

Spring Rolls and Snowballs

by Adrienne Jansen

Summary

Lan has just arrived in America from Vietnam. She thinks she'll never fit in – until she makes friends with Jasmine.

Features of the Text

- Narrative
- Character development
- Different point of view
- Contrasted settings
- Realistic fiction
- Use of humor, irony

Purpose

Spring Rolls and Snowballs can be used for the following purposes:

- introducing the ideas and vocabulary in the associated nonfiction title;
- exploring point of view by examining cultural differences;
- making inferences;
- comparing and contrasting the actions and motives of characters.

Guided Reading Summary

Introducing the text

Discuss what it might be like to move to a different country.

- *What would be the most difficult adjustments to make?*
- *What are some thoughts and feelings a new student from another country might have?*

Reading and discussing the text

Ask the students to read to the end of page 5, noting the cultural differences between Lan and Jasmine.

- *What assumptions does Lan make about Jasmine?*
- *What words, gestures, and expressions might be hard to understand for someone learning English?*

Ask the students to read to the end of page 9.

- *What cultural assumptions do the girls make about each other?*
- *What do you think they are learning about themselves?*

The students can now finish reading the story.

- *Why is Lan embarrassed about bringing Jasmine to her apartment?*
- *What do you think each character was thinking as Jasmine entered Lan's apartment? Why?*

Following Up

The students can:

- use the blackline master on page 67 to compare Lan's assumptions with Jasmine's real feelings;
- create a comic strip with thought bubbles describing the different feelings the friends have when they visit each other;
- imagine they are Lan and write a letter to her best friend back home
- write a letter from Lan to Jasmine five years from now.