

Reading Roundup

Tikki Tikki Tembo

Retold by Arlene Mosel

Illustrated by Blair Lent

Reading Roundup
Partners



Introduction

Gather the students around you so that they are able to see the illustrations of the book. Most classrooms will have an area rug defining this space. Introduce yourself and tell the students that you are excited to share Tikki Tikki Tembo, retold by Arlene Mosel and illustrated by Blair Lent.

Before Reading

Tikki Tikki Tembo makes me think about the things we do because we've always done it that way. Sometimes, we call these things customs or traditions. Consider telling your own story about what you and/or your family do as a custom or tradition. I invite you to think about something you do regularly. As we read this book, think about the custom this Chinese family has and how it makes a huge difference in their lives.

During Reading

- Begin reading the book by starting on the title page. Hold the book so that students are able to see the illustrations. Give plenty of time for students to “read” and think about the pictures. Continue to read through page 5.
- **Page 5 P** – *The author tells us right away about the Chinese custom. What custom do they use when naming their sons?* (The first son is given a very long name that tells how honorable, or important, he is. The second son is given a short name that tells about the unimportant role he plays in the family.) Continue reading through page 9.
- **Page 9** *It's hard for me to even imagine how panicked I would be if someone fell into water like this. T/T – Think about what Tikki Tikki Tempo might have been saying to himself when Chang fell into the well. What might he be yelling out loud? Turn and talk to your partner. (Tikki Tikki Tempo was probably thinking that he had to run as fast as he could to get help. Maybe he was trying to think of a way to get Chang out of the well himself. He was probably screaming and crying as he called for help.)* Continue reading through page 17.
- **Page 17** *Notice the expression on Tikki's face and on the mother's face. P – How would you describe their feelings right now? (Tikki and his mom are terrified that Chang may not be okay. They probably can barely breathe as they watch the old man try to help.)*
- **Page 18-19** *The mood of the story changes quickly. Notice what's happening in this illustration. The children are having a big party, or festival. T/T -Why do you think they are celebrating? Turn and talk to your partner. (Chang may have drowned in the well, but thanks to the quick response of Tikki, his mom, and the old man, Chang was rescued. They are celebrating because Chang is alive and healthy.)* Continue reading through page 37.
- **Pages 36-37** *Notice the long journey between where the old man sleeps and the well. I'm thinking this trip is really hard on the old man, especially since he must carry a big ladder.* Give students time to “read” the illustration. Continue reading the rest of the story making sure students have time to “read” the remaining illustrations.



After Reading

- *After reading this book I'm thinking about how the family's custom changed the way the family responded to an emergency. You may want to think about that, too.* Give students 10-15 seconds to think quietly. If a student or two offers to share their thoughts, that's fine. Otherwise, allow the students to reflect quietly.
- *I'm also wondering about helping other people who are in trouble. I'm thinking about Chang being brave enough to do whatever it took to help his brother. Neither of the boys ran away when they knew they were in trouble. Neither boy ran away when something terrible happened. Think about what you may have done in this situation.* Give students 10-15 seconds to think quietly. If a student or two offers to share their thoughts, that's fine. Otherwise, allow the students to reflect quietly.

Vocabulary

Chattering – talking nonstop p. 6

Well – a hole dug in the ground to bring water to the surface (show illustration) p. 7

Troublesome boy – a boy who causes problems a lot p.11

Tiresome child – a child who is always making others tired because of the way they act p. 25

Bewitched – played a trick, like magic p.27

**WORD
WAGON**

