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## ABSTRACT

This is one of a series of elementary readers written in Cantonese and English and designed to familiarize children with the traditional major Chinese festivals celebrated by the Chinese in America. This booklet describes the celebration of the Dragon Boat Festival, which marks the beginning of summer. A brief background to the festival is provided in English. (CLK)



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## Chinese Bilingual Pilot Program

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The Dragon Boat Festival is one of the major festivals celebrated by the Chinese. Originally, the festival was to mark the coming of summer. Observance of the festival usually incorporated the following:

- 1) Thanksgiving rites for harvest.
- 2) Preparation for the hot and dry summer months by cleaning house, spreading insecticides, taking preventative medicine, killing certain insects or animals believed to be disease carriers, gathering herbs, etc.
- 3) A simple sun ritual at noon by incense offering.
- 4) Competitive sports such as wrestling, boat racing, and demonstration of martial arts.
- 5) Burning of flowers of sulphur (realgar) to ward off evil atmosphere.
- 6) Family gathering and banquets with special food.

The festival was later expanded to include the commemoration of a patriotic poet, Ch'u Yuan, who committed suicide by jumping into the Milo River after his banishment by the king. Dragon boats then were reinterpreted as the means people used to keep the sea demons away. The special food, 粽子 tsungtse (Mandarin) or i joong (Cantonese), was thrown into the rivers to feed the fish so they would stay away from the body of Ch'u Yuan.

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Mr. Wellington Chew, Supervisor Mr. Victor Low, Project Manager Mrs. Sophie Lau, Chairman of Chinese Bilingual Advisory Committee



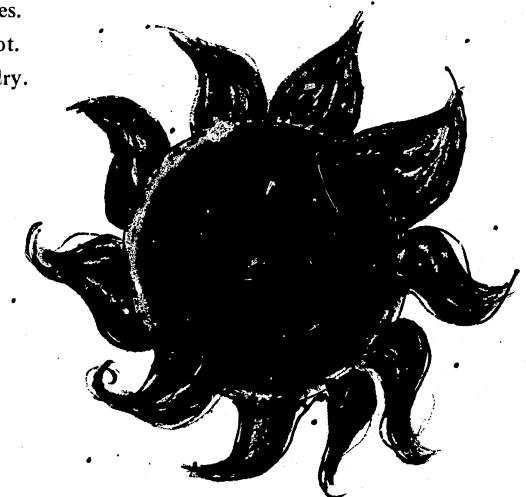
3 2

May the 5th.

Summer comes.

The sun is hot.

The land is dry.



今天是農曆五月五日

都清 赛 我要把大家

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If I had a chance,
I would invite the whole towr
to join us in this
Dragon Boat Festival.





Clear the way! Clear the way! If I had my say,

I would bring out a dragon boat that could seat 90 men and still float.

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You'll sit on the left side.

He'll sit on the right side.

If I had my say,

I'll be the drummer for the day.



Take the drum to the river.
We are going to have a race.
Dragon Boat race!
Dragon Boat race!

快跟着我我你們要看賽我拿大鼓下龍兵



這一天也是紀念愛國

I'll put on a robe and read poems of Ch'u Yuan. He loved China and his people, but he died in the Milo River.

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I'll wait until noon to light some incense. That was the old way to respect the sun on this day.

像古人一樣的故太陽要當天燒午香,





I'll ask the folks,
"Have you forgotten
to clean your house
and clear all the bugs?"

This is the day we clean house.
This is the day we kill bugs.
This is the day we catch frogs.
This is the day we have a big
Dragon Boat race!





I'll ask all the mothers
and all the grandmothers
to make the best tasting tsungtse
out of sweet rice and all the goodies.

這一天, 上来,





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Firecrackers!

Firecrackers!

Bring out the firecrackers!

We will start the race!

"賽龍舟呼呼,鞭炮響



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**旭有從西面來的** 有從東面來的, 有從東面來的,

The other boats are ready.

One came from the north,
one came from the west,
one came from the east,
and that one, that one,

that one came from the south.







Put the drum in the boat.

Light the firecrackers.

We're off! We're off!

Row! Row! Row!

Faster!

Faster!!

We won! We won!

Let's go home and eat tsungtse.

We'll have another race

at this time next year.

粉到了, 勝利了, 勝利了, 勝利了, 勝利了,





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