INTRODUCE THE BOOK

Before students begin to read, prepare them for a successful first reading of the story. Familiarize them with the plot, important concepts, new words, and language structures in the book. Begin by providing a brief synopsis of the book.

SYNOPSIS OF THE STORY

Mardi is going to tell you about how she celebrates the Cambodian New Year.

BEFORE STUDENTS BEGIN TO READ YOU MIGHT SAY:

1 “Look at the Table of Contents. What do you think you might learn about in this book?”

2 “On page 6, it says, I can speak, read, and write in two languages: English and Khmer."

5 “Let’s look at the map on page 9 to see where Cambodia is.”

6 “On page 16, it says, The New Year celebration is a time to show respect for elders, including grandparents, parents, and teachers.”

7 “On page 24, there is a Glossary. You will find new words and what they mean there.”

READ THE TEXT

After you look through the book together, have the students begin to read. Encourage the students to read the entire book in a soft reading voice. Listen to the students’ reading, and prompt for and/or praise strategic processing. See Prompting Guide K for reading behaviors to observe and support.

DISCUSS AND REVISIT THE TEXT

Start a conversation about the story. Encourage students to make connections to their own experiences and/or other stories they have read. Engage the conversation by asking students to make predictions, inferences, and connections to personal experiences or other stories. Stay away from questions that can be answered with “yes” or “no.”

YOU MIGHT ASK:

• “What did you learn about the Cambodian New Year that you didn’t know before reading this book?”
• “What are your favorite parts of the Cambodian New Year?”