

Songkran

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Suggested Teaching and Learning

Text Type: Non-Fiction

Genre: Description

Suggested Reading Recovery Level: 5

Word Count: 78

ACARA F-1 References

Learning Areas: English; Humanities and Social Sciences

General Capabilities: Literacy; Intercultural Understanding

Cross Curriculum Priorities: Asia and Australia's Engagement with Asia

Understanding Texts

- Build background knowledge with a rich book introduction. Tell students that Songkran is known as the Water Festival and people have fun spraying water on their friends and family. Explain that children make sand pagodas and give gifts to the monks. Have students locate, hear and repeat the words monks, temple and pagoda. *UnT4, UnT5
- After reading, make a list of the things that the children in the text do to celebrate Songkran. *UnT4, UnT5
- Use developmentally appropriate language to talk with students about why water might signal new beginnings (cleaning, washing). *UnT4, UnT5

Vocabulary: beginnings, festival, monks, pagoda, special, spray, temple, water

High Frequency Words: into, make, some, the, their, they, will

Phonic Knowledge and Word Recognition + Phonological Awareness

- Locate the words take and make. Hear the long medial vowel sound and notice the CVCe pattern. Change the first letter to make new words such as lake, fake and bake. *PKW4
- Locate the words think, their and they. Write out and notice the way each word ends. Add more high frequency words that start the same way (th) but end differently, such as the, them and then. *PKW4, PKW5

*National Literacy Learning Progressions

Songkran

A young girl with dark hair in pigtails, wearing a colorful patterned dress and a necklace, is smiling and splashing water. She is holding a silver bowl in her hands. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with greenery and a path.

The Water Festival

It is Songkran.

Some people call this
the Water Festival.

SAMPLE



Songkran is a time to
think about
new beginnings.

SAMPLE



The children spray water
on their friends.

They spray water
in the street.

SAMPLE



Glossary



monks



sand pagoda



temple

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Songkran is an informational text that describes one of Thailand's most famous festivals that marks the beginning of the Thai new year. The text highlights traditional activities such as spraying water on family and friends, gift giving and taking sand to the temples.

The Authors

Carole and Suzanne are sisters and educators.

Carole has over 30 years teaching experience. The last 15 years have been spent specialising in early literacy acquisition, training teachers and designing and delivering early reading and writing interventions. Carole has a Master of Education and a Master of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages.

Suzanne has 15 years teaching experience 13 of which have been spent teaching ESL students. She has a Master of Education (IT in Education) and a Bachelor of Vocational Education and Training.

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