

---

# One Last Wish: A Tale from India

---

Retold by Suzanne I. Barchers

Illustrated by Sue Todd

---

## Overview

When a princess learns a terrible secret about the man she loves, she marries him in spite of the news. Her devotion and persistence pay off when she is granted a wish, which she uses wisely. Themes: bravery, devotion, perseverance

## Before Reading

- Show students the cover of the book. Explain that the artist made linocuts. First, she carved a design into a piece of linoleum on a block. Next, ink is rolled onto the linoleum and the block is pressed onto paper to make a print.
- Read the description of India on page 32 and locate India on a globe or world map. Ask students what they know about India.

## During Reading

- Read through page 13. Ask: *Sayavan still doesn't know that he is dying. Do you think Sivatra should have told him that he was going to die? Why or why not?*
- Read through page 17. Ask: *Yama says he can't give back Sayavan's life. What do you think Sivatra is going to ask for?*
- Read through page 24. Ask: *What do you think she'll ask for this time? Accept reasonable answers and finish the story.*

## After Reading

- Ask the questions on page 31. Then ask: *Do you think Sayavan should know he nearly lost his life and how Sivatra saved him? Why or why not?*
- Some acts of bravery and devotion are written about in newspapers, such as when people are in accidents or fires. Other times, people (such as Sivatra) keep quiet about their bravery. Ask students: *What stories of courage can you share or do you remember hearing about?*

## Word Work

Write the word **overthrown** (p 28) on the board. Discuss its meaning and brainstorm other words that begin with 'over', such as *overact, overall, overdo, overeat, overflow, overload, oversee*, etc.

## ELL Tip

Write the word *moving* on the board. Discuss its meaning. Add *un-* to make *unmoving* (p 18). Discuss how this prefix changes the meaning to the opposite. Other prefixes meaning 'not' or 'the opposite of' include: *dis-, in-, im-, ir-, ill-, de-*. Show examples and discuss the meanings.

## Extension: Potato Linocuts

To make potato prints, you'll need potatoes, metal cookie cutters, table knives, paint, and paper. Cut each potato in half lengthwise. Push a cookie cutter into the cut potato. Break away the excess potato using the table knife. Remove the cookie cutter. Dip or spread paint onto the remaining shape on the potato. Press it onto the paper, repeating to make an overall design or border. If you wish, use fabric paint and decorate a white t-shirt or dishtowel.

## Worksheet Note

Answers will 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## CHARACTER CONTRAST



Think about the characters in the story *One Last Wish*.

The first column in the chart begins with Yama.

Write the names of three more characters in the first column.

Write two or more words that tell about the character in the next column.

Reread the story if you need ideas.

Write how the character is similar to you or different from you in the last column.

Characters	Words about the Characters	Comparison to You
Yama	powerful, annoyed	_____ _____
		_____ _____
		_____ _____
		_____ _____

Which character is most like you? Explain why. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Which character is least like you? Explain why. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_