

Tikki Tikki Tembo (author: Arlene Mosel, illustrator: Blair Lent, Caldecott Winner)

Discussion topics for *before* reading:

- What is the longest name you have ever heard?
- What is a folk tale?
- Where did this folktale originate?
- What part of Chinese culture does this folktale explain?
- Why do you think people told stories to explain their culture?

Discussion topics for *after* reading:

- What does your name mean?
- Why is it good to have a short name? A long name?
- When your mother tells you to do something do you always listen? Why not?
- How do you think Tikki Tikki Tembo and his brother Chang felt about one another? How can you tell?
- In what ways were Tikki Tembo and Chang treated differently by their mother/the Old Man with the Ladder? (Find descriptions of different names used for each boy). How did you feel about that?

Activity idea: Give each child an object to put into a “well.” Have each child take a turn describing the object s/he put in the well, without naming it. The first student to guess correctly gets to put his or her object into the well and the game continues.

Craft ideas:

- Make a kite like the one the brothers played with in the book.

Clear freezer bag with ribbon stapled to unopened end for a tail, and string taped to each side of opened end. Decorate with stickers.

See Billybear4kids.com – mini kite instructions

- Choose a really long name for yourself, and make a really long nametag. Decorate, and then explain to the group why you chose that name.
- Do an Origami Dragon project
- Make a dragon puppet

Snack ideas:

Fortune cookies, rice cakes