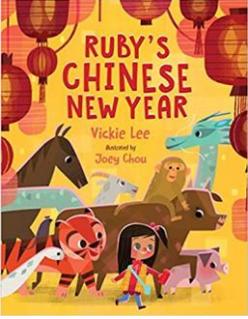
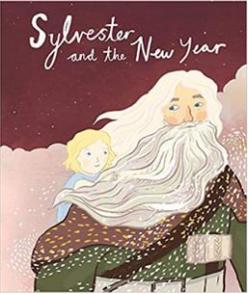
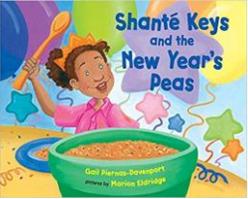


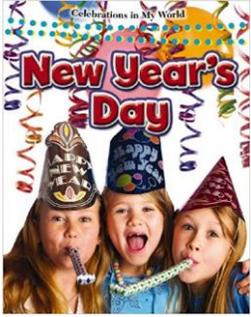
Family Book Club: Grateful for a New Year

This month's book club goal: Happy New Year! At the end of a year, it can be fun to help our kids understand the many traditions and vast celebrations taking place all around us. Books about New Year's Eve and Day traditions might also help with transition and provide some closure to one year while thinking ahead to the new one. These New Year's books are a great entry into discussions about this special time.

See following pages for suggested book list with discussion ideas.

<p><u>Ruby's Chinese New Year</u> by Vickie Lee</p> 	<p>Ruby has a special card to give to her grandmother for Chinese New Year. But who will help her get to grandmother's house to deliver it? Will it be clever Rat, strong Ox, or cautious Rabbit? Ruby meets each of the twelve zodiac animals on her journey. This picture book includes back matter with a focus on the animals of the Chinese zodiac.</p> <p><u>Discussion Extensions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Find your Chinese zodiac animal and discuss connections you can make with the traits and characteristics of that animal; ● What are some similarities and differences between Chinese culture as it relates to the zodiac and a western horoscope? 	<p>Written for ages 4-8, but can be extended through conversation, for ages 9 and 10.</p>
<p><u>Sylvester and the New Year</u> by Eduard Morike</p> 	<p>On a cold winter's day Eduard Mörike took a walk with the young daughter of his friend. While stamping through the snow he told her the story of Sylvester and the New Year, a story which left a lasting impression on the young girl. When she was an adult, she wrote it down and so it has been passed on, creating a new tradition—the reading of this book on New Year's Eve. This beautiful picture book is inspired by that fairytale told to a little girl more than 100 years ago. Originally told in German, and passed down through generations, this classic story is presented in a truly charming lovely incantation.</p> <p><u>Discussion Extensions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What makes this a fairy tale? ● Why do you think this story has been passed down from generation to generation for over 100 years? ● Create a fairy tale of your own. Make it up as a family on New Year's Eve or Day, then write it down and retell it each year, as either an end-of-year or beginning-of-a new-year tradition. 	<p>Written for ages 3-7, but can be extended through conversation, for ages 8-10.</p>
<p><u>Shante Keys and the New Year's Peas</u> by Gail Piernas-Davenport</p> 	<p>Shanté Keys loves New Year's Day! But while Grandma fixed chitlins, baked ham, greens, and cornbread, she forgot the black-eyed peas! Oh no--it'll be bad luck without them! So Shanté sets out to borrow some from the neighbors. In her quest to find some black-eyed peas, Shante discovers the different ways that her neighbors celebrate the New Year.</p> <p><u>Discussion Extensions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What are some of the different traditions Shante discovers while out looking for black-eyed peas? ● Which celebration tradition sounds like one you might want to borrow and why? ● How does your family celebrate the new year? What part about your celebration matters the most to you? 	<p>Written for ages 4-8. Can extend a bit with 9 and 10 year olds</p>

New Year's Day
(Celebrations in
My World) by
Lynn Peppas



This nonfiction addition to the list discusses the history, customs, and celebrations of New Year's Day.

Discussion Extensions:

- Identify different customs while reading and try to connect with what's similar or familiar in addition to naming the obvious differences.
- Try one of the customs in your home as part of your New Year's celebration.

Written for ages 6-9, but can extend through 5th grade.