D is for Dancing Dragon
A China Alphabet
By: Carol Crane

Group 1:
A is for Chinese Acrobats
Performing with beauty and grace
We clap and admire their physical strength,
As they land in a very small space.

Group 2:
B is for Beijing.
Big in size, culture, and history.
It is the capital of China.
Why visitors love it is no mystery.

Group 3:
C is for chopsticks
An ancient eating skill.
Bamboo sticks called “quick little fellows.”
How do you eat and not spill?

Group 4:
D is for the Dragon Dance,
A lively, festive exhibition.
The fierce dragon leading the parade.
Is a Chinese New Year tradition.
Group 5:
E is for Ehru.
A Chinese wooden two-stringed fiddle.
It is one of many musical instruments,
Known to children when they are little.

Group 6:
G is for the Great Wall.
Built over two thousand years ago.
Winding up and down mountains,
And keeping out the Emperor’s foe.

All:
H is for the Himalayan Mountain Range.
Climbers have made it their quest,
To scale a mountain of great size—
Most famous is Mt. Everest.

Group 1:
I is for Chinese Inventions.
Paper, the first compass, and more—
Abacus, wheelbarrows, and fireworks, too,
Discoveries never known before.
Group 2:
J is for Jasmine,
The aroma is so sweet,
One of the beautiful flowers,
We see on Market Street.

Group 3:
Soaring higher and higher,
Just about out of sight.
Bright-colored designs with flowing tails,
The letter K is for kite.

Group 4:
L is for Lanterns—
Luminaries children have made.
Gathering at nighttime,
In a twinkling parade.

Group 5:
M is for Mongolians,
Wandering nomads to the north,
Herding goats, sheep, cattle, and horses,
On grasslands back and forth.
Group 6:
Sweep the house, paint the door,
Red envelopes for our children dear.
Peace and happiness for our family,
N welcomes the Chinese New Year.
All:
Painted faces and colorful costumes,
Are all part of the musical show.
Marionettes and glove puppets, too—
Chinese Opera is our O.
Group 1:
P is for the giant panda,
Living in the forests of bamboo.
In the wild, pandas are found only in China.
Worldwide they may be found in a zoo.
Group 2:
Q is for the Qin Terra-Cotta Warriors and Horses,
A buried treasure found from long ago.
Each soldier is dressed and ready for battle,
Standing in formations all in a row.
Group 3:
R is for rice paddies,
Where farmers work to grow and grain,
Here are vast squares of water and green,
On hillsides or level terrain.

Group 4:
S is for Silk Road.
Caravans, traveling mile after mile.
Trading silk, jade, and bamboo,
Burdened camels moving in a slow style.

Group 5:
T is for transportation—
Bicycle, bus, trolley, and car.
Honking horns and busy streets,
Ways of traveling near and far.

Group 6:
U is for umbrella,
Used in rain or shine.
Painted circles of paper or silk,
Each with its own design.
All:

V is for vegetables.
Bean sprouts, and bamboo shoots,
Eggplant, pea pods, and radishes,
Flavored with ginger roots.

Group 1 & 2:
Used in stir-fry recipes,
In meals around the clock,
A bowl-shaped cooking pan—
W is for wok.

Group 3 & 4:
The far-reaching Yangtze River
Runs from the mountains to Shanghai,
The second longest in the Yellow River,
So these great rivers are our Y.

Group 5 & 6:
Z is for the Chinese Zodiac.
Twelve animals are the signs,
The lunar cycles of the moon,
A calendar of circle designs.

All:
It’s the year of the RABBIT!!

Information courtesy Jordan School District, Utah