

The Moon and The King's Son

A folktale from India

Recommended Key Stage: KS1/KS2

Synopsis

A little bird falls in love with the moon and sings to it for so long that a tired monkey throws a stick at the bird in frustration. The stick misses the bird and hits a snake who startles a mouse while trying to escape from the stick. The mouse is so terrified of the snake that it swells and swells until it is the size of an elephant! While the giant mouse is escaping from the snake, the King's son becomes injured and then the King needs to unravel what has happened to find the truth.

Part 1: Share the Story

Play the audio of **The Moon and The King's Son** by **Hugh Lupton** or tell the story yourself.

Top tips for storytelling:

- Learn the story beforehand; try not to use notes. That way you can maintain eye contact and expression with the students.
- Use actions and sound effects and encourage the students to join in.
- Use a toy that features in the story.
- Find one or two moments in the story to stop and ask the students to predict what is going to happen next.

Part 2: Discuss the story

Use the questions below to begin a discussion about the story

KS1 Questions	KS2 Questions
- Discuss with the students what honesty means to them and how important they see it. - Who was honest in this story? Why were they honest? What could have been the consequences of dishonesty? - Was any one character to blame for what happened in the story?	- Is it important to be honest all the time? Why? What might happen if people were dishonest? - We've all been in the situation where we've been worried or scared about telling the truth. Are there any consequences to dishonesty? e.g. If one of the animals had tried to blame a different creature for their actions, what might have happened?

Part 3: Play the Story

KS1 Activities	KS2 Activities
Re-enactment • This can be carried out with the whole class or in smaller groups, ending on the available adult support. • Actions, sound effects and speech can be added to the retelling • Whole Class – split the class into 9 smaller groups, one for each character in the story (moon, bird, monkey, snake, mouse, old lady, king's son, king, servants) • As the story is retold the groups can act out what is happening e.g. moon shining (students can look happy and hands indicate sparkles), bird group mime singing, then monkey group have hands over ears and toss and turn or shake their fists looking grumpy. The monkey group might make harrumph noises or add speech, "Will you be QUIET!" • Small Groups – with the story split into short sections, each section is assigned to a group. In the group the students work out how to act it out, add sound effects and speech. The story can then be retold in order with each group taking over when it is their section. • It is very important that each group has a narrator to keep the story flowing and the action on track.	Phone Call • This activity works like Hot Seating, but the class can work in pairs. • In pairs – one is the story character who tells the other all that has happened to them during the story and the other is a friend/relative who is able to question the story character about their actions. • The story characters could be assigned to students – random with names from a hat or the students own choice. • The story character phones their friend/relative to tell them about what happened to them (using the story sequence). The friend/relative should ask questions about what happened to help develop the understanding of the story further. • Everyone should be reassured that if they are asked something and they are unsure of the answer they can make something up. • A generic list of questions could be collected before beginning for the students to refer to in case they are unsure what to ask. • Pairs swap over roles so both have the opportunity to tell what happened and ask questions.

Part 4: Story Stimulus

Activities	
KS1	KS2
What other animals could be added to the story instead of the bird, monkey, snake and mouse? What could happen instead of the King's son becoming hurt and how will the king unravel the problem. For example: how might the story go if a large animal (such as a horse) shrinks down to the size of an ant? Now the King's son can't take part in the race.	Introduce a dishonest character who blames another animal for their actions. How will the king get to the bottom of the situation now?

Part 5: Taking it Further

Similar Stories

Chun Ping (Chinese folktale)

The Emperor and the Seed (Chinese folktale)

The Boy Who Cried Wolf (Aesop's fable)

Wider Curriculum Links

KS1 PSHE

- about what is kind and unkind behaviour, and how this can affect others
- about how to treat themselves and others with respect; how to be polite and courteous
- to recognise the ways in which they are the same and different to others
- how to listen to other people and play and work cooperatively

KS2 PSHE

- about respecting the differences and similarities between people and recognising what they have in common with others e.g. physically, in personality or background
- to listen and respond respectfully to a wide range of people, including those whose traditions, beliefs and lifestyle are different to their own
- how to discuss and debate topical issues, respect other people's point of view and constructively challenge those they disagree with