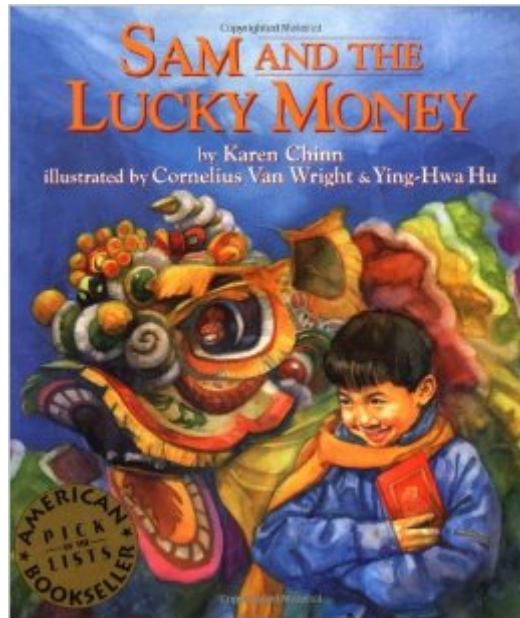


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# Sam And The Lucky Money



## Synopsis

Sam can hardly wait to go shopping with his mom. It's Chinese New Year's day and his grandparents have given him the traditional gift of lucky money red envelopes called leisees (lay-sees). This year Sam is finally old enough to spend it any way he chooses. Best of all, he gets to spend his lucky money in his favorite place Chinatown! But when Sam realizes that his grandparents' gift is not enough to get the things he wants, his excitement turns to disappointment. Even though his mother reminds him that he should appreciate the gift, Sam is not convinced until a surprise encounter with a stranger. With vivid watercolor paintings, artists Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu celebrate the sights and sounds of festive Chinatown streets. In her picture book debut, author Karen Chinn tells the affecting story of a child who discovers that sometimes the best gifts come from the heart. Sam can hardly wait to go shopping with his mom. It's Chinese New Year's day and his grandparents have given him the traditional gift of lucky money red envelopes called leisees (lay-sees). This year Sam is finally old enough to spend it any way he chooses. Best of all, he gets to spend his lucky money in his favorite place Chinatown! But when Sam realizes that his grandparents' gift is not enough to get the things he wants, his excitement turns to disappointment. Even though his mother reminds him that he should appreciate the gift, Sam is not convinced until a surprise encounter with a stranger. With vivid watercolor paintings, artists Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu celebrate the sights and sounds of festive Chinatown streets. In her picture book debut, author Karen Chinn tells the affecting story of a child who discovers that sometimes the best gifts come from the heart."

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 660L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Lee & Low Books; Reprint edition (July 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1880000539

ISBN-13: 978-1880000533

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 8.8 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (22 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #99,550 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in [Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Chinese New Year](#) #44 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up &](#)

Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Homelessness & Poverty #360 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Values

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Everyone loves this book; mothers, teachers and of course, children. Many books about Chinese New Year are non-fiction books that describe the customs of the holiday. What makes this different is that this is a piece of fiction that gives you all the flavors of what it's like in an urban Chinatown during Chinese New Years while at the same time sending a wonderful message of giving. My 3 and 5 year old love this book. My 5 year old's kindergarten teacher loved the book for the same reasons plus it fostered discussions about the story and the holiday. A class of 18 children sat quietly; listening attentively. The children found the illustrations fascinating. The teacher even loaned our book to another kindergarten teacher. I'm online because I'm getting them their own copy.

Read for a pre-k school Chinese New Year celebration and for a kindergarten celebration and all children were very attentive and interested in the story. Also has a good moral message to about giving.

Great for pre-schoolers to learn about giving and introduce them to Chinese New Year Celebration. Read the book to 3 year olds at a pre-school. Everyone was very attentive. Kids got the message, learned about giving and appreciation, as well as were introduced to Asian culture. Recommend to ages 3-7.

I cry almost every time I read this book to my 5 1/2 year-old daughter, who is from Hunan. She doesn't...but I do...and we've been reading it for over a year now. I'm hoping she learns compassion and generosity from the story, which it teaches so beautifully in both words and rich illustrations.

my three year old loves this and I do too! it is a great book to share at Xmas as well. The pictures are wonderful and we are giving it to nursery school as part of Chinese New Year celebration.

This book has a nice message about appreciation, and thinking of others as well as the excitement

of Chinese New Year celebrations. I have read this primarily to younger students, k - 3 . And use it to help students understand Chinese New Year.

As an elementary school teacher, I love this book and I always try to read this to my students around the Chinese New Year. It is a wonderful story of a boy who receives a special monetary gift for the holiday. As he shops around, he learns a valuable lesson and gives of himself in an unselfish way to help a stranger in need. A great read aloud with excellent social studies connections.

Sam receives "lucky money" from his grandparents. They tell him he can spend it any way he likes. Sam discovers the amount of his gift is not enough to buy the treats he considers but is too much to waste foolishly. When he notices that a homeless man he knows has bare feet he uses the money to buy the man a pair of socks. It is a touching story. I bought it for my grandson whose name is Sam and included some lucky money for him to spend as he wished.

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