



Roses Sing on New Snow

ROSES SING ON NEW SNOW

Maylin cooks mouth-watering meals at her father's restaurant in Chinatown, but her father and brothers take all the credit. When a dignitary from China arrives for a sumptuous banquet, Maylin's father serves him her special new dish, *Roses Sing on New Snow*. The visitor is so impressed that he demands the recipe! After her brothers fail miserably at re-creating it, the father must call for his daughter. Maylin demonstrates as the dignitary follows every step. After tasting his own cooking, the man realizes he cannot duplicate the dish. The chef is the most important ingredient of all! Maylin finally receives the credit she deserves for her inspired fusion of Old and New World cuisine.

Roses Sing on New Snow is part of the NFB's *Talespinners* collection. Created for children aged five to nine, *Talespinners* uses vibrant animation to bring popular stories from a wide range of cultural communities to the screen.


Director: Yuan Zhang
 Producer: Tamara Lynch



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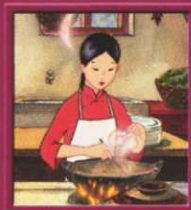
7 minutes 4 seconds
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Talespinners
 Collection



Based on the book by
 PAUL YEE



A National Film Board of Canada Production

Talespinners Collection



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Study guide

A. Proverbs about Lying

The moral issues in this tale revolve around Maylin's father and brothers lying, ie, taking credit themselves for her creation. There are many proverbs about lying, eg, 1) Lies have legs and 2) A lie will come back and bite you. What do these sayings mean? Point out that such sayings can't be taken word for word. Have the students imagine the literal meaning of expressions such as:

- It's raining cats and dogs.
- It's like looking for a needle in a haystack.
- They get along like a house on fire.

B. Creativity

Maylin is both skilful and creative in the restaurant kitchen. While people may start with the same resources, individual creativity makes for different results. As a concrete example, create several groups and give them the same materials: blue, red, green and

yellow crayons; one sheet of paper; scissors; glue; small squares of black, brown and purple paper; three Popsicle sticks. In 20 minutes each group must create a picture on a particular topic, a street, for example. Compare the results, and ask the class what they learned from the experiment.

C. Food Preferences

Tastes in food are usually very personal. Often children know that they like or dislike a certain food but can't explain why. Brainstorm lists of foods that the students do and don't like. Create a table on a flip chart with the foods listed down the side and the following words listed across the top — *Name, Taste, Texture, Colour, Smell, Look*. Together, fill in the chart, cut it into horizontal strips and give pairs of students a strip. They must write a poem about the food using the words on their strip. They can decorate their page with drawings or pictures of the food.



Consulting director:
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www.nfb.ca/talespinners



Yuan Zhang was born in Shanghai, China, in 1973. After receiving a certificate in Fine Arts from Hang Zhou Art School, Yuan immigrated to Montreal in 1991 and continued her studies at Dawson College and Concordia University. She holds a BFA in Painting and Drawing from Concordia, where she studied Film Animation. Yuan has applied her talents as a silkscreen artist and TV set decorator and has taught painting and calligraphy at Montreal's Chinese Catholic Community Centre. Speaking of her work, Yuan says, "The greatest challenge has been to remain faithful to my cultural influences while maintaining freedom from them. Through the exploration of both traditional and contemporary techniques, I feel that I have been able to add a fresh and personal outlook on the world and my place in it."

Director, artwork and design:
YUAN ZHANG

Animators:
DENIS BANVILLE, VELISLAV KAZAKOV

Based on the book
Roses Sing on New Snow
by Paul Yee

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