

Ernie was excited about the Chinese New Year. At school, Ernie couldn't stay still because he was focused on the Chinese New Year instead of his schoolwork. After school, Ernie raced to his father's kung fu school to practice his special Chinese New Year lion dance. After class, Ernie checked his lion's head to make sure it was working right for the Chinese New Year. At home, Ernie and his family put on new clothes, bowed at the altar, and had a big feast because it was their custom to do these things at the Chinese New Year. In bed, Ernie couldn't sleep because he was thinking about the Chinese New Year. At midnight, Ernie went back to the kung fu school for a special eye-opening ceremony for his lion to get ready for the Chinese New Year. The next morning, Ernie got to do his Chinese New Year lion dance in the streets of New York City! Finally, Ernie was so tired from all the Chinese New Year excitement that his father had to give him a ride home. 😊

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1. Where does Ernie live?
2. Why was this day special?
3. What did Ernie see on his way home from school?
4. What is the hardest thing in Chinese school for Ernie?
5. Who told Ernie to check his lion's head?
6. When did the family bow at the altar?
7. What does "Gung Hay Fat Choy" mean?
8. When is the eye opening ceremony?
9. What is inside the red envelopes?
10. How did Ernie get home from the lion dance?

1. Who is in Ernie's family?
2. Why do you think Ernie goes to Chinese school on Saturdays?
3. What is the purpose of the Lion Dance?
4. How does Ernie check his Lion's head?
5. Why do the children wear new clothes on Chinese New Year?
6. What did the Chinese-American family have for their Chinese New Year feast?
7. How do you think Ernie and his brother and sister feel when they receive a red envelope? Explain your answer.
8. Why couldn't Ernie sleep?
9. What was the purpose of videotaping the ceremony?
10. Why do you think Ernie stayed back when the bigger lions danced close to the fireworks?
11. How do you think Ernie felt when he danced in his own neighborhood?