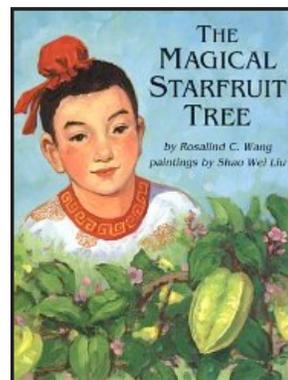
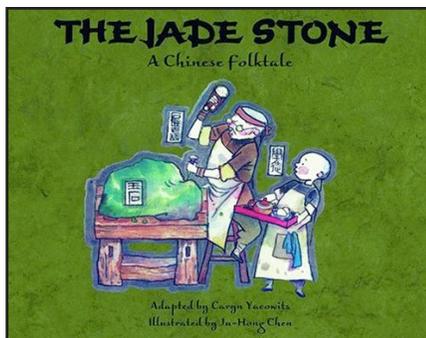
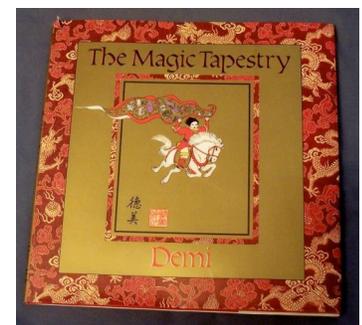
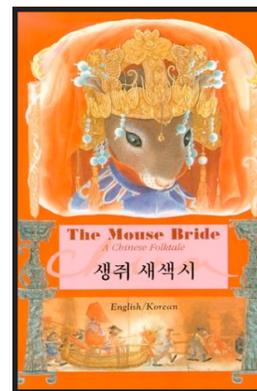
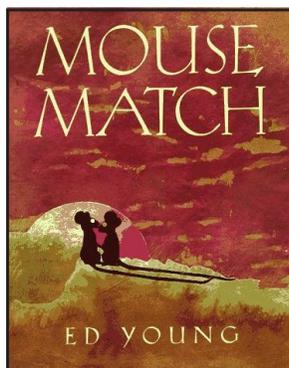
BACKGROUND FOR ART

The papers of this book are coloured in antique shades and then spritzed with a gold colour as though done with a toothbrush. This might be an interesting effect for students to create and dry, prior to creating their own art on the page.

OTHER CHINESE FOLK TALES IN PICTURE BOOKS

There are many many Chinese folktales now on the market which makes a multicultural studies unit potentially really exciting. Here are some titles:

- *Mouse Match*
- *The Jade Stone*
- *The Mouse Bride*
- *The Magical Starfruit Tree*
- *The Lost Horse*
- *The Shell Woman and the King*
- *The Magic Tapestry*



EXTREME WRITING/ PERSONAL WRITING

A springboard from a picture book to personal writing should provide at least three topics if possible. Here are some ideas:

1. Something that looked good (or bad) and turned out to be the opposite. An unexpected event and its "meaning" to you.
2. Sayings in your family and some occasions when they are used. "It is what it is", "how hard can it be", "it's all about trying" etc.
3. Losing something, and then finding it again.
4. A time you broke your leg, arm, were in hospital for any reason
5. The most dangerous (and potentially stupid?) thing I have ever done.