



The Chinese Emperor's New Clothes

Author: Ying Chang Compestine

Illustrator: David Roberts

Published: January 2018

ISBN: 9781419725425

Synopsis:

Ming Da is only nine years old when he becomes the emperor of China, and his three advisors take advantage of him by stealing his stores of rice, gold, and precious stones. But Ming Da has a plan. With the help of his tailors, he comes up with a clever idea to outsmart his devious advisors: He asks his tailors to make “magical” new clothes for him. Anyone who is honest, the young emperor explains, will see the clothes’ true splendor, but anyone who is dishonest will see only burlap sacks. The emperor dons a burlap sack, and the ministers can’t help but fall for his cunning trick.

Author Bio:

Born and raised in Wuhan, China, Ying Chang Compestine now lives in California and is the author of 20 children’s books, cookbooks, and novels. She has been featured on US television programs as well as in magazines and newspapers. Compestine visits schools throughout the world to share her journey as a writer, how her life in China inspired her works, and the challenges of writing in a second language. <http://yingc.com/wordpress/>

Illustrator Bio:

David Roberts was born in Liverpool. He always loved drawing from an early age and couldn’t wait to escape school to go to Art College. There he developed a keen interest in pottery and fashion and went on to study fashion design at Manchester Metropolitan University. After university he worked as a milliner and began to get work as a fashion illustrator but always felt his true calling was in children’s book illustration.

David has illustrated works by some of the most successful authors such as Philip Ardagh, Peter Bently, Daren King, Julia Donaldson, Jacqueline Wilson, Tom Baker, Chris Priestley and most recently Julian Clary on The Bolds series of books. David considers himself privileged and lucky to be doing a job he loves. His most recent works include Iggy Peck, Architect by Andrea Beaty, The Troll by Julia Donaldson and The Dunderheads by Paul Fleischman, which was shortlisted for the 2010 Kate Greenaway Award. In 2015 David was shortlisted again for the Kate Greenaway Medal with Tinder, written by Sally Gardner. David is also the creator of the Dirty Bertie character about a little boy with bad habits such as picking his nose and trumping loudly! <http://davidrobertsillustration.tumblr.com/>

Themes:

Chinese New Year
Honesty
Fairytales-Twisted Fairytales

Curriculum Links:

HASS Year 3 – History [ACHASSK065](#)

English Year 2: [ACELT1591](#)

Crosscurricular Priorities: Asia and Australia's Engagement with Asia
General capabilities > Ethical Understanding> Learning Continuum> Understanding ethical concepts and issues.

English Year 2:

Discuss the characters and settings of different texts and explore how language is used to present these features in different ways.

Comparing two or more versions of the same story by different authors or from different cultures, describing similarities and differences in authors' points of view

- ***The Chinese Emperor's New Clothes*** is a re-telling of The Emperor's New Clothes.
- After reading ***The Chinese Emperor's New Clothes***, ask the students if they recognise this story?
Is it like another story they may have heard before?
Read a version of The Emperor's New Clothes, and then discuss the similarities and differences between the two versions.

Other Fairy Tale Re-tellings:

Yeh-Shen A Cinderella Story From China

Little Red and the Very Hungry Lion – Alex T Smith

Three Ninja Pigs, The – David Bedford and Becka Moor

Fairytales Gone Wrong Series - Steve Smallman

Blow Your Nose, Big Bad Wolf

Don't Pick Your Nose, Pinocchio!

Eat Your Greens, Goldilocks

Get Some Rest, Sleeping Beauty!

Girl Who Cried Wolf

Give Us a Smile, Cinderella

Keep Running, Gingerbread Man

Rapunzel, Rapunzel, Wash Your Hair!

Snow White and the Very Angry Dwarf

Stinky Jack and the Beanstalk

Who's Bad and Who's Good, Little Red Riding Hood?

You're Not Ugly, Duckling!

HASS Year 3 – History

Celebrations and commemorations in places around the world (for example, Chinese New Year in countries of the Asia region, Bastille Day in France, Independence Day in the USA), including those that are observed in Australia (for example, Christmas Day, Diwali, Easter, Hanukkah, the Moon Festival and Ramadan)

- According to Chinese tradition, on New Years' Day it is important that everyone dresses in new clothes. That way they can have a fresh start, and evil spirits won't recognise them.
What other traditions are associated with Chinese New Year?

<http://splash.abc.net.au/home#!/media/2212477/dancing-lions-celebrate-the-lunar-new-year>

- What other celebrations do we observe during the year and what special traditions are associated with these? ie Easter eggs at Easter, Poppies on Remembrance Day. Where did these traditions originate?

<http://splash.abc.net.au/home#!/topic/494544/celebrations-and-traditions>

Honesty:

Australian Curriculum link

General capabilities > Ethical Understanding> Learning Continuum> Understanding ethical concepts and issues.

Typically by the end of Year 2, students:

Explore ethical concepts in context: discuss ethical concepts within a range of familiar contexts.

Recognise ethical concepts: describe ethical concepts, such as right and wrong, honesty, fairness and tolerance.

All of the ministers in the story lie and say that the Emperor's clothes are made of beautiful, luscious silk, when in fact the garment is made from a burlap sack.

- Why do the characters choose to lie?
- Ask whether anyone in the class has ever told a lie. Why did they choose to lie?
- Is there ever a good reason to tell a lie?

Other books about honesty:

Empty Pot, The - Demi

Truth According to Arthur - Tim Hopgood

Flytrap - Meme Macdonald and Boori Monty Prior (novel)

Art

In the back of the book there is an activity on how to make your own Chinese New Year Parade Robe