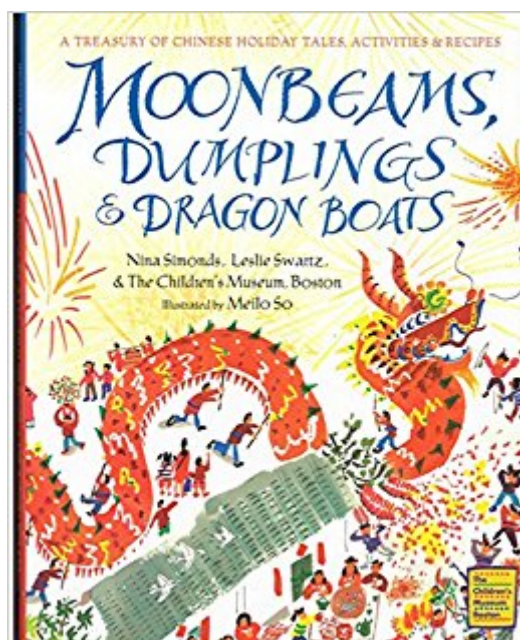


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# Moonbeams, Dumplings & Dragon Boats: A Treasury Of Chinese Holiday Tales, Activities & Recipes



## Synopsis

Filled with delectable recipes, hands-on family activities, and traditional tales to read aloud, this extraordinary collection will inspire families everywhere to re-create the magic of Chinese holidays in their own homes. They can feast on golden New Year's dumplings and tasty moon cakes, build a miniature boat for the Dragon Boat Festival and a kite at Qing Ming, or share the story of the greedy Kitchen God or the valiant warrior Hou Yi. This stunning compilation from bestselling cookbook author Nina Simonds and Leslie Swartz of the Children's Museum, Boston, is the perfect gift for families that have embraced Chinese holidays for generations--and for those just beginning new traditions.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1020 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 80 pages

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Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.5 x 11 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 35 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #114,106 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Chinese New Year #64 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Asian & Asian American #104 in Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Non-religious

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: 4 - 2

## Customer Reviews

In Moonbeams, Dumplings & Dragon Boats: A Treasury of Chinese Holiday Tales, Activities & Recipes by Nina Simonds, Leslie Swartz and the Children's Museum, Boston, illus. by Meilo So, each of a quartet of holidays includes a brief background and introduces a bevy of crafts, recipes and legends. "The Story of the Kitchen God" kicks off the section on the Chinese New Year (and the reason behind serving the traditional tanggua, or candied melons); a recipe for Five-Treasure Moon Cakes stuffed with apricot preserves, pitted dates, sweet coconut and raisins helps youngsters

celebrate the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival. Step-by-step illustrations aid in food preparation or crafts such as New Year Prints or Good Luck Characters in this elegantly designed volume. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 4-7-This book features five holidays: Chinese New Year and the Lantern Festival, Qing Ming, the Dragon Boat Festival, and the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival. Each section begins with a one-page description of the history and customs of the festival and is followed by a four- to six-page story, from one to three recipes, and two or three crafts or games. The headings on each page appear in both English typeface and Chinese calligraphy; a guide to Chinese pronunciation is included. The ample white space surrounding the text is filled with small, whimsical watercolor illustrations. Each of the four sections is introduced by a dynamic, detailed watercolor painting on a double-page spread. They include a dragon parade complete with fireworks, kites flying above a family honoring ancestors at a grave, a dragon boat race, and preparations for a moon ceremony. A two-page resource section is divided into three parts: of interest to adults, of interest to young readers, and Internet sources. Most books for young readers about Chinese holidays stress Chinese New Year; only two others feature the full range of annual festivals. Carol Stepanchuk's *Red Eggs & Dragon Boats* (Pacific View, 1994) is a shorter book with a similar scope, but fewer recipes and crafts/activities. Judith Karen Gee's *A Book of Chinese Festivals* (Steam RR, 1989; o.p.) offers a brief description of each holiday but no recipes or other activities. *Moonbeams* is a useful, visually appealing addition to any holiday collection. Ginny Gustin, Sonoma County Library System, Santa Rosa, CA Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Having lived in Asia and being an art teacher and museum educator, I can't help but feel that the art/ crafts projects and some of the information are over-simplified and dumbed-down a bit. The illustrations are lovely and the folk stories are quite a nice addition, however.

Very informative book about Chinese festivals with lovely drawings.

Stories, recipes and activities for: Chinese new year, Lateen festival, Qing Ming, Dragon boat festival and mid autumn moon festival. The recipes are very light and in some cases, it is really just one main recipe, which in some cases are made by the family, but moon cakes? Really, moon cakes are bought than made these days!! Otherwise, I liked the story behind each of the key festivals, but for more recipes then go to 'chinese feasts and festivals'. However, this book does provide a little

activity for children to make with the supervision from adults.

My granddaughter is a little Chinese girl who was adopted from China when she was an infant. Her parents want her to "know" about the people and the culture that she was born into. Through this book she is learning about Chinese holidays and the fun activities and food that accompany them. I think she will find this book very special with the interesting activities and yummy treats.

I purchased this book for our family after adopting a child from China. I have since bought it for another family. It provides a wonderful overview of the major Chinese festivals, along with easy recipes, crafts, and stories.

Fun book for teaching kids about Chinese New Year. We homeschool and really enjoyed it.

This book is a great intro to Chinese festivals and cultural mythology. Our five year old loves when we read it to her, though it's still a little over the head of my three year old. I think 5-8 is probably the right age for this book, though younger kids will still enjoy bits and parts of it. In this book there are stories, crafts and recipes. For the story of Chang'e, this book features the version where she steals her husband's immortality potion because she is jealous. We also have books in which she drinks it to protect the potion from a greedy warrior. It's an old legend told different ways. But, my kids like the other version better because they hate thinking the Moon Goddess is a thief. Overall, the legends are well written and easy to understand for the young elementary crowd. The watercolor illustrations are simple, but beautiful. We'd recommend this book for anyone interested in learning more about Chinese culture or looking for more ways to share family traditions with their kids. Also perfect for adoptive families looking for ways to learn about and share their child's birth culture with them.

Great book to help teach Chinese New Year.

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Chinese: Crash Course Chinese - Learn Chinese Fast With a Native Speaker: 500+ Essential

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