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A Chinese Myth

A long time ago, there was a quiet village. There was a horrifying monster called Nian. Nian ate all the plants and animals. The villagers were frightened and ran away. The weather was windy.

The following year, some people were happy because Nian was afraid of red paper and were scared away.

People lighted firecrackers to scare off the monster. They beat the drums to scare off the monster too. Monster Nian never returned, so the villagers lived happily ever after.

Now, at Chinese New Year, people put red paper on doors and walls. Children get red packets. People watch lion dances and fireworks.