

PS 39 Diversity and Inclusion Book of the Month: January
Theme: Socioeconomic Diversity

Book Title: Sam and the Lucky Money
by Karen Chinn

Grade Level: K / 1st

Book Introduction:

In this book, a young boy named Sam receives four dollars during Chinese New Year. While out shopping with his money, Sam accidentally steps on the foot of a homeless man. He continues his shopping trip, feeling disappointed that four dollars won't buy him very much. Later, he sees cookies that remind him of toes, and Sam decides to give his money to the homeless man.

This story can be used to help children think about the difference between needs and wants, about the value of money, and about the value of giving and receiving. It can also be used as a jumping off point for a discussion of homelessness and socioeconomic differences.

Discussion Questions:

Before Reading:

- How do you feel on a special holiday? Explain that this book takes place during a special holiday for Sam. He is excited and eager for what is to come. This year is especially exciting for Sam because he gets to choose how to spend some money.
- What are needs and wants?
- What would you do if you received four dollars to spend on anything? Would you get something you need or something that you want?

While and After Reading:

- How does Sam feel when he steps on the man's bare feet? How does he respond? What would you do if you had seen the same man on the sidewalk?
- Have you ever felt the disappointment that Sam feels when he realizes that the four dollars doesn't buy the things he wants at the toy store?
- At the end of the story, how does Sam spend his money? Why do you think he makes this choice? How does Sam feel about how his choice?
- How do you feel when you help others? How do you think others feel when they know they are being cared for?
- What kinds of things can you do to help those who have less than you do?