

Good Luck Gold by Janet Wong

Take 5: Poetry Brain Breaks



Poetry can bring comfort and joy, reduce stress, and increase language learning. And it's fun!

These brain breaks have everything you need to share poetry one-on-one or as a group, in English or Spanish or Chinese.

Thanks to our friends at [Pomelo Books](#), publishers of The Poetry Friday Anthology for Celebrations and more.

Take a 5-minute poetry brain break!

Watch the “Good Luck Gold” [video read-aloud](#) with your child or students

Follow along with the poem on Page 2

Print and share copies of the activity on Page 4

Have fun together with these conversation starters:

- Read the poem aloud and invite students to make a “thumbs up” gesture every time they hear the word “gold” or “golden.”
- We often celebrate big events with special foods or treats; for example, birthdays often include a birthday cake or cupcakes. What foods are students’ favorites for special occasions?
- This poem uses a regular rhyme to link the stanzas. Work with students to identify the rhyming pairs of words.
- Talk with students about the older people in their lives. What names do they go by? Grandmothers might be called Grandma, Nana, Oma, Abuela, PoPo, NaiNai, Halmoni, or something else. Every language has different labels for different family members and elders!
- Encourage children to talk about fun family celebrations that they have experienced for birthdays or other occasions. Many cultures have special traditions like the one in this poem, particularly for the first birthday.

Want more?

For more poetry fun,
visit [PomeloBooks.com](#).



Poetry Brain Break!

The Story Behind the Story

for the poem "Good Luck Gold" by Janet Wong

I was born in Los Angeles. My Chinese grandparents threw a "red egg and ginger" party for me at a restaurant in L.A.'s Chinatown. This is where I was given the good luck gold jewelry that you can see on the cover of my book Good Luck Gold & MORE.

Some families throw a baby shower before the baby is born, or the celebrate the birth right after returning from the hospital.

At a school in New York City, I asked a group of children who were born in China and lived there until they were ten years old (or older) if they had been given good luck gold. One of them said, "I've heard about it. That's some old-fashioned custom, right?"

Many Cultures, Many Stories

Janet Wong is half-Chinese and half-Korean, but she was born and raised in California where you can find many people and cultures from all over the world.

As a child, Janet learned some traditional Asian customs, but she also celebrated birthdays sometimes by breaking a piñata filled with candy. This is a tradition common in Mexican culture, but some people believe that piñatas might have originated in Spain or Italy — or even China!

How are babies and birthdays celebrated in the culture(s) of your heritage?

Can you research it online or in a book?

Can you ask someone about it?

Try this!

What is your family's earliest photo of you? Does your family tell any stories about when that photo was taken? Share and compare these with a good friend!

Try this!

What makes you feel lucky? Can you write a short poem about a lucky charm, birthday gift, family tradition, or baby memory?

Try this!

The poet Janet Wong shares interesting background information about her poem too. Read the "story behind the story" above.

GOOD LUCK GOLD *by Janet Wong*



When I was a baby
one month old,
my grandparents gave me
good luck gold:

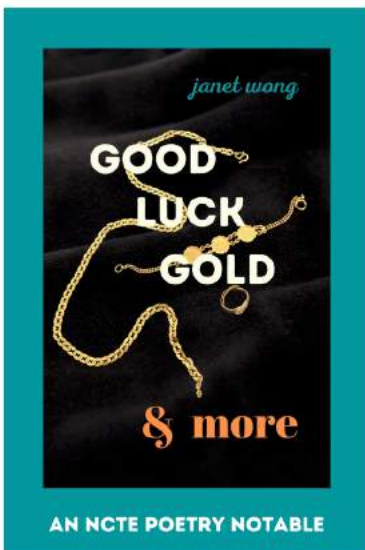
a golden ring
so soft
it bends,
a golden necklace
hooked at the ends,

a golden bracelet
with coins that say

I will be rich
and happy someday.

I wish that gold
would work
real soon.

I need my luck
this afternoon.



© 1994, 2021 by Janet S. Wong from *Good Luck Gold & MORE*
(YUZU/Pomelo Books)



learn more at
POMELOBOOKS.COM

Find more poems from Janet and others at
PomeloBooks.com

GOOD LUCK GOLD *by janet wong*

Chinese translation by Yiping Song-Yang

XING YUN JIN SHOU SHI

幸运金首饰

Dang wo yi ge yue da de shi hou

当我一个月大的时候

Wo de zu fu mu gei le wo ji yang xing yun jin shou shi

我的祖父母给了我几样幸运金首饰

Yi ge jin jie zhi rou ruan dao ke yi wan qu

一个金戒指柔软到可以弯曲

Yi tiao liang tou dai gou de jin xiang lian

一条两头带钩的金项链

Yi ge dai you ying bi de jin shou zhao shang mian xie zhe

一个带有硬币的金手镯上面写着

You yi tian wo hui fu you he xing fu

有一天我会富有和幸福

Wo xi wang shou shi shang de hua hen kuai ying yan

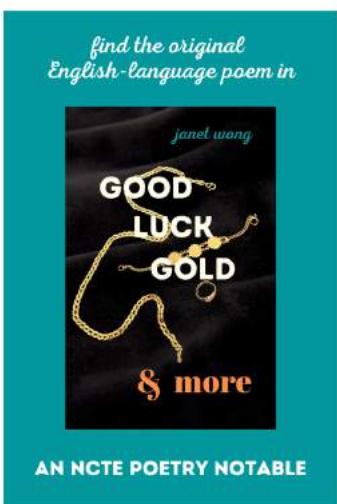
我希望首饰上的话很快应验

Jin tian xia wu wo jiu xu yao zhe xie hao yun

今天下午我就需要这些好运!

© 1994, 2021 by Janet S. Wong from *Good Luck Gold & MORE* (YUZU/Pomelo Books)

Chinese translation © 2022 by Yiping Song-Yang

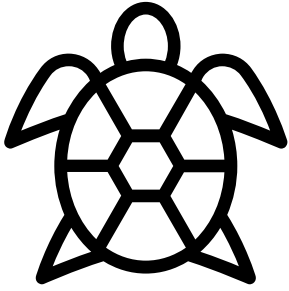


learn more at
POMELOBOOKS.COM

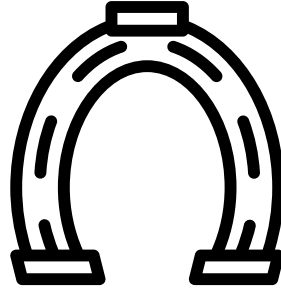


Find more poems from Janet and others at
PomeloBooks.com

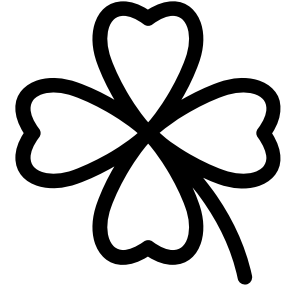
Each of the items below are considered to be lucky in some cultures. Can you identify each one? Which ones do YOU think are lucky? Color in your favorites!



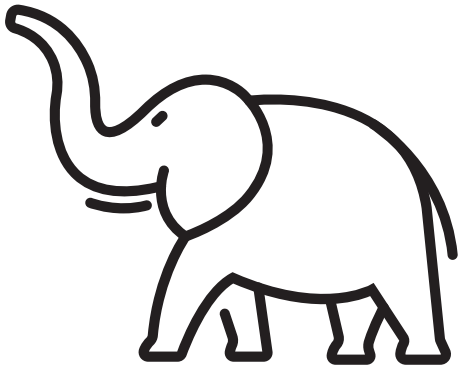
turtle



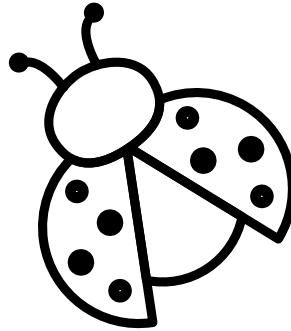
horseshoe



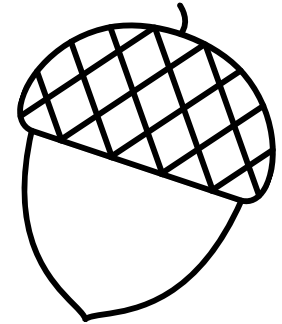
4-leaf clover



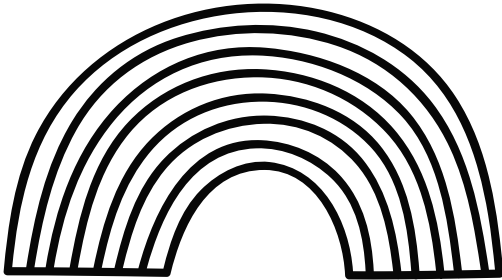
elephant



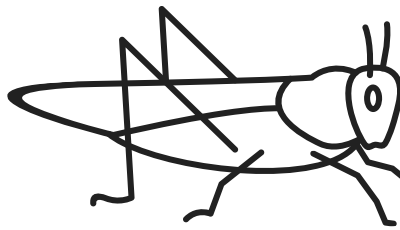
ladybug



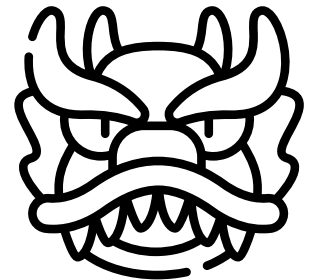
acorn



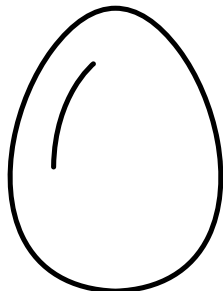
rainbow



cricket



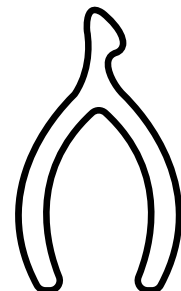
dragon



egg



seven



wishbone