
The Brave Servant: A Tale from China

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Overview

The Lord of Luchow was a kind man. But he and his people are threatened with war. A loyal servant finds a way to protect his master and bring peace to the lands. Themes: bravery, devotion, honesty

Before Reading

- Locate Luchow, China on a world map, approximately midway between Beijing and Hong Kong. Ask: *What do you know about China?* Discuss how the size of China (9.59 million sq km/3.75 million sq mi) is slightly smaller than the United States (9.82 million sq km/3.8 million sq mi), but that the population of China is about four times as large (1.3 billion vs 316 million in US).
- Show students the cover of the book. Discuss what they can surmise from the illustration and title: full moon, person flying, sword in hand, etc.

During Reading

- Read through page 11. Ask: *What kind of man is the Lord of Luchow? What do you think he will do next? Think about the cover. Do you think Jun is going to help?*
- Read through page 25. Ask: *What do you think the Lord of Weipu will do?* Accept reasonable answers. Finish reading and confirm predictions.

After Reading

- Ask the questions on page 31. Then ask: *What do you think would have happened if Jun hadn't outwitted the Lord of Weipu? Can you think of other ways to trick an enemy? Why was keeping peace important?*
- Have students note the dog that appears throughout. The dog is likely a Shih Tzu, a small dog that was introduced in the Chinese court during the Tang Dynasty (618-907 AD). Perhaps students can think of other stories in which an animal figures as a secondary character through illustrations.

Word Work

Write the word *sneaked* (p 16) on the board. Note the letter pattern of **ea** for long **e**. Brainstorm other words with this pattern. Examples: *eat, pea, feat, flea, heal, heap, lead, leaf, leak, lean, meal, mean, meat, neat, peak, peal, peat, bead, beach, bean, beast, bleak*, etc.

ELL Tip

Write the following words on the board: *hear, heal*. Discuss how the letter **r** slightly changes the sound of the **ea** vowel digraph. Other examples include: *fear; dear, deal; bead, beard*. Practice these aloud with students.

Extension: Fly the Flag



For this project, collect lots of scraps of bright red paper. Give each student a rectangle of tag board as the flag base. Glue on the scraps of red paper in a collage fashion. Have students cut out one large and four small gold or yellow stars, gluing them in place as shown on the Chinese flag. Then have students write 10 key facts about China they find in research.

Worksheet Note

Answers may vary on the worksheet.

Common Core State Standards

ELA-Literacy: RL.2.1; RL.2.2; RL.2.3; RL.2.5; RL.2.6; RL.2.7

Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it's conveyed through key details in the text.

Name _____

ACTION-REACTION

Read each **action** from the story in the left column.

Write the **reaction** in the column on the right.

The first one is done for you.



Action	Reaction
Jun tells the Lord of Luchow about the drumming.	<u>The Lord of Luchow sends for the drummer.</u>
The drummer tells why he is sad.	_____ _____
A messenger tells the Lord of Luchow that an army is gathering.	_____ _____
Jun steals the urn.	_____ _____
The Lord of Weipu realizes the urn was stolen.	_____ _____

Who do you think was wisest in the story? Explain why.

