

## Got Your Red Envelope?

The Chinese New Year is greeted with the phrase: *Gung hay fat choy*? It means: Wishing you happiness and prosperity.

Its festivities, both public and private, last anywhere from a week to a month, and are celebrated on the second new moon after the winter solstice, which can arrive anytime between January 21 and February 19. In public, there are parades with dragons, dancers, fireworks, floats, and marching bands. Privately, this new beginning means debts are paid, houses are thoroughly cleaned, and time is taken both to philosophize and relax. Gifts are also exchanged, often as money put in red envelopes (*lei-see*) for good luck.

Each year of the Chinese calendar is symbolized by an animal as well. The animals run in a cycle of 12. Why? According to legend, an emperor in ancient times invited all the animals to a feast, but only the rat, ox, tiger, hare, dragon, serpent, horse, ram, monkey, rooster, dog and boar came. So to honor them, he established a year for each one.

This year, 4691 according to the ancient lunar calendar, is the year of the rooster. People born during the 20th century's rooster years (1909, 1921, 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981) are said to have the rooster's attributes. That means they are outspoken, ambitious, honest, and determined. However, they distrust other people and, together with their candidness, they may also offend people. Thus they are often loners, although they still maintain some loyal and close friendships.

Mama exhorted her children at every opportunity to "jump at de sun." We might not land on the sun, but at least we would get off the ground.

Zora Neale Hurston

## Whiz Quiz

Presenting the world's easiest quiz. (If you do manage to miss any, please don't tell anyone.)

1. What did the characters do in the film *Around the World in 80 Days*?
2. A goose down pillow is stuffed with what?
3. Whom do we honor on President's Day?
4. The dog paddle swimming stroke was named after the water behavior of what animal?
5. Where was the Korean War fought?

### ANSWERS

1—They went around the world in 80 days. 2—Goose down. 3—All United States presidents. 4—The dog. 5—Korea.

## Need A Tutor?

### Contact Student Support Services

Daniel Hall

## What Price Beauty?

In Caesar's Rome, a sculptor froze in stone  
Nude Venus' form, curvaceously full-grown.  
Though lifeless cold, its beauty all admired;  
Some even aped its pose for grace desired.

To Venus came a maid of common mien  
As plain as useless weeds oft pulled when seen;  
And, too, her scrawny, scraggly limbs hung loose  
As if from toga sprung for scarecrow use.  
Despite such flaws foredoomed by unfair fate,  
She lived a gentle lass in gentle state  
With decent friends who loved her humane heart;  
Her kindness, goodness served as counterpart.

Alas, she craved what gods alone provide:  
That Venus look, self-pride her mind denied.  
Instead, she dreamt "If only . . ." every night.  
If only lifelong love she could invite;  
And "What if . . ." visions played behind her eyes  
Of Cupid's choice to tame or tantalize.

By day, the maid surveyed the Venus mold  
To fully sense its wondrous wiles unfold.  
She felt, digested each enticing line,  
Aesthetic loveliness designed divine.  
She touched the statue's arms and legs and head,  
Embraced its female form, though marble bred.  
For hours, she scanned and stared again agape;  
At other times, her hands inched o'er its shape.  
The maid stood rooted there to touch and stare,  
Obsessed by beauty; that, her only care.

For weeks — nay, months — the statue caged her mind,  
As she submerged her soul in Venus-kind.

One day, her head in dainty ringlets crowned  
Reflected Venus' face; so, too, her round,  
proud breasts and lithesome limbs within taut skin,  
sleek smooth and sensate soft — most genuine.  
"I'm like the statue: beautiful!" she crowed;  
But tragedy must end this episode.

The maid's once heart, now twin to Venus' own,  
Rejected blood and froze to solid stone.  
Stone cold, but beautiful, she died.



## Learning Takes Time

Remember the first time you tried to skate, to ride a bicycle, to use a typewriter, to swim, to drive a car, to square dance, to speak a foreign language, to . . . you name it.

That first time is usually horrendous because any new skill takes time to learn. Once learned, however, that skill is yours for keeps.

Study — Study!

## Heart Opens From Within

First assignment to the advanced art class: Paint a picture with a moral. Time limit: two weeks.

At the end of two weeks, the students submitted their paintings, and the teacher inspected and commented on each. One, however, was that of an oversized door superimposed on a human heart.

"I don't quite understand this," said the teacher. "We all have doors to our hearts, but this one cannot be opened. It has no knob or latch."

"That was done on purpose," explained the student who had painted it. "The door to a person's heart can only be opened from the inside."

## Terse Verse

Be wary of the words you speak:  
Just keep 'em kind and sweet.  
For angry words that just critique,  
You'll later have to eat.

Any heart shaped like a valentine  
requires immediate medical investigation.

\* \* \* \*

All humans, no matter what race,  
religion, or color, always bleed in a red hue.

\* \* \* \*

The aim of a good education is not  
more good books, but more good living.

\* \* \* \*

All things come to those who strive  
for things other people wait for.

\* \* \* \*

Blessed are those who refuse to leave  
well enough alone, for through them there  
is progress.

\* \* \* \*

Know thyself! And if thou really  
dost, thou will be appreciated if thou  
keepst it to thyself.

\* \* \* \*

Little things done are far more impor-  
tant than big things planned.

## ANSWERS TO RIME TIME

1—Stupid Cupid. 2—Nice mice. 3—Big rig. 4—Funny money. 5—Zeus juice. 6—Fake snake. 7—Book nook. 8—Rough stuff. 9—Renowned sound. 10—Slick trick. 11—Snug bug. 12—Green scene. 13—Dark ark.

## Rime Time

Words that rhyme can paint "sound" pictures that just roll off the tongue. For example: a large porker is a big pig. Now try these:

1. Less than bright archer of fame \_\_\_\_\_
2. Kind rodents \_\_\_\_\_
3. Enormous truck \_\_\_\_\_
4. Counterfeit bills \_\_\_\_\_
5. Nectar of a god \_\_\_\_\_
6. Rubber reptile \_\_\_\_\_
7. Small corner in a library \_\_\_\_\_
8. Violence \_\_\_\_\_
9. Describing Les Brown's band \_\_\_\_\_
10. Wily scam \_\_\_\_\_
11. Proverbial insect in rug \_\_\_\_\_
12. Natural setting \_\_\_\_\_
13. Noah's ship before electricity \_\_\_\_\_