

# New Year's Foods

## Review Key Words'

- strikes**      Strikes means tells the hour by making a sound like a bell or chime a certain number of times.
- prosperity**      Prosperity means success or wealth.
- symbolize**      Symbolize means to represent or stand for something other than itself.
- abundance**      An abundance is a large amount, a large number, or more than enough of something.



## Write a Prediction

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## Read the Story<sup>2-4</sup>

7      It's New Year's Eve, and the clock  
 12 **strikes midnight.** All over Spain,  
 17 people begin eating grapes. Each  
 24 person eats one grape every time the  
 30 bell rings. **Tradition** says that the  
 38 person's **luck** in the coming year is tied  
 44 to the sweetness of the grapes.

50      Many people in the southern United  
 56 States eat "Hopping John" on New  
 63 Year's Day. This meal is made of  
 71 **black-eyed peas** and rice. It is often  
 76 served with vegetable leaves called  
 83 **greens.** These leaves look a bit like  
 90 paper money. People eat this meal in  
 98 the hopes that the New Year will bring  
 108 **prosperity.**

108      In many parts of the world, fish is a  
 popular New Year's meal. Fish often

114 swim in huge groups, so they **symbolize**  
 121 **abundance.** By eating these fish,  
 126 people hope to have their own  
 132 abundance in the New Year. In  
 138 Germany, some people save a few fish  
 145 **scales.** They even put them in their  
 152 **wallets!**

153      All over the world, people eat  
 159 different foods for the New Year. Many  
 166 of these **traditions** date back to **ancient**  
 173 times. The foods may be different from  
 180 place to place, but one thing is the same.  
 189 People hope the New Year brings them  
 196 good **fortune** and prosperity.  
 200

	day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4
words read in 1 minute				
- number of mistakes				
= total words read correctly				
adult initials				

# New Year's Foods

## Answer the Questions

1. What is the main idea of this story?
  - a. People eat certain foods hoping that they will have good fortune in the New Year.
  - b. "Hopping John" is often served with green vegetable leaves that look like money.
  - c. People in Spain eat grapes when the clock strikes midnight on New Year's Eve.
2. Which food symbolizes abundance?
  - a. grapes
  - b. fish
  - c. black-eyed peas
3. What does the word **greens** mean in this story?
  - a. leafy vegetables
  - b. grassy areas
  - c. paper money
4. In Spain, how many grapes do people eat at midnight on New Year's Eve?
  - a. 6
  - b. 8
  - c. 12
5. Why do some people put fish scales in their wallets?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Match each word with its definition.

1. fortune	a. ___ from long ago
2. ancient	b. ___ small cases for carrying money
3. wallets	c. ___ the way things end up in life
4. tradition	d. ___ old way of doing something

Summarize the Story

## Parent Tips

Scientifically-based research reviews have established that reading fluency is a critical component of learning to read and that an effective reading program needs to include instruction in fluency. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), for example, found that nearly half of American fourth graders had not achieved a minimal level of fluency in their reading, which was associated with significant difficulties in comprehension while reading silently.

--Timothy V. Rasinski, Ph.D., *Assessing Reading Fluency*