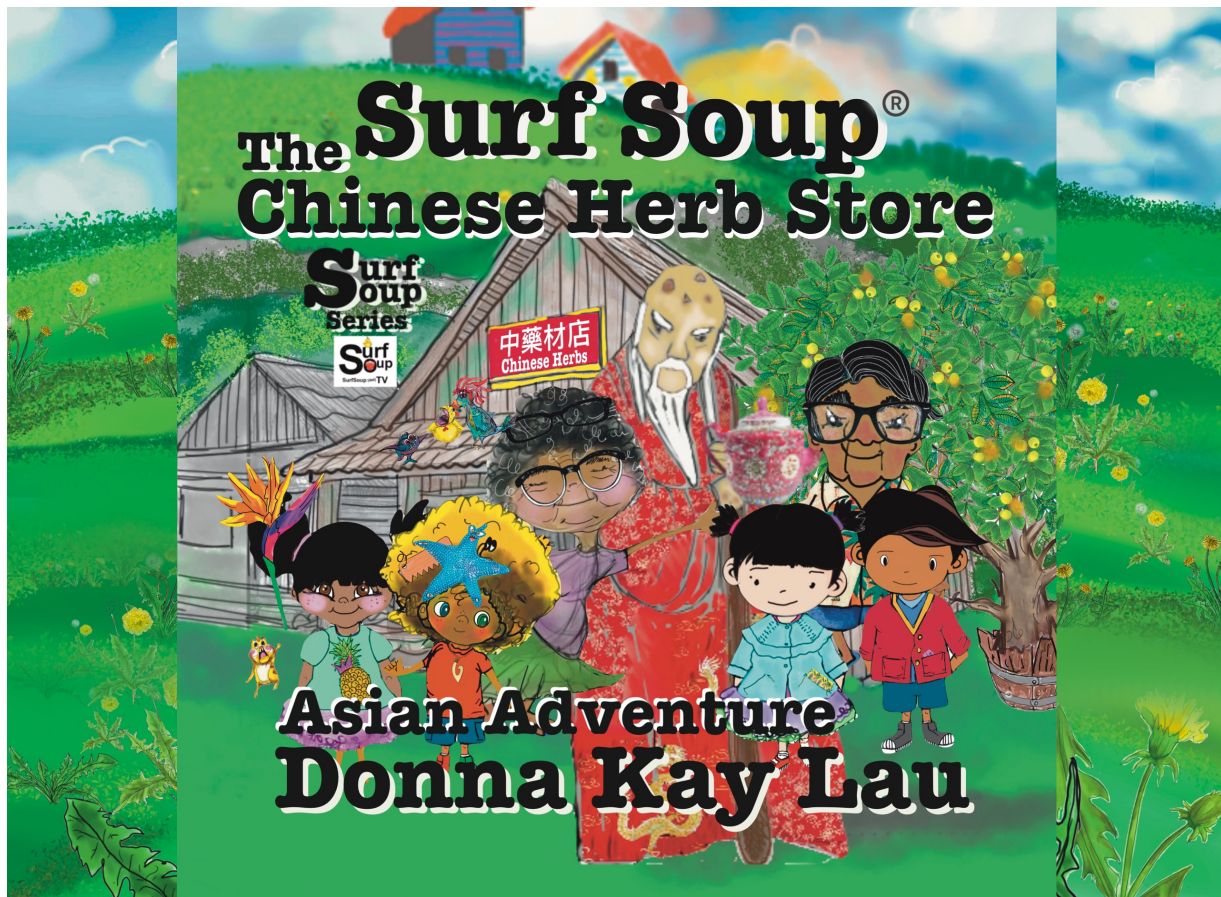


Surf Soup® Teacher & Classroom Guide  
The Chinese Herb Store — A Surf Soup® Asian Adventure



**Discussion Questions**

Why does Grandma say “Hope Seeds grow with care and kindness”?

How are seeds like stories?

How do they grow when you share them?

What do you notice about Great-Grandpa’s herb store?

How is it different from stores today?

Why do you think families tell stories about their history?

What makes plants, gardens, and herbs important in your own community?

## **Classroom Activities (STEAM Focus)**

Science:



Seed Journal — Have students plant a seed in a cup. Record growth daily or weekly. Compare heights, leaf counts, or number of days to sprout.

Technology:



Digital Herb Hunt — Research a herb from the glossary online (with supervision). Share a fun fact with the class.

Engineering:



Mini Greenhouse — Build a tiny greenhouse using clear plastic cups or plastic wrap. Test how it changes plant growth compared to open-air cups.

Art:



Steam Stories — Students draw what they see in the curling steam of a tea cup. Share the images as a class “steam gallery.”

Math:



Herb Graphs — Track and chart plant growth on a line graph or bar graph. Compare results.

Language Arts & Creativity



Write Like an Herb — Each student chooses one herb from the glossary. Write a short story from the herb’s point of view (ex: “I am Jasmine Flower. I smell sweet, and bees love me.”).



Family Stories — Invite students to ask a parent, grandparent, or guardian to share a family story. Bring it back to class and share how it connects to roots, history, or traditions.

## **Key Themes for Teachers**

Heritage & Family: Stories passed down keep cultures alive.

Care & Growth: Seeds and stories both need love and sharing.

STEAM Integration: Nature, observation, and creativity can connect across science, math, art, and storytelling.

Surf Soup® Classroom Challenge

Have your class create a “Hope Garden” bulletin board.

Each student makes a paper seed.


Write a hope (kindness, friendship, curiosity, joy) on it.

Post them together so the “garden of hopes” grows all year long!

👉 Teacher note: Surf Soup® book series are meant to be read in any order and used as standalone adventures. This guide is flexible for K-3, adaptable for higher levels with extended research activities.

Surf Soup® Reader & Activity Guide

Chinese Herbs — A Surf Soup® Asian Adventure

 Creativity & Art

Draw Your Own Herb Store

Imagine you are Great-Grandpa! Draw shelves filled with jars, boxes, and plants.

Add labels in English — and make up some fun “pretend” labels in your own secret language.

Hope Seeds Collage

Cut out shapes of seeds, plants, and flowers from magazines or colored paper.

Glue them into your own Hope Seeds Garden.

Write or doodle one “hope” on each seed (like kindness, fun, peace, friendship).

Tea Time Sketching

Steam curls in funny ways! Draw the shapes you imagine from a cup of tea — maybe a dragon, a bunny, or even a surfboard!



## Science & Nature (STEM)

### Herb Detective

Go outside and look closely at plants.

Use a magnifying glass to notice leaf shapes, stems, and roots.

Compare mint leaves with basil or another herb.

### Seed Sprout Experiment

Plant two sets of seeds: one with care (sun, water, love) and one with less care.

Observe which grows faster and write or draw your results.

Lesson: Plants grow best with attention, just like kindness!

### Garden Journals

Keep a log of your seeds: date planted, first sprout, number of leaves.

Bonus: graph the growth in height each week (Math + Science + Observation!).



## Storytelling & Language Arts

### Every Herb Has a Story

Pretend you are an herb in Great-Grandpa's store.

Write or tell your story: Where did you come from? What do you smell like? What adventures have you been on?

### Pulse of the Story

In the book, Great-Grandpa checks Donna's pulse.

Draw or write about a "heartbeat of your story" — a moment where you felt excited, nervous, or joyful.

### Seeds Are Like Stories

Write a short story that begins with planting something.

How does your "seed" grow into an adventure?



## STEAM Connections

Science: Growing herbs, seed sprouting.

Technology: Research herbs online with an adult's help.

Engineering: Build a tiny garden structure (popsicle-stick greenhouse or herb box).

Art: Herb sketches, collages, doodles of steam shapes.

Math: Measure plant growth, count leaves, graph changes.



### Surf Soup® Challenge

“Families grow in many ways — through stories, through love, and through the seeds we share.”



Your Challenge: Plant a “Hope Seed” — a real seed or a paper one — and share it with a friend or family member. Watch how it grows, just like your story.