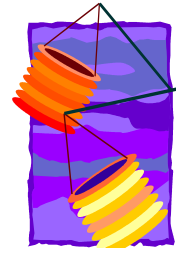


Henry and the Kite Dragon



written by
Bruce Edward Hall
illustrated by **William Low**



The story, set in the midst of New York City, is a beautiful illustration of tolerance and understanding of different perspectives. Henry Chu is an 8 year old, living in Chinatown, who shares his favorite thing to do—fly kites. Mr. Chin, called Grandfather by all of the young boys, builds the most spectacular kites in shapes of butterflies, caterpillar and, his specialty—a dragon. Several times in mid-flight, the kites are destroyed by young boys from Little Italy. Mr. Chin shows tolerance by making yet another kite to sail into the sky, only to be attacked again by the Italian boys. When the boys face-off, they come to the realization that there are two sides to every story. What the boys all discover about each other is sure to leave your students with a new outlook. The story is presented in a beautifully illustrated picture book.

Self-Selected Reading Block - As always, this makes an excellent read-aloud at every grade level.

Guided Reading Block

This story is excellent for exploring the major literary elements—characters, setting that's relevant, problem/solution, theme, and strong plot.

You might pursue the chain of events through cause and effect relationships.

Include some stimulating discussions on awareness of difference perspectives on issues. For that, take current event articles from the newspaper and have students present both sides of an issue.

Analyze the powerful dialogue that enhances this story.

Discuss the interesting point of view.

Discover and research: the Chinese culture; the Chinese settlement in New York and immigration to the US; and the history of kites and kite races.

Writing Block

Analyze the powerful dialogue that enhances this story.

Use the story as a springboard into writing persuasive pieces to be read or delivered orally.

Math/Science/Arts and Crafts

Why not build some beautiful kites? Have students apply math concepts of angles and shapes and wind resistance.