A Farm in China

Story by Wendie Old
Illustrations by Scott Mattern
Green Words and *Challenge Words:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Red Words</th>
<th>Green Words</th>
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<tr>
<td>May Woo (1)</td>
<td>family (2)</td>
<td>*vegetables (2)</td>
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<td>north (1)</td>
<td>*families (2)</td>
<td>*raised (3)</td>
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<td>*goose (2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>*school (4)</td>
<td>*every (5)</td>
<td>*alphabet (5)</td>
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<td>fifty (4)</td>
<td>*picture (5)</td>
<td>cool (6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>pool (8)</td>
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<td>hopscotch (8)</td>
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Red Words to practice every day:

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<td>many (2)</td>
<td>wild (6)</td>
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<td>most (3)</td>
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Challenge Words are starred (*).
Explain how underlined words are used in the story.
Chen May Woo lives in the north of China. In China they say the last name first.
Chen May Woo’s dad’s name is Chen Ji Ling. Her mom’s name is Chen Ling Ha. Her grandma’s name is Chen Eu Fong.

Where does Chen May Woo live?  [Chen May Woo lives in the north of China.]
How are names in China different?  [They say the last name first.]
May Woo lives on a big, big farm. Many families share the work on this farm. They plant rice and vegetables. They raise this food to eat and to sell. May Woo’s family has a pig, a duck, and a goose.

Where does May Woo’s family live? [May Woo’s family lives on a big, big farm.]
What do they do on the farm? [They plant rice and vegetables.]
What do they do with the food that they grow? [They eat it and sell it.]
What animals are on the farm? [A pig, a duck, and a goose are on the farm.]
Most of the food May Woo eats is raised on the farm. Her mom makes meals. She chops small bits of meat and vegetables. May Woo helps chop the food. May Woo does not need a fork. She picks up her food with a spoon and chopsticks. She drinks tea with meals.

What does May Woo’s mom do to make meals? [She chops small bits of meat and vegetables.]
What does May Woo use to eat? [May Woo uses a spoon and chopsticks.]
What does May Woo drink? [May Woo drinks tea.]
May Woo has a big class at school. Fifty children are in her room. She goes to school six days a week. The children are learning to read and write.

How many children are in May Woo’s class? (WGR) [50] Is that like our class? [no]
How often does May Woo go to school? [She goes to school six days a week.] Is that like our class? [no]
What are they learning in class? [They are learning how to read and write.] Is that like our class? [yes]
It is hard to read and write Chinese. In China, a picture stands for every idea. The Chinese alphabet has more than 5,000 pictures! May Woo and her classmates must learn to write all of these pictures.

Is it easy to read and write in Chinese? [No, it is hard.]
How is the Chinese alphabet different from our alphabet? [The Chinese alphabet has pictures in it.]
How many pictures are in the Chinese alphabet? (WGR) [over 5,000]
Once, May Woo’s class went to the zoo. May Woo liked to see the pandas. Wild pandas stay in the big, cool bamboo forests. They like to eat bamboo.

What did May Woo see at the zoo? [May Woo saw pandas.]
What do the pandas eat? [The pandas eat bamboo.]

Make a Prediction: You learned about a Chinese animal. What else might you learn about China in this book? (T-P-S) Have the students support their predictions.
May Woo and her class also visited the Great Wall of China. It is tall and made of thick stone. It is very, very long. It is so long, it could stretch from New York to California! It is so big, it can be seen from space!

What do you call the place that May Woo visited? [It is called the Great Wall of China.]
How do you know it is a big wall? [It can be seen from space!]
May Woo does fun things after school with her classmates. They eat lunch by the goldfish pool. Then they play Chinese jump rope, ping pong, five stones, and hopscotch too.
May Woo also likes to fly kites. Kites were invented in China! They are made of silk and paper in all shapes and sizes. Some big kites are 16 feet high. More than one person is needed to fly them.

What was invented in China? [Kites were invented in China.]
What are these kites made of? [Kites are made from silk and paper.]
Can kites get very big? [Yes, they can be as big as 16 feet high.]
Lots of other things were invented in China. Paper-cut pictures were invented there. Some paper-cut pictures are red for good luck. Last year, May Woo made a paper-cut dragon for the New Year feast.

What kind of pictures do people make in China? [People make paper-cut pictures.]
What is special about red paper-cut pictures? [They are good luck.]
At night when the moon came out, there were fireworks. Fireworks were invented in China too! At the end, a big, red dragon lit up the sky. All too soon, it was over. Everyone cheered and clapped.

What happened at night? [There were fireworks.]
What lit up the sky at the end of the display? [A big, red dragon lit up the sky.]
That night, May Woo dreamed about the Chinese New Year, the bright fireworks, and her paper-cut dragon. It was a very good dream!
Model: **What place does this story tell about?**

[This story tells about China.]

Model: Write the answer on the blank line.

Chen May Woo lives in the \[north\] of China.

A. east  
B. north  
C. south

1. **How do people in China pick up their food when they eat?**

[People in China use a spoon and chopsticks.]

2. Write the answer on the blank line.

Farmers in China grow \[vegetables\] like peas.

A. rubber  
B. vegetables  
C. cocoa

Model: **Tell one thing that is different in China’s schools?**

[There are 50 children in a class. / Children go to school six days a week. / Children write in pictures.]

1. **What tells you that the Great Wall of China is very big.**

[The Great Wall of China is so long, it could stretch from New York to California. / The Great Wall of China is so big, it can be seen from space.]

2. Write the answer on the blank line.

Pandas like to eat a plant called \[bamboo\].

A. wheat  
B. rice  
C. bamboo

Model: **Name something that was invented in China.**

[Kites, paper-cut pictures, and fireworks were invented in China.]

1. **What do people in China do for their New Year feast?**

[People in China have fireworks for the New Year. / People make paper-cut dragons.]

2. Write the answer on the blank line.

People in China [\[invented\]] paper-cut pictures and fireworks.  
They made them first.

A. invented  
B. raised  
C. found
Reading Roots, Level 4
A Farm in China

“oo” as in moon