Title of book: _Lanterns and Firecrackers__________________________________________

Author’s name: _Jonny Zucker__________________________________________________

Publisher: _Barrons______________________ Copyright year: _2004________

Reading level: _1st grade____________ Genre: _Multi-cultural______________________

Synopsis of story:
A Chinese family cleans their house and decorates with flowers for the Chinese New Year. They set off firecrackers to scare away the bad spirits. They wear new clothes and receive money in a red envelope, which is the color of luck. They have a feast with their family and friends. Then they watch the lion and dragon dances. Finally they hang up lanterns outside for good luck.

Standard:
1.5.2 Use different units to measure the length of the same object and predict whether the measure will be greater or smaller when a different unit is used.

Activity:
After reading the book we will specifically talk about the lion and dragon dance. I will have researched the costumes and dance and share the information with the students. Then I would explain that we are going to make our own dragon to hang in the hall. I will have large sheets of colored paper and the dragon already cut out. The students would be able to color the dragon and help hang it in the hall. Then we will review measurements. We will have already talked about feet, inches, and centimeters. We would talk about which one is bigger and how many inches equal a foot and so on. Then we will get out our rulers and yard sticks and measure the dragon in the hall. We will make guesses about how many feet, inches, and centimeters long it will be. I will write these on the board so we can compare later. Then we would go in the hall and measure. They would write down their
measurements and we would compare. Once we found the right answer we would compare that with our predictions.

**Standard:**
1.4.3 Revise writing for others to read.

**Activity:**
We will talk about how our New Year is different from the children in the story. We will brainstorm about our New Year and how we celebrate it. I would make a web on the chalkboard with the students’ ideas. Then I would explain that we are going to write books about our own New Years celebration. We would concentrate on the traditions and the students could use the ideas on the board or other ideas they have. They would write a first draft on scrap paper about their New Years celebrations. They will be short stories and only have two to four pages. They will edit and revise their stories. I will have short conferences with the students to give them suggestions. Once they are happy with their story they will be able to get an already made book and make a final copy. They can then illustrate their book. Later we will share the stories with the class and then hang them up for everyone to see.