

Storytime Event Guide and Activities for Educators

Build Vocabulary

Providing a simple explanation for words that children may not be familiar with can help build their language skills. You can describe the meaning of a word, point to an illustration, or use your tone of voice to convey the word's meaning. Here are some words to talk about while you read *Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon*:

- **Patchwork:** something that is made up of different things
- **Enormous:** very, very big
- **Emerge:** to come out where you can see
- **Snout:** an animal's long nose
- **Gleaming:** bright and shiny
- **Sketches:** quick drawings
- **Invite:** ask someone to do something
- **Exactly:** right in every way

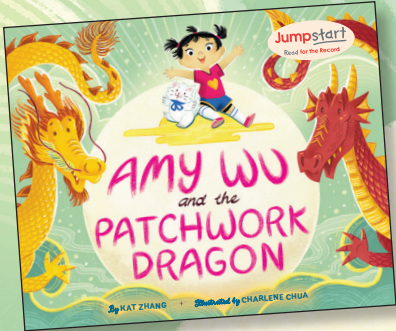


Tell Stories

In *Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon*, Amy has difficulty creating her own dragon until she is inspired by a treasure—a dragon costume—in her attic. Encourage children to think about or bring something that is special to them. This can be a small toy, a favorite food, a photograph, or an article of clothing. Share your own treasure, talk to children about why they chose their item, and invite children in the group to tell stories about something special to them. Then, let children draw the item and help them label their picture.

Sing Songs: Circle Time

Try incorporating a song into your Circle Time that connects to the emotions Amy experiences in the story. Encourage children to come up with their own ideas of emotions and corresponding motions for new verses.



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If You're Excited and You Know It

If you're excited and you know it, wave your arms
If you're excited and you know it, wave your arms
If you're excited and you know it then your face will surely show it
If you're excited and you know it, wave your arms

If you're excited and you know it, wiggle your body
If you're excited and you know it, wiggle your body
If you're excited and you know it then your face will surely show it
If you're excited and you know it, wiggle your body

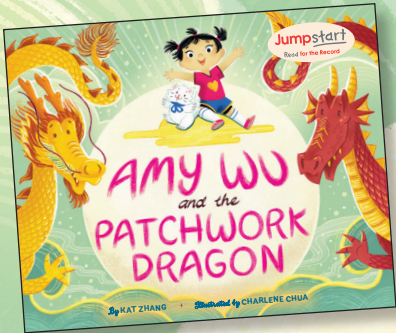
If you're excited and you know it, say, "Hooray!"
If you're excited and you know it, say, "Hooray!"
If you're excited and you know it then your face will surely show it
If you're excited and you know it, say, "Hooray!"

If you're excited and you know it, do all three
If you're excited and you know it, do all three
If you're excited and you know it then your face will surely show it
If you're excited and you know it, do all three



Move Like a Dragon: Music and Movement

We see Amy, her grandmother, and her friends put on the dragon costume and dance all around the house and classroom. Collect some ribbons, scarves, or colorful fabric. You could also use tissue paper or tissues, and help children decorate them with markers. When they are finished, put on some music! Invite children to move like a dragon. They could pretend to blow fire, bring down the rain, and fly without wings. Then, ask children for other ideas of how a dragon might move.



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Make Emotion Masks

Throughout the story, Amy's feelings change as she thinks about making a dragon that feels "just right." She's sad when she doesn't finish her dragon, excited when she has an idea, and happy when she finally gets to show her dragon to her classmates. Have children create emotion masks to talk about the feelings Amy shows in the book. Ask each child to make a face and help them identify the emotion it represents—for example, children can show you look of surprise and you can ask them what events would cause them to make that face.

Using paper plates, craft sticks, tape, and markers, let children draw the face on a plate. Tape the stick to the back of the mask so they can hold it in front of their face and then repeat with additional emotions.

Once the faces have been drawn, bring children together to ask how they are feeling. Children can select the mask that represents their mood and show their classmates.

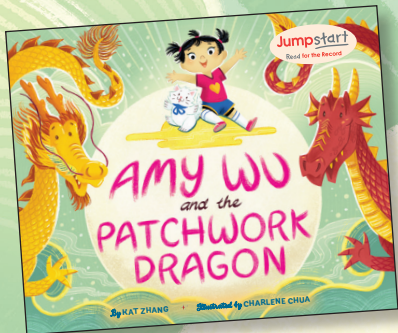
Host a Parade: Dramatic Play

Amy, her grandmother, and her friends all help carry the dragon costume around to dance in a parade. What kind of parade can you host? Add costumes, fabric, accessories, boxes, and seats in the Dramatic Play area. Support children as they plan out what they will wear for the parade, what the parade route might look like, and who they will invite to attend. Support language development by asking children what items they will include in their parade. Then, follow children's ideas and participate in play as they put on their pretend parade.

More Ideas

Keep the celebration going! Here are a few additional ideas for your classroom:

- **Make Dragon Puppets:** Make paper bag puppets of an eastern and western dragon (shown at the end of the book). How are they similar? How are they different?
- **Create a Fire-Breathing Dragon:** Help children decorate a paper towel tube, then glue strips of tissue paper on one end. Once the strips are dry, take a deep breath and blow into the end. What happens?



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- **Make a Classroom Patchwork Dragon:** Let each child decorate their own scale and tape it onto a large dragon template. You can use the dragon templates at the end of the book.
- **Pass the Feelings:** Stand in a circle with students and begin by smiling at the child next to you. They “pass” the smile to the child next to them by making eye contact and smiling. Pass the smile all the way around the circle. You can also try it out with a frown, a nod, or other facial expressions.

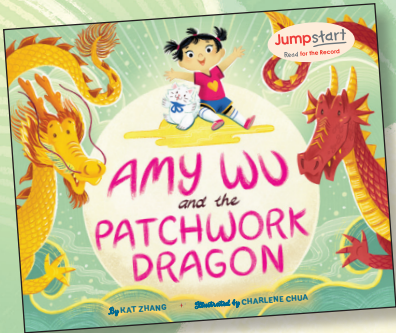
Keep Reading

Keep exploring the themes of *Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon*, by reading more books! Some ideas are:

- Deepen conversations on family relationships by trying:
 - o *Eyes that Kiss in the Corners* by Joanna Ho, illustrated by Dung Ho
 - o *Where Are You From?* by Yamile Saied Méndez, illustrated by Jaime Kim
 - o *Grandpa Grumps* by Katrina Moore, illustrated by Xindi Yan
- Dig into themes of creativity and self-expression by reading:
 - o *Julián is a Mermaid* by Jessica Love
 - o *Maybe Something Beautiful* by F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell, illustrated by Rafael López
 - o *Lola’s Fandango* by Anna Witte, illustrated by Micha Archer
- Dive into more books about dragons and cultural symbols by reading:
 - o *Dragons Love Tacos* by Adam Rubin, illustrated by Daniel Salmieri
 - o *Raising Dragons* by Jerdine Nolen, illustrated by Elise Primavera
- Explore more great books by author Kat Zhang. Try:
 - o *Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao*.



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Storytime Event Guide and Activities

Read Together

Reading aloud with children builds key language and literacy skills while you connect together with a book. This shared experience ignites children's imaginations, helps them build a greater understanding of the world, and cultivates a lifelong love of reading. Here are some tips for making the most of story time:

- Hold the book so children can easily see the cover and the illustrations.
- Make a few comments about the illustration on the cover and note the author and illustrator.
- Show excitement and read the story expressively.
- Listen for children's comments or questions and respond briefly to confirm or clarify.
- Provide information to extend children's understanding of the story.
- Have fun!

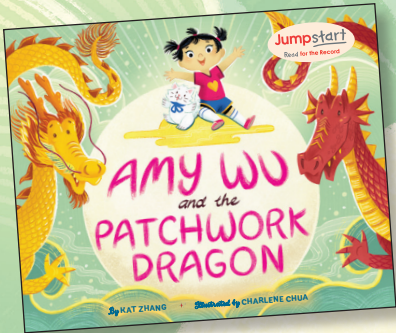
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Storytime Event Guide and Activities

Talk about Emotions: How Are You Feeling?

Throughout the story, Amy's feelings change as she thinks about making a dragon that feels "just right." She's sad when she doesn't finish her dragon, excited when she has an idea, and happy when she finally gets to show her dragon to her classmates. Create a poster of multiple emotions—use the template or create your own—and place on a wall. Ask children how they are feeling and have them draw the emotion and write their name on a sticker. Help children place it under the face on the poster that represents the emotion they are feeling.

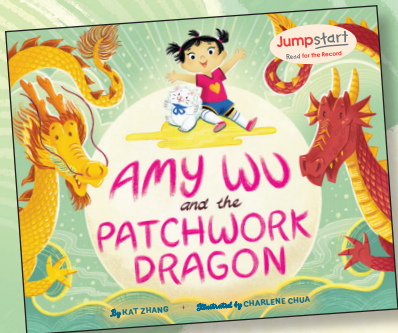
Make a Patchwork Dragon

Amy and her friends used different things to make their dragons their own. Tell children that they can also patchwork—or use many different things—to help create a dragon. Use the dragon template at the end of the book or draw an outline of a dragon on a large poster. Give children a small square of paper to decorate a patchwork scale that feels "just right" to add to the dragon using markers, stickers, beads, glitter, or other craft supplies. Assist children as needed throughout the activity and help them tape their scale onto the dragon. Extend the activity by asking children about how they are decorating their patchwork piece. Are there certain colors or objects they want to include in their patchwork scale to make it unique?



Host a Parade

Amy, her grandmother, and her friends all help carry the dragon costume around to dance in a parade. What kind of parade can you host? Provide costumes, fabric, accessories, boxes, and even seats for the spectators. Support children as they plan out what they will wear for the parade, what the route might look like, and how they can invite people to attend. Support language development by asking children what items they will be including in their parade.



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More Ideas

Keep the celebration going! Here are a few additional ideas for your event:

- **Wear Dragon Hats:** Make your own dragon hat! Measure children's heads with a strip of paper and staple to fit. Use the template or create your own dragon head to attach to the center. Let children decorate with scales, eyes, horns, snouts—support them in adding the features they want to make the dragon theirs!
- **Make Dragon Puppets:** Make paper bag puppets of an eastern and western dragon (shown at the end of the book). How are they similar? How are they different?
- **Follow the Leader:** Play a follow the leader game using dragon motions from the book, such as roar, fly, and dance.
- **Pass the Feelings:** Stand in a circle with children and begin by smiling at the child next to you. They “pass” the smile to the child next to them by making eye contact and smiling. Pass the smile all the way around the circle. You can also try it out with a frown, a nod, or other facial expressions.
- **Keep Reading:** Create a reading corner for children who might need a quiet space. Integrate theme related books:
 - Deepen conversations on family relationships by trying:
 - *Eyes that Kiss in the Corners* by Joanna Ho, illustrated by Dung Ho
 - *Where Are You From?* by Yamile Saied Méndez, illustrated by Jaime Kim
 - *Grandpa Grumps* by Katrina Moore, illustrated by Xindi Yan
 - Dig into themes of creativity and self-expression by reading:
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“Talk about Emotions” Chart



AMY WU and the **PATCHWORK DRAGON**
Written by **KAT ZHANG** and Illustrated by **CHARLENE CHUA**

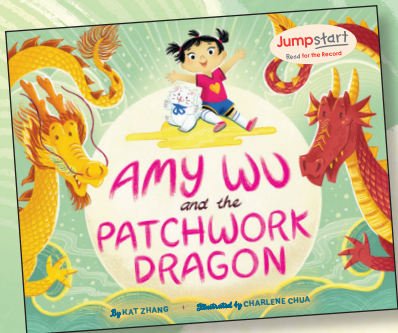
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“Dragon Face” Activity



AMY WU and the **PATCHWORK DRAGON**
Written by **KAT ZHANG** and Illustrated by **CHARLENE CHUA**

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Storytime Event Guide and Activities for Families

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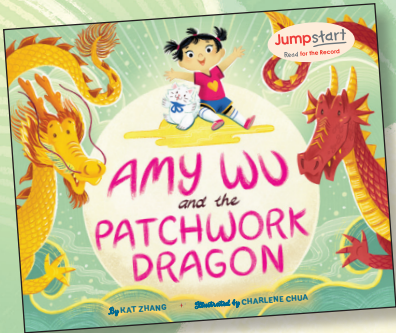
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Create a Patchwork Dragon

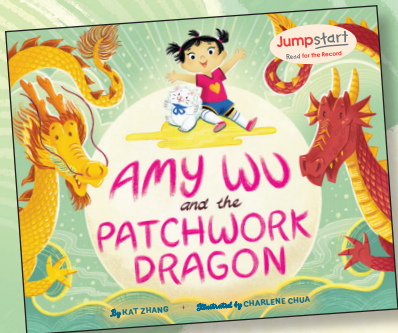
Amy and her classmates create their own dragons, and they all look a little different: some big and some small, some with claws and others with scales, and all in various colors. Help your child create their own dragon! Find any art materials they would like to use for their dragon—such as paint, crayons, paper (for example, gift wrap, newspapers, or construction paper), empty containers (paper towel rolls, boxes), and glue. Your child can sketch, draw, and patchwork—or use many different things—to make the dragon their own. When they are done, ask them what details they have included on their dragons. What's similar and different compared to the dragons Amy or her friends created? Extend the conversation by talking with your child about the features of dragons and other animals. For example, “I see you drew a snout on your dragon. What other animal do you know that also has a snout?”

Move Like a Dragon

We see Amy, her grandmother, and her friends put on the dragon costume and dance all around the house and classroom. Collect some ribbons, scarves, or colorful fabric. You could also use tissue paper or tissues, and help your child decorate them with markers. When they are ready, put on some music! Invite your child to move like a dragon. They could pretend to blow fire, bring down the rain, and fly without wings. Then, ask your child for other ideas of how a dragon might move.



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Using paper plates, sticks (for example: craft sticks, pens, or pencils), tape, and markers, help your child draw a face on the plate to match an emotion. Tape the stick to the back of the mask so they can hold it in front of their face and then repeat with additional emotions.

Once the faces have been drawn, ask your child how they are feeling. Have your child select the mask that represents their mood. These masks can be used over and over to help your child share their feelings and emotions, or to identify with characters' emotions in books you read together.

Keep Reading

Love reading together? Visit your local library with your child to find more books to read together:

- Deepen conversations on family relationships by trying:
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