

Chinese New Year

Bring all of your friends and your family near,
Ready to celebrate Chinese New Year.
Squeeze round the table for tang yuan and fish,
Noodles and dumplings; spring rolls by the dish.

Gaze through the windows at the bright, patterned sky
As fireworks of all shapes and colours whizz by.
Stay up until midnight with family and friends;
Wish them 'Xīn nián kuài lè!' so their luck never ends.

In the morning, we wake with excitement to see
A lucky red envelope for you and for me!
We put on our gloves, our scarves and our coats
And go to the parade to see all the floats!

The noise of the crowd is filling the air;
The streets filled with colour, and food everywhere!
Beautiful lanterns hang from every stall,
Each one red and gold, some large and some small.

Above the lanterns, a tree waves in the wind;
On its branches, small pieces of paper are pinned.
They're wishes and dreams of the crowd: everything
That they hope the new year and the future will bring.

The music begins; a drumbeat so loud,
And as it builds up, there's a gasp from the crowd.
A beautiful lion with a huge, furry head
Is dancing its way down the streets lined with red.

We're all watching, now, for our favourite part,
The one that we've waited for right from the start,
Is about to come fluttering right down the road –
We're now so excited, we just might explode!

A dragon, so large that it takes up the street
With a long, winding body and sticks for its feet.
It wriggles and whirls through the whole of the town,
Until not one person is wearing a frown.

It's standing here, watching the great dragon sway,
That I know why this is my favourite day.
Life couldn't be better when my family's here,
Helping me celebrate Chinese New Year!