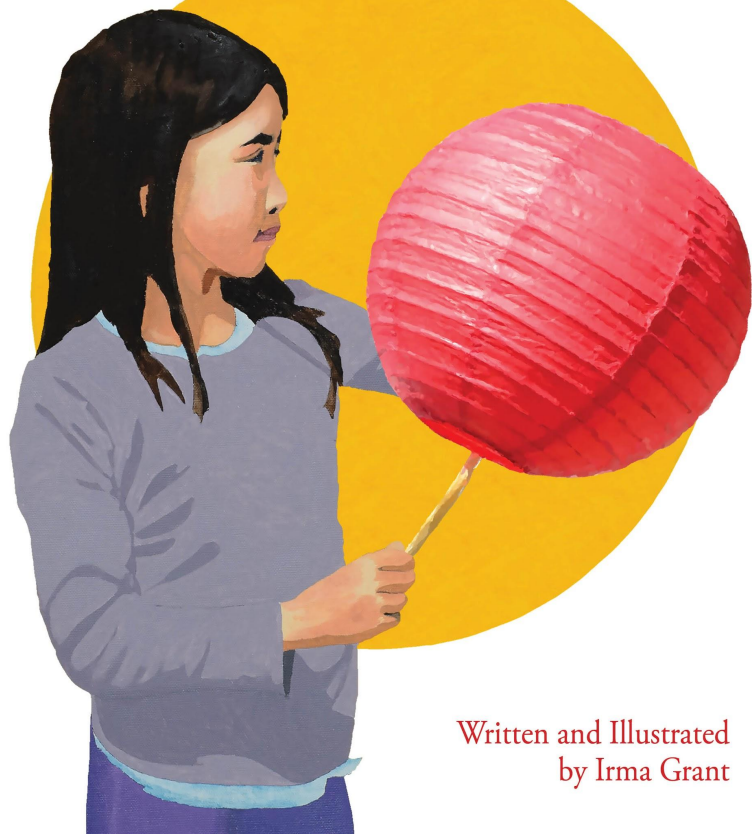




IRMA GRANT - ART

www.irmagrants.com

The Red Lantern

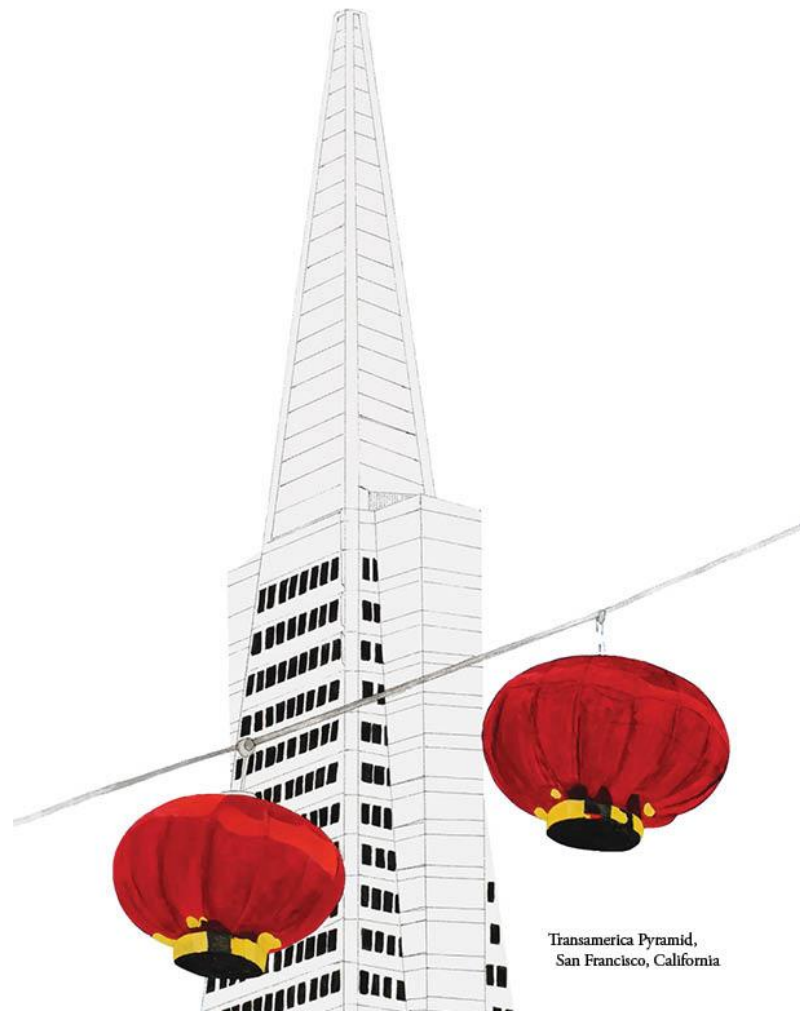


Written and Illustrated
by Irma Grant

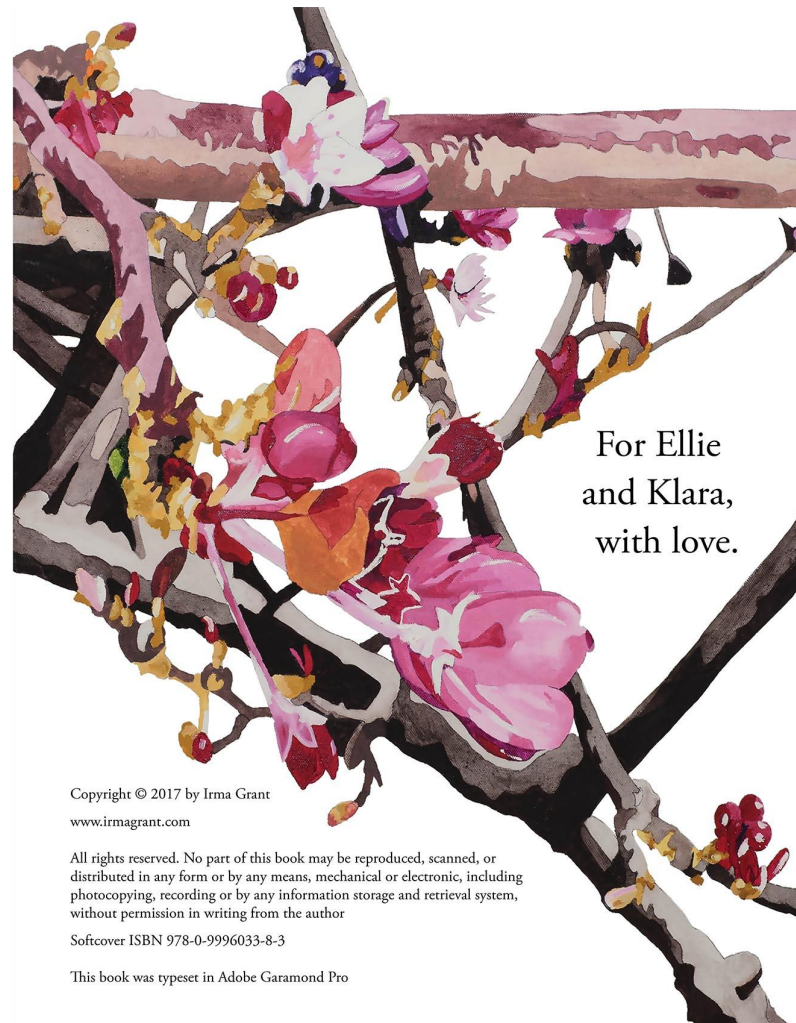
The Red Lantern

红灯笼





Transamerica Pyramid,
San Francisco, California



For Ellie
and Klara,
with love.

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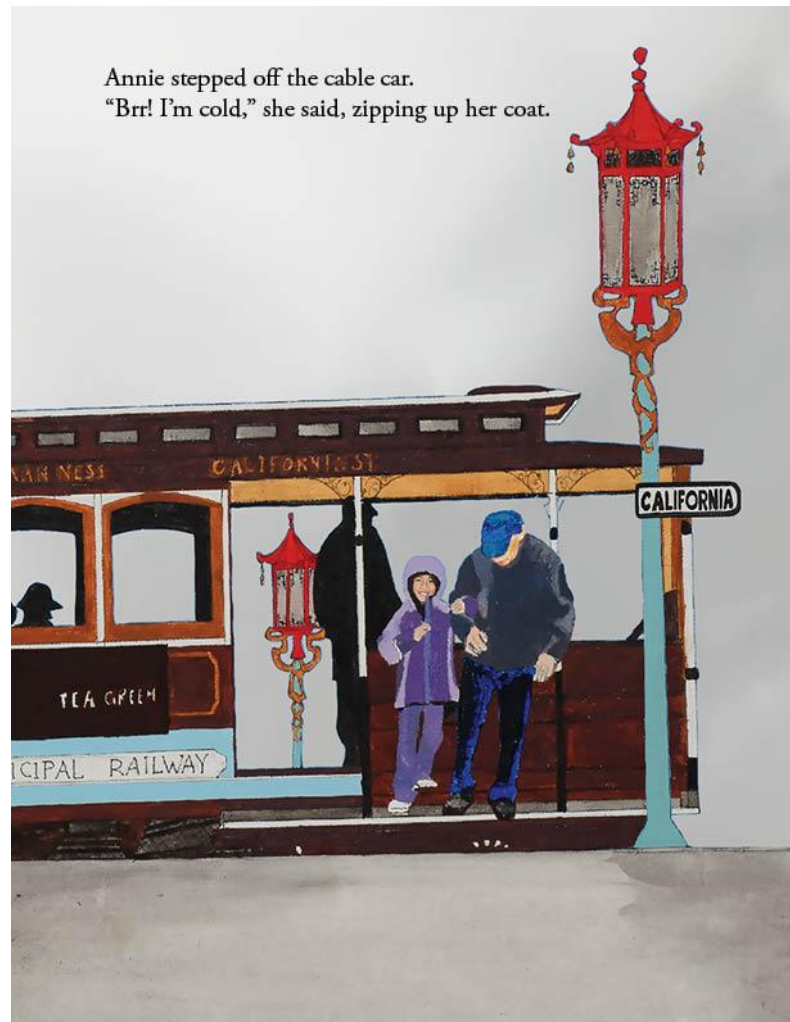
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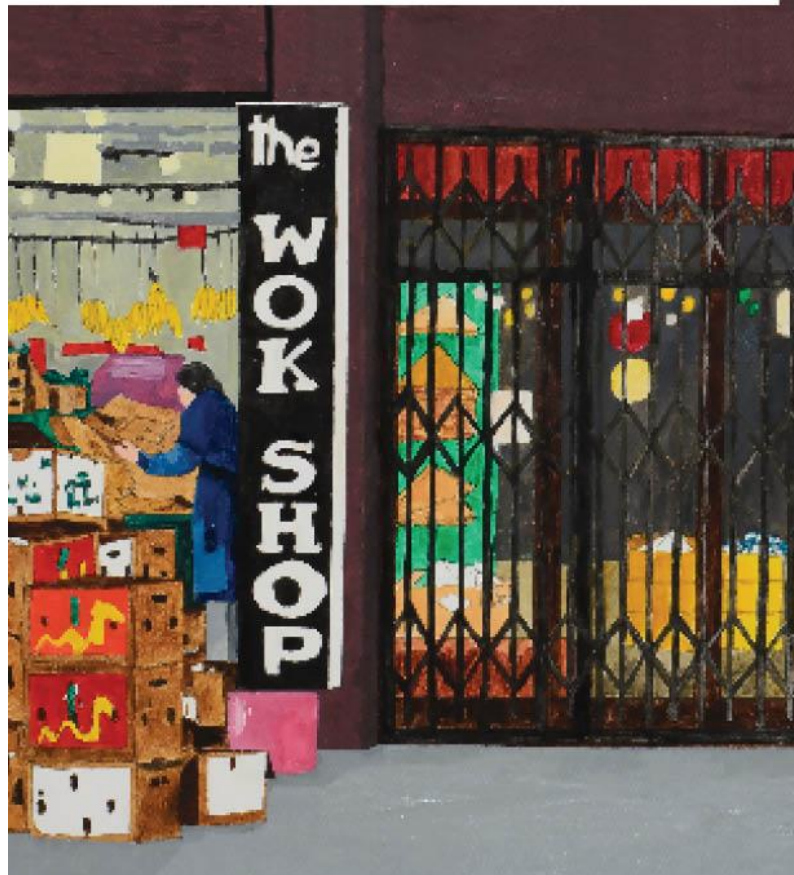
Annie stepped off the cable car.
"Brr! I'm cold," she said, zipping up her coat.

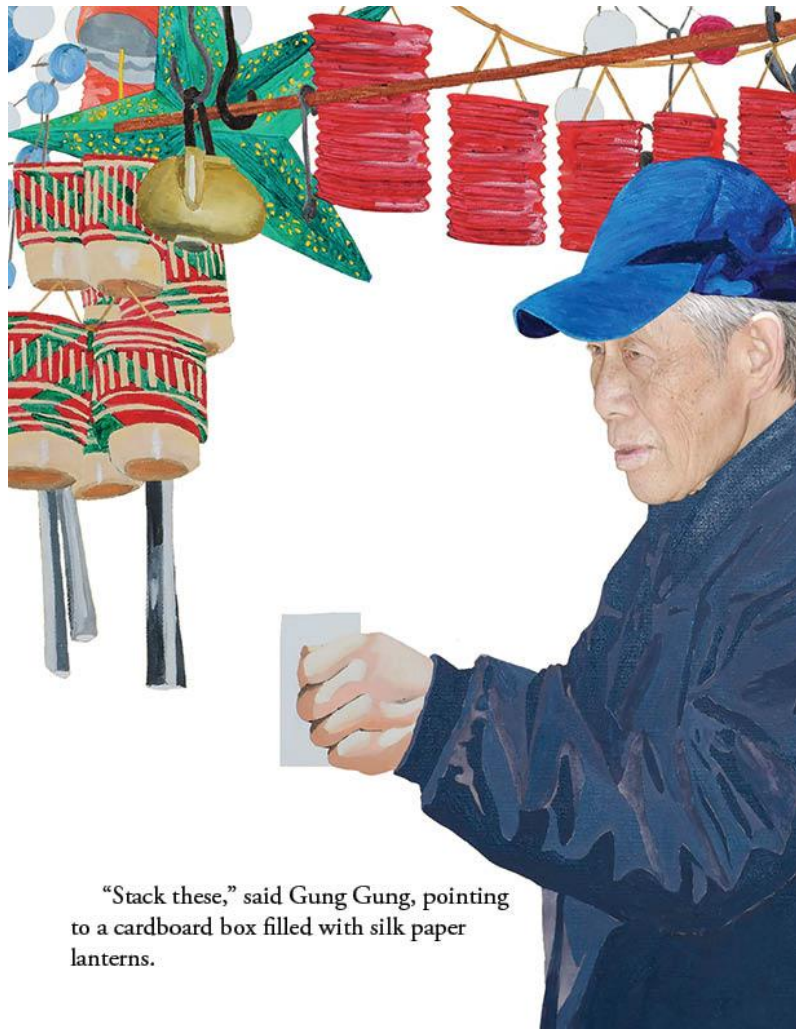


"Come," said Gung Gung. "We are late."

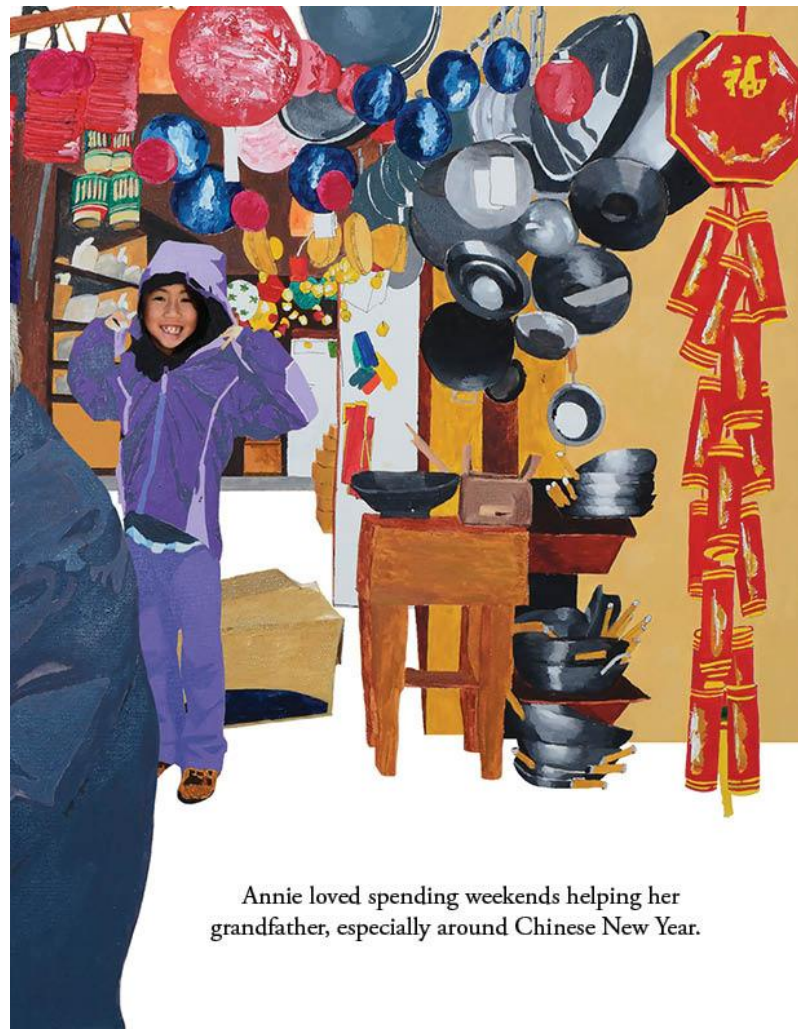


They stopped in front of Gung Gung's Wok Shop. The metal gate creaked as he pushed it aside.





"Stack these," said Gung Gung, pointing to a cardboard box filled with silk paper lanterns.



Annie loved spending weekends helping her grandfather, especially around Chinese New Year.



Annie opened the box. She picked up a red lantern and carefully stretched it apart. POOF! A cloud of smoke escaped, revealing a lady in red.

"Who are you?" asked Annie.

"I am the Jade Emperor's daughter."



"Many years ago, I came down from the heavens to warn people about my father's plan to destroy their village with a firestorm. Some hunters had accidentally killed my father's favorite celestial bird and he wanted revenge."

"What did the villagers do?" asked Annie.

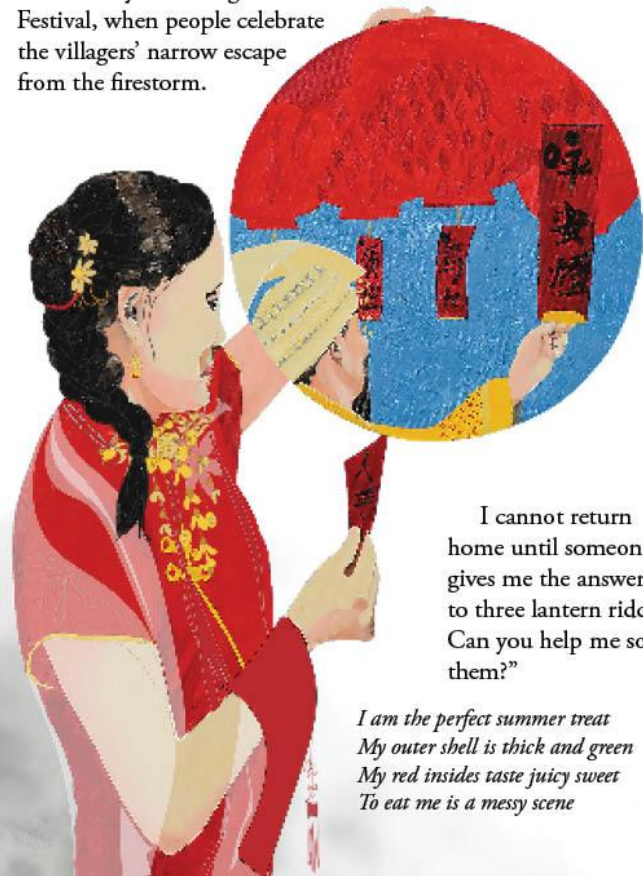


"They hung lanterns, built huge bonfires and displayed magnificent fireworks to trick my father into thinking their town was in flames."

"Did it work?" asked Annie.

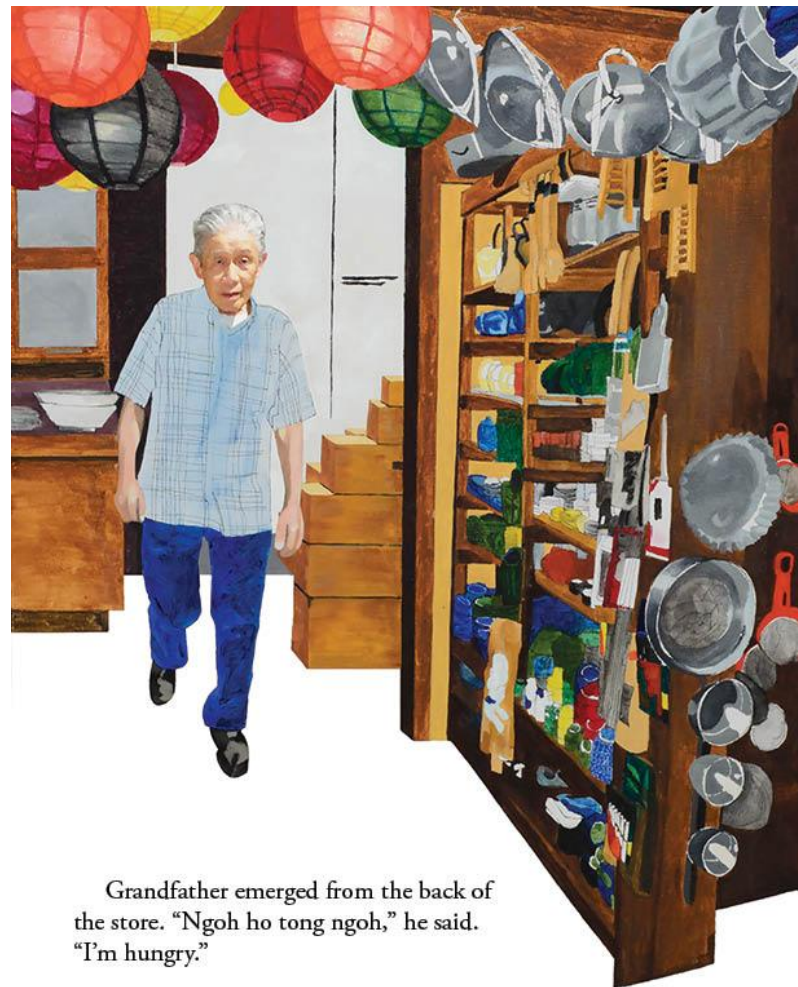


"Yes, but my father was angry with me when he figured out what really happened. As punishment, he sends me back to earth each year during the Lantern Festival, when people celebrate the villagers' narrow escape from the firestorm.



I cannot return home until someone gives me the answers to three lantern riddles. Can you help me solve them?"

*I am the perfect summer treat
My outer shell is thick and green
My red insides taste juicy sweet
To eat me is a messy scene*



Grandfather emerged from the back of the store. "Nghoh ho tong nghoh," he said. "I'm hungry."

For lunch, Annie bought the biggest fruit she could find from Auntie Wo's Produce.



"I figured out the answer to the first riddle," said Annie,
"a watermelon!"

"Good thinking! Now here is the second riddle," said the Jade
Emperor's daughter.

*Two strands of hair upon her head
She wears a most beautiful gown
And dances near a flower bed
The fairest creature in the town*



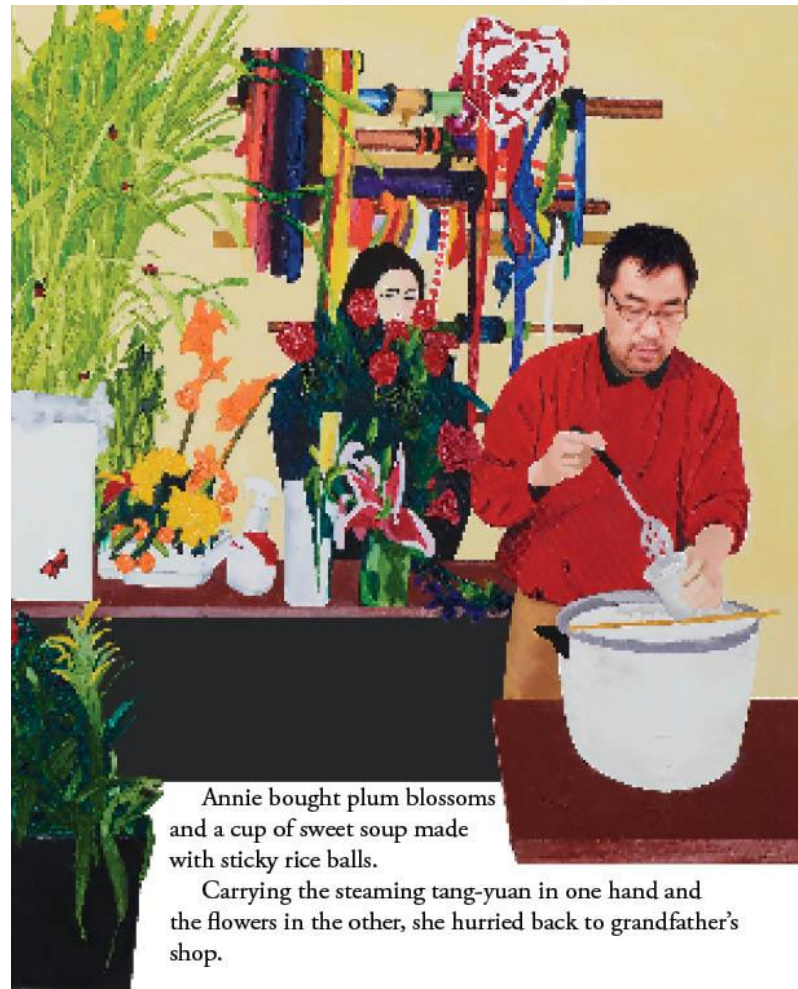
Annie finished stacking the last
lanterns onto the shelf.

"Annie," said Gung Gung. "Go buy
some plum blossoms for the counter."





"Gong Hay Fat Choy," said Annie as she entered Mei Wo Florist. "Happy New Year."



Annie bought plum blossoms and a cup of sweet soup made with sticky rice balls.

Carrying the steaming tang-yuan in one hand and the flowers in the other, she hurried back to grandfather's shop.

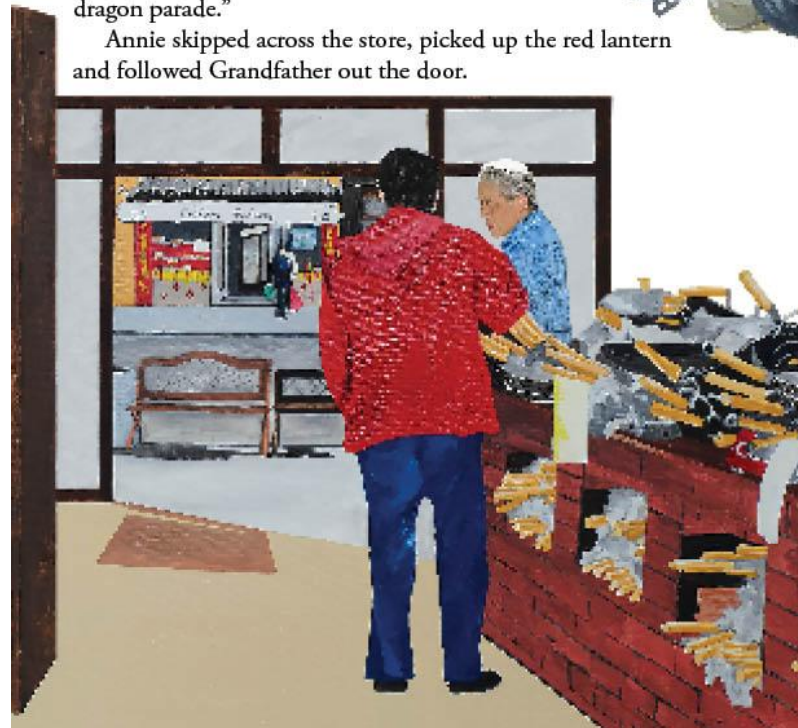
"A butterfly," said Annie, "a butterfly!"
"Great! One more and I can go home," said the Jade Emperor's daughter.

*It follows you a thousand miles
And never wanders far from home
It has no fears and always smiles
At night, it leaves you all alone*



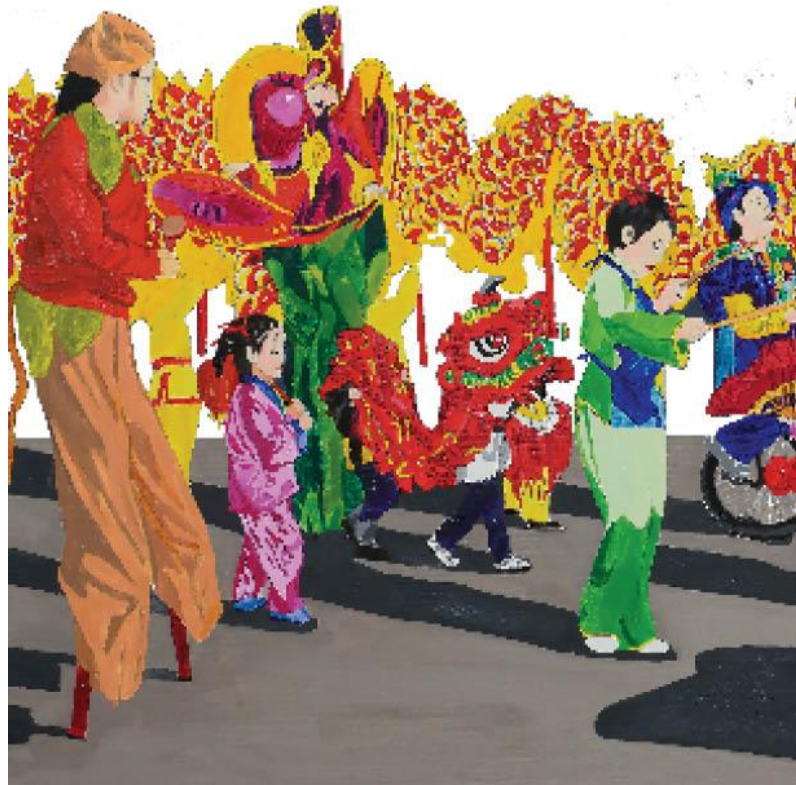
"Annie," said Gung Gung after helping the last customer. "Let's go to the dragon parade."

Annie skipped across the store, picked up the red lantern and followed Grandfather out the door.



"Look," said Gung Gung, pointing to the ground. "The sun reminds us that we are never alone."

"My shadow!" said Annie as it disappeared with the setting sun. "That's the answer to the third riddle."



At that same moment, a gust of wind swooped up the red lantern, making it rise higher and higher toward the full moon. The Jade Emperor's daughter was on her way home.

Fire crackers exploded. Red, yellow, and orange streaks lit up the night sky. The city glowed as if on fire.

THE END





Cantonese to English Translations

Gung Gung [gùnggùng] = Grandfather

Ngoh ho tong ngoh [ngóh hóu tóuhngoh] = I'm hungry

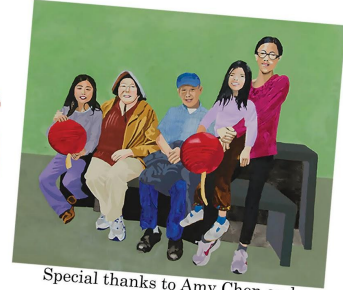
Gong hey fat choy [gung hey fah choy] = Happy New Year

Tang-yuan [tāngyuán] = Sweet dumpling balls made of glutinous
rice flour and bean paste fillings

The Red Lantern is a story about a girl named Annie who spends the day helping Gung Gung, her grandfather, at his shop in Chinatown. Unwittingly, she meets the Jade Emperor's daughter who tells Annie all about the origins of the lantern festival, a celebration that is part of modern Chinese New Year. The Jade Emperor's daughter needs help solving three lantern riddles. Will Annie live up to the challenge and find the answers before the sun sets and fireworks light up the night sky? Or will the Jade Emperor's daughter be barred from going home for another year?



Irma Grant has traveled extensively in China and Asia and loves visiting far away places that are pristine and untouched by outside influences. Multicultural themes dominate her art and writing. She lives with her husband and their two daughters near San Francisco, California.



Special thanks to Amy Chen and the Yee family.

How I became
an author and
illustrator.



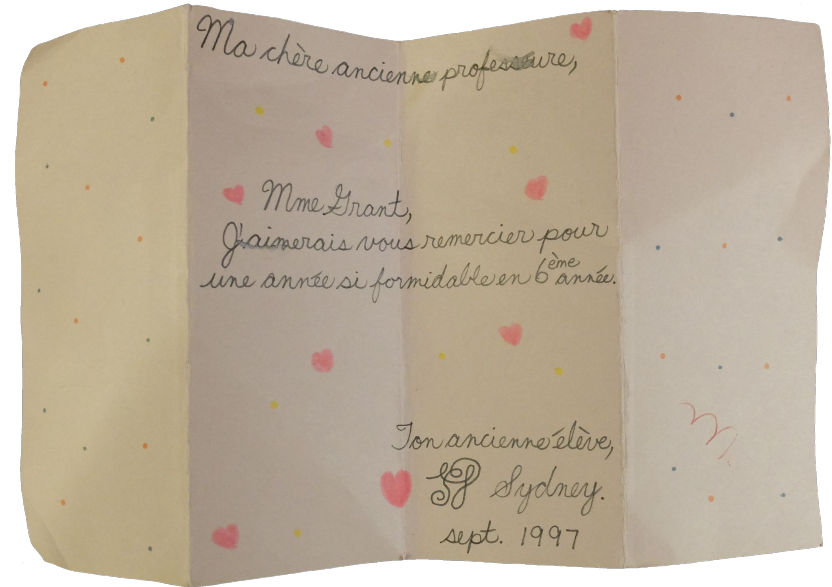


This is me at age nine

- ART
- MATH
- SWIMMING
- DREAMING

Where did I get the
idea for The Red
Lantern?

AN ANTIQUE GINGER JAR



The Ginger Jar Genie.



The Ginger Jar Genie.

grandfather tell tales
of Chinese mythology

"Weibei, I'm going to the market to buy some fruit?" grandfather said from the back of his antique gift shop. "Would you like to come?"

Grandfather always called her by her Chinese name.

"I'll be fine kongkong," Sharon yelled back.

Would she be fine? Her parents had shipped her off to stay with her grandfather in Hong Kong for the summer holidays.

"You'll have a great time! Kongkong can't wait to see you again," they had told her.

It was the first time Sharon would spend the summer holidays away from her parents and most importantly, her friends.

Sharon waited 'til her grandfather closed the back door before she picked up an antique ginger jar from one of the shelves. It was covered in dust. *I better get an old rag to wipe it clean, she thought.*

The jar smelled musty and was painted navy blue, with yellow, orange flowers, and a big pink butterfly on the front. It resembled the Kitchen God's stomach, and was as round as a soccer ball.

"I wonder what's inside," Sharon thought out loud. She shook the jar a few times but couldn't hear anything. Then she slowly took off the lid and a big cloud of dust escaped, filling the entire store.

"Oh, you're a real person," Sharon gasped, staring at a silhouette in front of her. A woman emerged from behind the dust. She was brushing off her red dress; her jewelry jingling an ancient tune with every stroke she made. "Now why did you do that?" the woman questioned grinchily, letting out a big yawn.

"Who are you?" Sharon asked, hoping to have found a friend.

"Does it matter? Look at me. I'm covered in dust."

"Are you a GENIE?" Sharon questioned again.

"If you say so," Genie answered. "Do me a big favor, stay away from ginger jars next time."

"Stay away from ginger jars," Sharon repeated. "Aren't genies supposed to grant wishes instead of ask for favors?"

"Not this one," Genie responded. "Why are you asking so many questions?" Sharon shrugged her shoulders.

"I'll tell you what," Genie continued. "I'll give you a riddle to solve and don't bother waking me up until you're absolutely sure about the answer. Here we go, 'It looks green. It opens red. What you eat is sweet. What you spit out is black.' What am I?"

Before Sharon could even blink an eye, Genie had disappeared back into the ginger jar.

It looks green and it opens red, Sharon thought. What you eat is sweet, what you spit out is black.

Soon her grandfather returned from the market. He had brought back some fruits, which they ate, for dessert that evening.

"Yummy," said Sharon, licking the juice from her fingers. "I've always liked watermelons." And she spat out a couple of black seeds on her plate.

The next day, after grandfather had gone to the market, Sharon woke up.

Genie.

Genie.

Genie.

Genie.

Genie.

Genie.

Genie.

Assignment 2

963 words
Intermediate
Ages 8 - 10

an intriguing story
The Ginger Jar Genie.

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Grant, page 5
Assignment 2

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Good detail

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with that.

arrival +
first
impression
going home
- appreciation
of her
culture.
problem =
a friend/
herself/
her
grandfather

Never
Most important
It's
and most
important (small)
Sharon's friends.

• fear of a strange place
• too much in the story
• why 3 riddles go away and
• think about



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3 WISHES



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3 RIDDLES



Lantern Riddle

I begin with a T

I end with a T

I am totally filled with T

What am I?

TEAPOT



The Red Lantern.





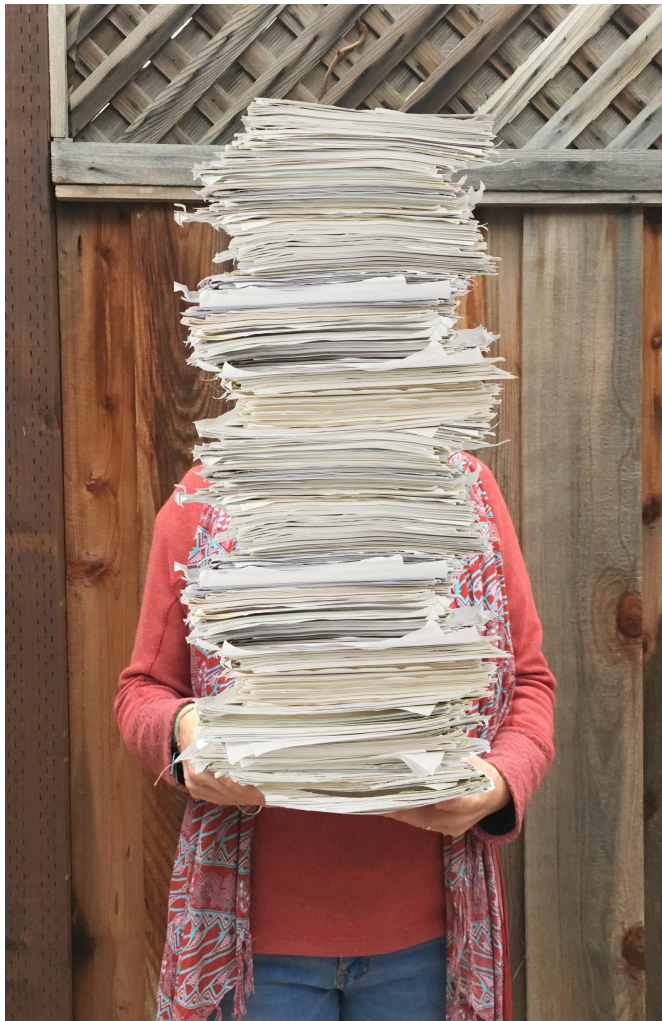
DRAFT 1



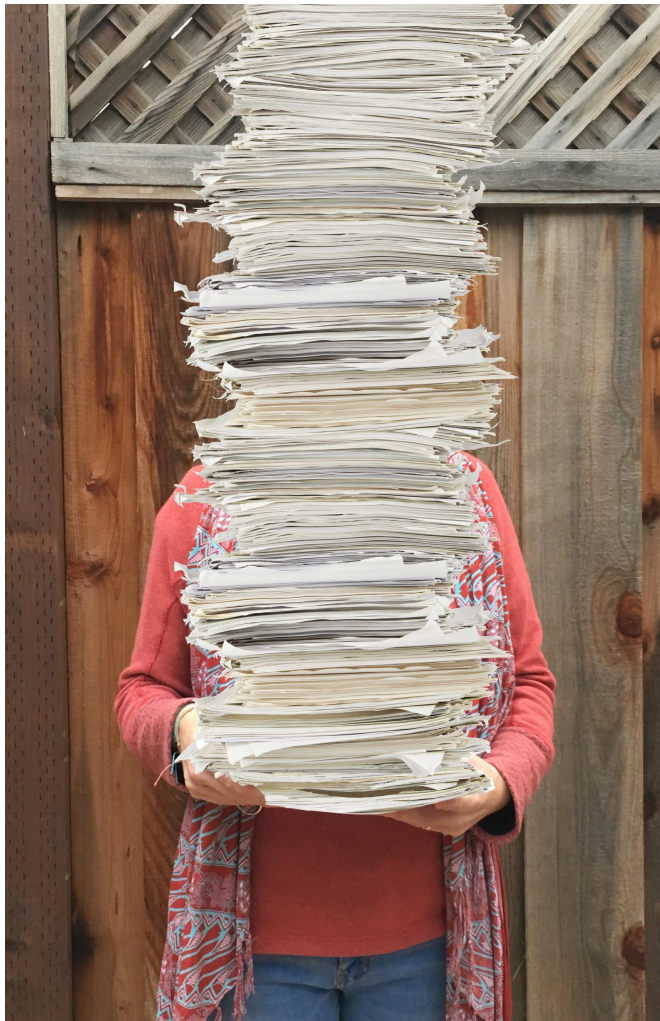
DRAFT 2



DRAFT 3



EDIT



REVISE

570 words

Irma Grant

"Come," said Gung Gung. "We are late."

"Stack these," said Gung Gung, pointing to a cardboard box filled with silk paper lanterns. Annie loved spending weekends helping grandfather, especially around Chinese New Year.

"Who are you?" asked Annie.

"I am the Jade Emperor's daughter."

many years ago, I came down from the heavens to warn people
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[illegible]

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At the same moment, a gust of wind swooped up the red lantern, making it rise higher and higher toward the full moon. The Emperor's daughter was on her way home. Fire crackers exploded. Red, yellow, and orange streaks lit up the night sky. The city glowed as if on fire.

Lantern Riddle

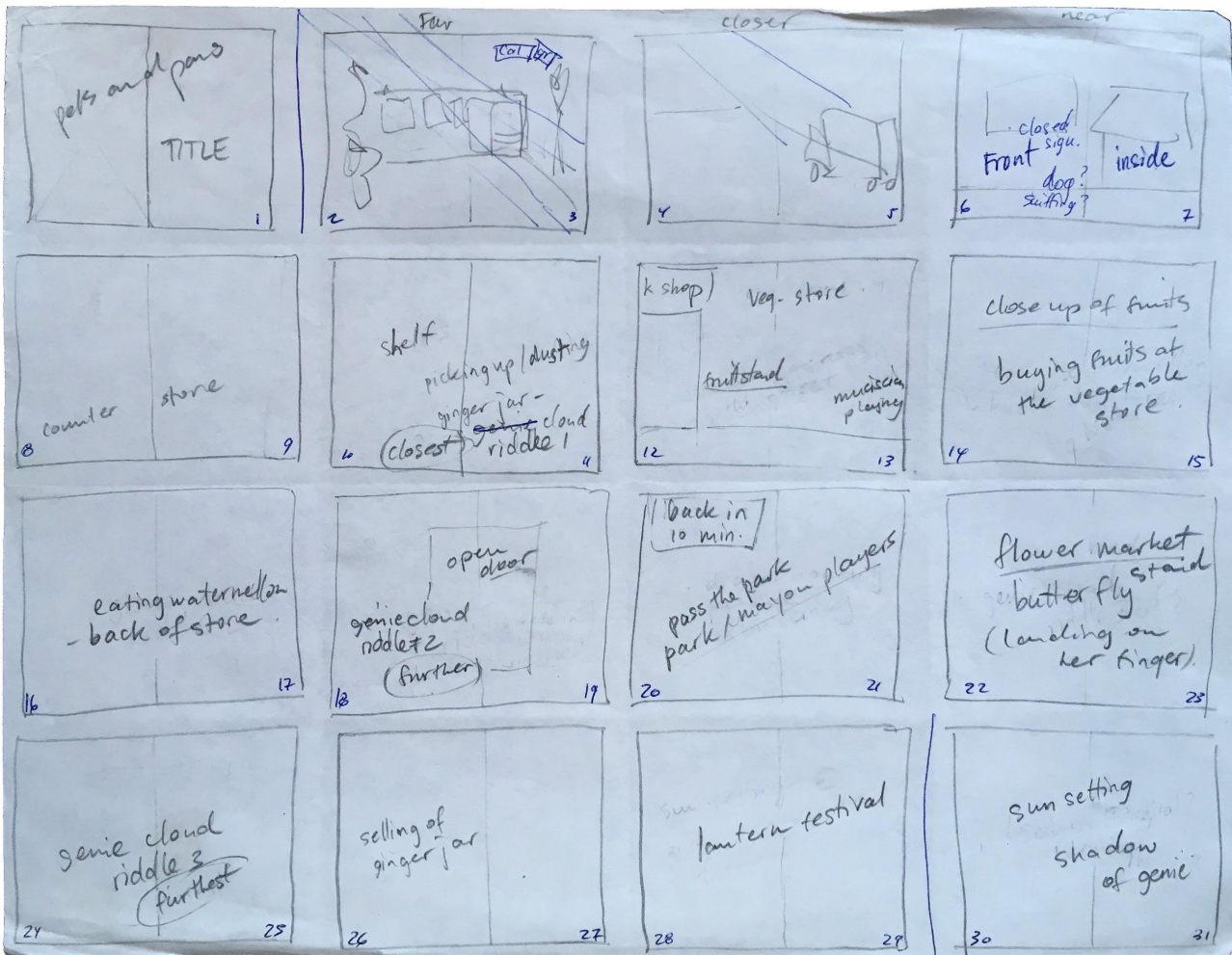
恭喜发财

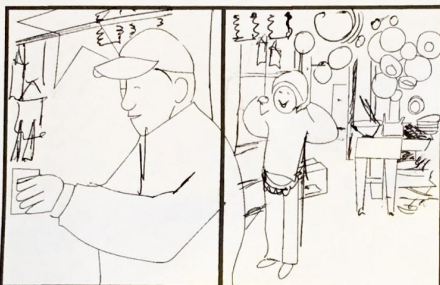
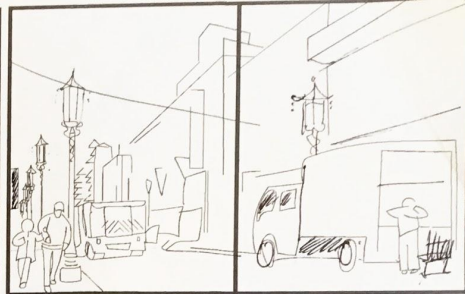
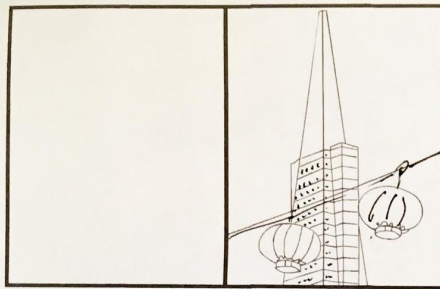
WISHING YOU PROSPERITY

CHINESE NEW YEAR

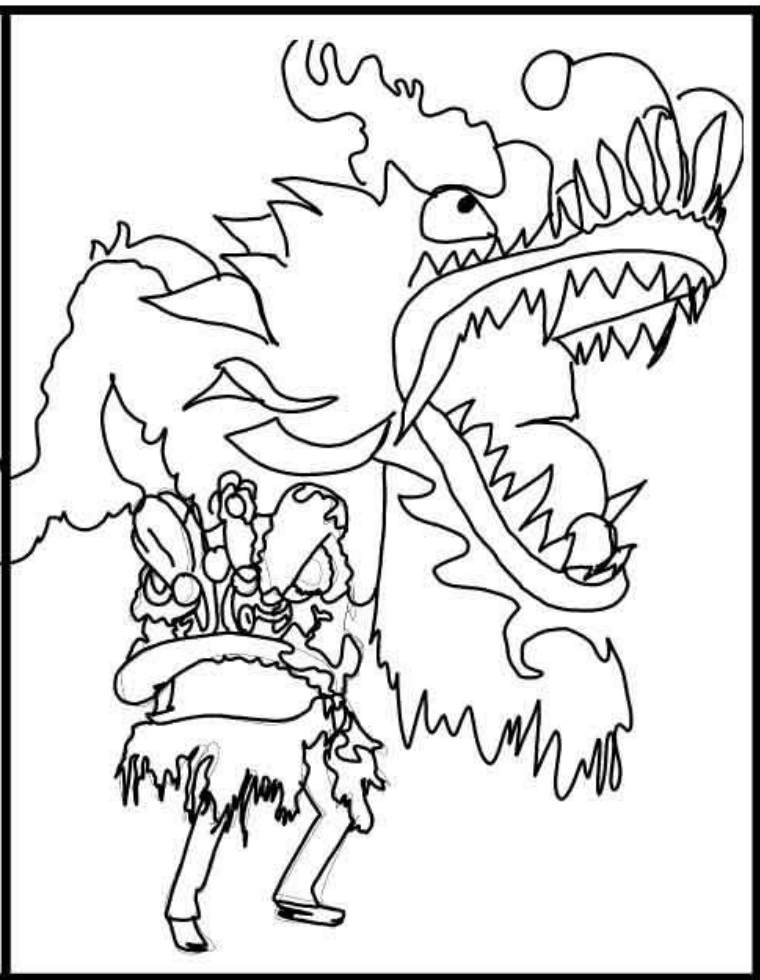
What inspired the
illustrations?

STORYBOARD

















“Look,” said Gung Gung, pointing to the ground.

“The sun reminds us that we are never alone.”

“My Shadow!” said Annie as it disappeared with the setting sun. “That’s the answer to the third riddle.”





Lantern Riddle

What bird can lift the
heaviest weight?

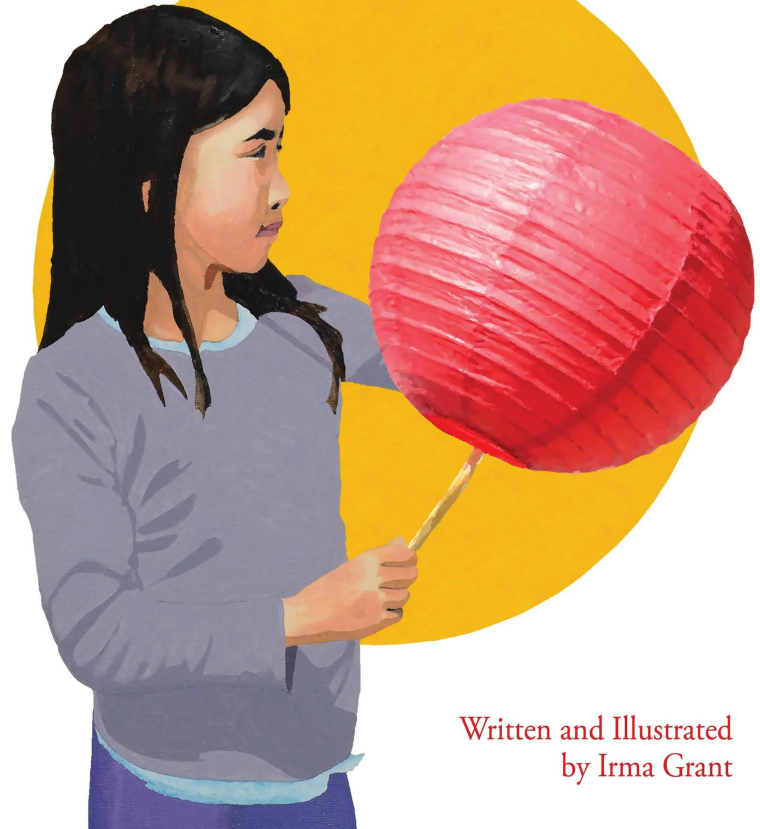
CRANE

CHARACTERS

?



The Red Lantern



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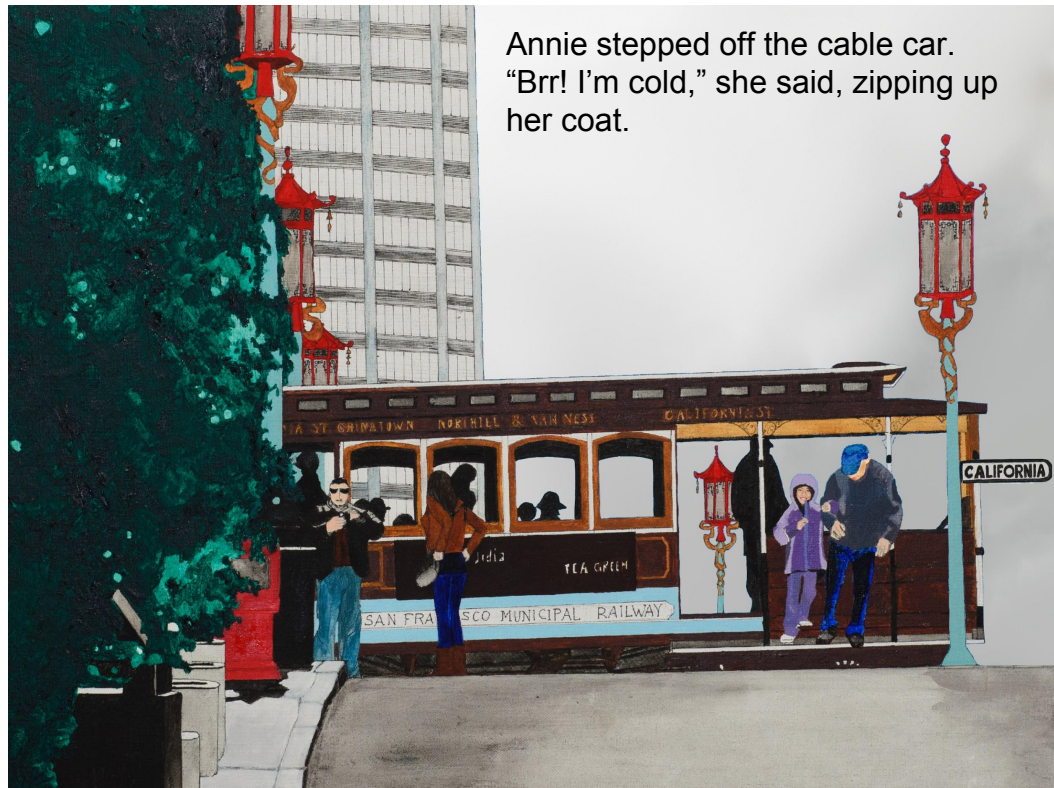
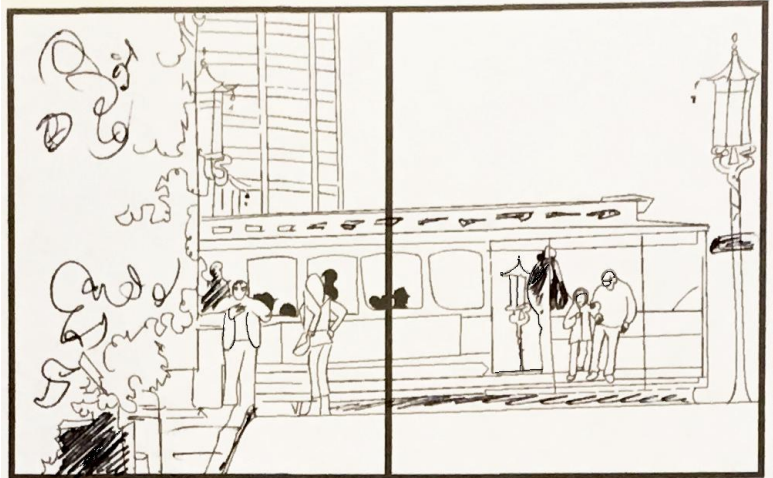




SETTING

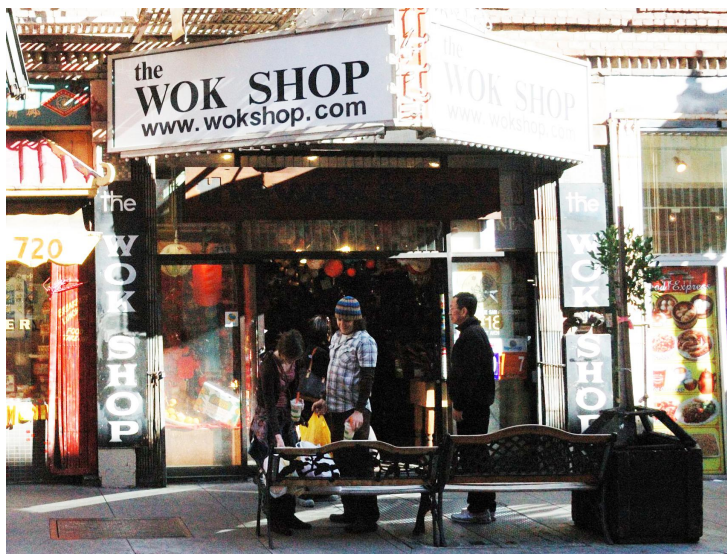
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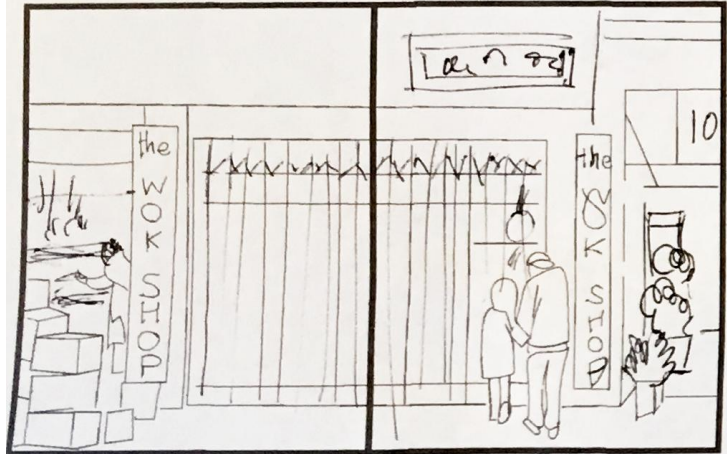


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 her coat.





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LION





DO YOU

HAVE

QUESTIONS?

LION



DANCE

STEP
1

SLEEP



STEP 2

WAKE UP



STEP 3

BOW



STEP 4

EXPLORE



STEP 5

INSPECT



STEP 6

EAT



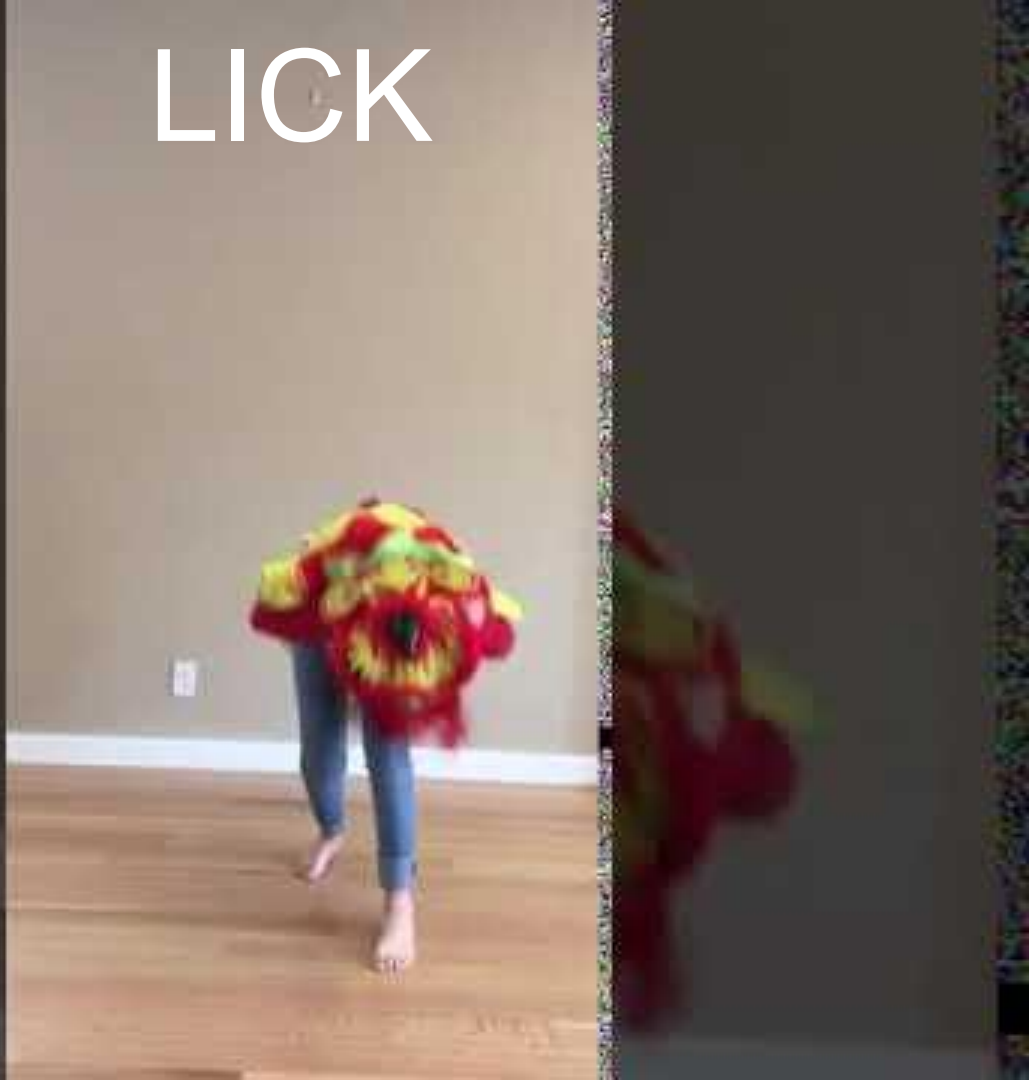
STEP
7

SHARE



STEP 8

LICK



STEP 9

BOW



S
T
E
P

1
0

SLEEP





DO YOU

HAVE

QUESTIONS?

THE MOON



ANOTHER YEAR
GONE BY . . .
I WONDER WHAT
THIS NEW YEAR
HOLDS IN STORE
FOR US?



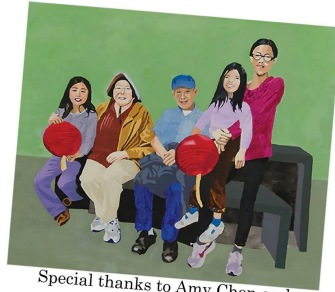
ANOTHER
365 DAYS



The Red Lantern is a story about a girl named Annie who spends the day helping Gung Gung, her grandfather, at his shop in Chinatown. Unwittingly, she meets the Jade Emperor's daughter who tells Annie all about the origins of the lantern festival, a celebration that is part of modern Chinese New Year. The Jade Emperor's daughter needs help solving three lantern riddles. Will Annie live up to the challenge and find the answers before the sun sets and fireworks light up the night sky? Or will the Jade Emperor's daughter be barred from going home for another year?

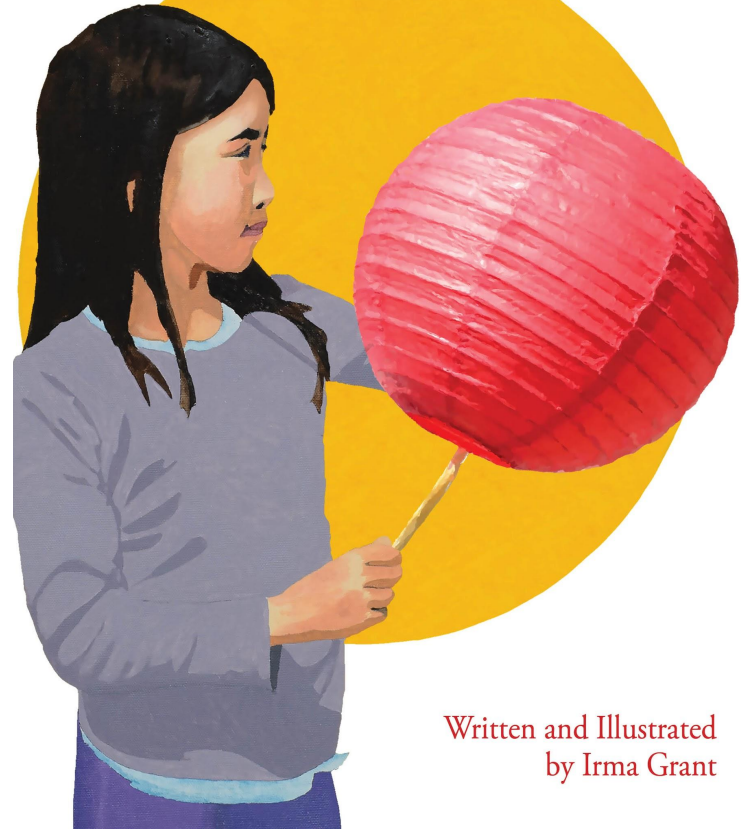


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The Red Lantern



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