Ruby’s Wish
By Shirin Yim Bridges
Illustrated by Sophie Blackall

Global Literacy Invitation prepared by
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by Shirin Yim Bridges
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Book Summary:
Ruby’s Wish is based on a true story of the author’s grandmother, a little girl growing up in old China living in a big traditional house headed by her wealthy, forward thinking grandfather and filled with his many wives, children and grandchildren. But there is something special here... unlike most Chinese households during this time period, the girls are allowed to study with the boys. Of course, they must keep up with all their other training, too, like housekeeping and embroidery after their academic lessons while the boys get to run off and play. But, Ruby loves learning so much she keeps at it even when all the other girls drop out. Unlike the Chinese expectations of Chinese women, Ruby wishes to have the same rights as all the males in her family, including going to the university. What she wants most of all is to go to university rather than be married off. She receives the greatest surprise on the Chinese New Year when she opens up her red envelope and receives an acceptance letter from a university saying that Ruby would be one of the first women ever to attend the school.

Ruby’s Wish is an inspiring book that teaches children to persevere, stand up for what they believe in, and expresses the importance of a good education for everyone.

Learning Invitations:
Where in the World is China?
Chinese New Year: Scrolls of Knowledge
Chinese Lantern Festival
Let’s Learn Chinese Calligraphy
Making a Change: A Wish for the World
Up Close and Personal Commercial with “Famous Firsts- Women in History”

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<th>Social Studies THEMES</th>
<th>English/Language Arts Standards</th>
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<tr>
<td>Global Connections Culture</td>
<td>5.RN.3.1 Apply knowledge of text features in multiple print and digital sources to locate information, gain meaning from a text, or solve a problem.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>5.RN.4.2 Combine information from several texts or digital sources on the same topic in order to demonstrate knowledge about the subject.</td>
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<td>5.W.5 Conduct short research assignments and tasks on a topic.</td>
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<td>5.W.4 Generate a draft by developing, selecting and organizing ideas relevant to topic, purpose, and genre; revise to improve writing, using appropriate reference materials (e.g., quality of ideas, organization, sentence fluency, word choice); and edit writing for format and standard English conventions.</td>
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<td>5.SL.4.2 Create engaging presentations that include multimedia components and visual displays when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or themes.</td>
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Where in the World is China?

1. Find China on a globe/world map and then find the United States.
2. Color and label China and the United States of America on the blank world map.
3. Both countries have very distinctive shapes. Make a drawing of each one.
4. Using a map mileage legend, estimate how far away China is from the United States.
5. Identify the oceans and continents that lie between your school and Ruby’s home.
6. China is located in the__________________ and__________________ hemispheres.
7. The United States is located in the__________________ and__________________ hemispheres.
8. If Ruby works on her embroidery at night around 9:00 pm, what time is it where you live?
9. Color the flag of China.
Chinese New Year Scrolls of Knowledge

The Chinese New Year is one of the most important traditions in my Chinese culture. I would like to share with you the traditions and legends that make Chinese New Year the most exciting time of the year. Start your learning adventure by choosing at least 2 of the videos below. Watch the videos then record 4-5 interesting facts you learned on the Scrolls of Knowledge. Make sure you write your fact on the scroll that matches the video title. Write your name after each written fact.

The Story of Chinese New Year
https://safeshare.tv/x/ss5871bbce60a84

Bet You Didn’t Know: Chinese New Year History Channel
https://safeshare.tv/x/ss5871be21c3bae

The Story of Nian - A Chinese New Year Story
https://safeshare.tv/x/ss5871bd2de1d89

Exploring Chinese Culture: Lantern Festival
https://safeshare.tv/x/ss5871c2836e3f9
The Story of Chinese New Year
Bet You Didn’t Know: Chinese New Year History Channel
The Story of Nian - a Chinese New Year Story
Exploring Chinese Culture: Lantern Festival
Chinese Lantern Festival

The Chinese Lantern Festival is an exciting celebration that happens on the 15th day of the 1st lunar month. It marks the end of the Chinese New Year festivities with the first full moon of the year. This night is brightly lit with thousands of lanterns that line the streets and are hung from our homes and storefronts. We enjoy seeing a parade with floats, watching the Chinese Lion and Dragon Dances, listening to music and drums, and admiring the beautiful firecrackers.

Here is a picture of me and my friends carrying our lanterns around the village. Afterwards, our families come together to eat sweet rice balls for good fortune and family unity.

Our traditional lanterns are made from silk, paper and even glass. The shapes include boxes, lotus flowers, dragons, butterflies, and all sorts of animals. The color of the lanterns communicates different things. For example, the most common lanterns are red which symbolize joy and vitality. A white lantern should never be used unless there has been a death in the family.

Make your own paper lantern by following these instructions.

1. Start with rectangular sheet of paper. Cut a strip of paper from the long edge of the paper (about 1" width). This will be used as the handle of the lantern.
2. Fold the paper in half lengthwise. Cut strips crosswise: cut from the folded edge towards the raw edge. Be careful to keep the strips connected and do not cut each strip off.
3. Unfold the paper.
4. Loop the paper around to form a tube. Join the short ends of the paper together with tape or staples.
The Lantern Festival is celebrated the fifteenth day of the first month in the Chinese lunar calendar. This would be during the months of February or March. The Lantern Festival marks the end of the Lunar New Year celebrations.

Many people burn incense in temples and their homes to pray for blessings on their families. In ancient times, the Chinese believed the spirits could be seen on the night of the festival with the aid of torches. Later lanterns were substituted for the torches. Lantern shows attract large crowds at some Buddhist and Taoist temples.

According to ancient beliefs, people born in different years possess certain characteristics.

1. Find out what animal represents the year you were born.
2. Look at the characteristics that will be listed for that year. Do you fit any of those characteristics?
3. Design a lantern to represent your zodiac sign.
4. Design the other two lanterns the way you think they would look in the Lantern Festival.
I’m a very lucky girl. Where I grew up, not all girls had the chance to learn to read and write, but my grandfather provided us with the opportunity to learn. This was not a very common practice. I always enjoyed practicing my handwriting or calligraphy. I liked writing neatly and doing my best because I love and respect learning. You may be wondering what calligraphy is. Calligraphy is an art form. In ancient China, calligraphy is a means of communication, a way to write things down. It is also a way to express yourself. All noble and royal children had to learn calligraphy. Even emperors practiced until they were good at writing calligraphy. Of course emperors could appoint someone to write for them, but the ability to write in calligraphy showed control and inner peace. It was a sign of status. The emperor had the highest status of all.

Would you like to learn how to write calligraphy? Here is a helpful tutorial for beginners.

Chinese Calligraphy Tutorial

https://safeshare.tv/x/ss587be7723273d
The Chinese Alphabet
All 26 Letters of the Alphabet

In the Chinese alphabet, small letters are written like capital letters, and vice versa.

Can you write the Chinese alphabet? Try it out. Get a blank piece of paper and a pen or brush and ink. I wonder what your name looks like written in Chinese characters? Use the Chinese alphabet chart to help you write your name.

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<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>比</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>西</td>
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<td>迪</td>
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<td>E</td>
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<td>艾弗</td>
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<td>G</td>
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<td>豆贝尔维</td>
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Making a Change- A Wish for the World

“Alas, bad luck to be born a girl; worse luck to be born into this house where only boys are cared for.”

This is a poem that I wrote for my teacher. Little did I know that when I wrote this poem, it would result in the beginning of a large and important change in my family and in my own life. I achieved my wish largely because I wrote the poem. Using our words is the best starting place for making change happen.

We all have wishes for ourselves. What are your wishes? I challenge you to stand up for what you believe in and write a poem about something in your life or in the world that YOU would like to change. I promise you that you’ll feel so good about writing your thoughts down on paper. That’s how I felt and look how my words helped me! Your words matter and so do YOU!

I’m sure you have written and read many poems before so choose a poetic form that you like. If you can’t decide, why not try writing a haiku poem? It’s simple to do. Here are the basic rules:

Haiku is an unrhymed three-lined verse form with 5 syllables in the first line, 7 in the second, and 5 in the third. Begin your haiku with the title, “A Wish for the World”. Go ahead, give it a try.

A Wish for the World
by ____________________

5 syllables
___________________________________________________________

7 syllables
___________________________________________________________

5 syllables
___________________________________________________________
Up Close and Personal Commercial with “Famous Firsts- Women in History”

“But the girls had to learn about cooking and keeping house. In fact, as far as their mothers were concerned, these were the only things girls had to learn.”

The author, Shirin Yi Bridges, shares with the reader how the roles of boys and girls in old China were clearly defined. Girls were prepared for marriage and tending to the home while boys attended to their studies. However, Ruby challenged these traditional gender roles by respectfully communicating to her grandfather her desire to go to the university rather than getting married. She was one of the very first females to attend the university.

It takes perseverance and courage to speak up for what you believe in especially when society’s expectations are the opposite of what you believe.

1. Work with a partner to discuss how our society’s expectations of girls have changed (or not changed) over time in our country. What rights do women have in our country today that they didn’t have in the past?
2. What “famous firsts” have women achieved in US history or in the world?
3. Imagine you have been hired by The History Channel to create a one minute commercial promoting a famous woman in history who had the courage to be the first woman “pioneer” to fight for their rights, to work hard so they could be treated equally, and made great strides in fields like science, politics, sports, literature and art.
4. Using the information you’ve researched, create a one minute commercial called, “Up Close and Personal with (insert name of famous first)”.
5. Before beginning your research, be sure you have a quality research question (one that doesn’t have a yes or no answer or a one word answer). Questions that begin with “why” or “how” invite deep research and thinking. For example, Why should we honor and recognize________ as a “famous first female pioneer”?

6. A good starting point for your research might be http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/women/notable.htm. This site will provide an A-Z overview of up to 30 names and brief bios of notable women in history. Use what you know about researching online to find other biographies about famous women who were first to pioneer change. Once you select a famous woman in history, complete the Honoring and Recognizing a “Famous First” Female Pioneer graphic organizer.
7. Use your iPad and non-electronic resources to gather your information.
8. Write your commercial script making sure your information is thorough and answers the who, what, where, when, why, and how about your famous woman.
9. Record your commercial using iMovie, green screen technology, PowerPoint, or any form of digital recording.
Honoring and recognizing a “famous first” female pioneer

Your Name:_________________________________________ Date:_______________

Early Life: (Family life, childhood)

Education:

Main Contributions to Society (What is she famous for? Why should she be honored and celebrated?)

Early Career: (Early jobs/successes)

Who?

________________________

Born:___________

Died:___________

Fun Facts: