

## Chinese New Year

### The Colour Red and Firecrackers

**Narrator:** Long, long ago in China there was a beast named Nian.

**Nian:** I like to sleep all year long on the bottom of the ocean.

**Headman:** It wakes up on New Year's eve.

**Nian:** I am angry and hungry! I need my breakfast!

**Villagers:** The beast is coming! We are very afraid!

**Narrator:** Nian, the beast comes to the village to eat everything and everyone.

**Headman:** Quickly, we are going to the mountains.

**Villagers:** Hurry, hurry! Faster, faster!

**Grandmother:** I'm not going. The beast ate my son. I'm going to fight him.

**Beggar:** Please, give me food. Can anyone give me some food?

**Narrator:** Everyone is in a hurry. No one gives him anything.

**Grandmother:** Please, come in. Share my dumplings.

**Beggar:** mmmm Very good. Will you make more? I will make a warm fire in the yard.

**Nian:** What is that loud noise? It is scary. . . . Oh! What is that bright red light? I don't like it. And more noise! Help, I am afraid! I am going home.

**Villagers:** Hooray, hooray! Nian is gone.

**Headman:** What happened?

**Grandmother:** The beast did not like the bright red fire. The noise of my cutting and the burning cane scared him. He ran away.

**Narrator:** And in China today you can still see the red of the fire and hear the fire crackers make the noise of the burning bamboo. And people still eat dumplings at New Year.

**The end**