

TIKKI TIKKI TEMBO

Tikki Tikki Tembo

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Themes: Chinese Culture/Folktales

Grade Level: K-2

Running Time: 9 minutes, iconographic

Summary

Tikki Tikki Tembo is the Chinese folktale of a little boy with a very long name. Tikki Tikki tembo-no sa rembo-chari bari ruchi-pip prti pembo was the first son of a woman who gave her first-born a very long name, and her second son, the short name of Chang.

One day, Chang falls into the well. Tikki Tikki Tembo runs to his mother for help. Shortly, an old man with a ladder helps Chang out of the well. The next time, Tikki Tikki Tembo falls into the well. Chang runs for help. However, it takes so long for Chang to say Tikki Tikki Tembo's full name to describe what happened that it is a long while before Chang's brother is recovered from the well.

Tikki Tikki Tembo's recovery is long, and the lesson learned is to give one's children short names instead of great long names.

Objectives

- Children will learn about Chinese culture
- Children will explore family relationships
- Children will enjoy a well-known Chinese folktale

Before Viewing Activities

Share the book Tikki Tikki Tembo with children.

Then ask:

How do you think Tikki Tikki Tembo and his brother Chang felt about one another?
How can you tell?

Talk with children about Chinese culture. Use your school library for references and photographs. Invite a Chinese guest to share his/her customs and traditions with the class. Later, have children investigate Chinese New Year's celebrations. Then have a Chinese New Year's celebration in your own classroom.

Have children think of rhyming names that

they can give to one another. Encourage children to try and base the names on the special characteristics of their classmates. For example, if the child enjoys dancing, he/she might be given the name "Prancer-Dancer." Print children's new rhyming names on name tags and give children the option of wearing them throughout the day.

After Viewing Activities

Use a large barrel or other large, round container to represent a well in the classroom. Place an object in the "well." Describe the object, without naming it, to children. The child who identifies the object will take it out of the well and choose another object to put into the well. This child will describe the object, without naming it, to the class. The game continues in this manner.

Supply a large sheet of kraft paper and markers. Have children use the paper and markers to draw a large map.

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