Curriculum Guide

***Eighteen Vats of Water*** by Ji-li Jiang, illustrated by Nadia Hsieh

978-1-954354-06-7

**Guided Reading Level V; Grade Level Equivalent 5; Interest Level by Grade 4-8;**

**CSS-ELA Literacy Strands:** L.5.3, 4, 4a, 5, 5a, 5b, 6; RF.5.3, 3, 4, 4, 4c; RI.5.1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8,9, 10; SL.5.1, 1c, 1d, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6; W.5.2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 9b, 10; **NGSS**: PS2A, PS2B, ETS1A, ETS1B, ETS1C

**Themes:**

* Growth Mind Set: showing determination and perseverance.
* Creativity: expressiveness, comprehension
* Critical Thinking Skills: problem solving.

**Objectives:**

* Connect with literature.
* Teaching children about tradition and Chinese history
* Perseverance: Help students understand what it means to set goals and work toward those goals.

Activities:

How is Chinese calligraphy both writing and drawing? Can you see from the endpapers and the Author’s Note how pictures changed into letter forms?

Create your own picture alphabet. Start by drawing a simple object, like a tree or a house, then simplify it as much as you can – that’s your new letter!

Calligraphy is an art form because it can be so expressive. Handwriting can also be expressive. Write something in a way that looks LOUD, that looks scared, that looks quiet. Think of other ways you can write that shows a feeling.

Using a brush is different than using a pen because you can change how wide a stroke is. With a pen or pencil, everything is the same width. Get a brush and some ink and see how it feels to paint your words.

Discussions:

*Eighteen Vats of Water* is a story about working hard to gain mastery of a skill. What skill have you worked hard to improve? Riding a bike? Drawing? Doing a cartwheel?

How long does it take for you to feel like you’re good at something new you’ve learned? Does practicing something over and over again make it easier? How or how not?

Family traditions can be very important. Does your family have a tradition that you love and want to always do? Do you want to start a new tradition, like always having dinner together on a certain night or reading a book together and talking about it? Pick a new tradition that matters to you!