

Sikh Stories

Lesson 1

Hi year 2. It's lovely to see you all again. I hope you're ready for another week of literacy lessons.

Today we are going to be listening to a story. Now, this story might be one that you've already heard. It's one of the Sikh stories that I've asked you to listen to and to read and to think about some of the R.E curriculum challenges that we gave you on the website. It's a really lovely story so maybe some of you have heard it but maybe some of you haven't had a go at that activity yet. So we're going to listen to this story this week and we're going to be thinking about this story to do some of our very own story writing.

So today 's lesson is just all about listening to and enjoying and learning the story so that we are going to be able to re-tell it and try and write our own version of this story.

So on the website there is a link, like there has been for the last few weeks. There is a link to a video of the story that you can watch today and there is also a written copy of this story that you can read. It's actually a couple of written copies. I've put a new resource up on the website today that has loads of different Sikh stories. The one that we're going to be listening to and thinking about this week is in there but also it's filled with loads of other different Sikh stories. So you might want to have a read of that. You might find them really interesting.

The story that we're going to be thinking about this week is called, **The Milk and the Jasmine Flower**. It's a story that Guru Nanak told Sikh people. It's a story that teaches Sikh's about kindness and the fact that there is always room for more kindness in the world. They do that with a bowl of milk and a flower. Guru Nanak teaches people in the story that there is always room for more kindness by using a bowl of milk and a flower. I've got a bowl here. My bowl isn't filled with milk but it's filled with water. I can show you here, look... (*Points to bowl of water*) There's lots of water in here and it's almost filled to the brim. So you might say that there is no more room for anything else to go in this bowl otherwise it will spill out and get my furniture all wet. Watch what happens if I put this flower into my bowl that's really full of water. If I put it on the top and what happens to it there? Can you see? It's floating. The flower is floating on top of the water. So there's always room for more.

Guru Nanak uses this flower as a way of representing kindness to each other to show that there is always room for more kindness in the world. It's just about how you fit it into the bowl; you fit it in your life.

I'm going to pop my bowl down here in case I spill it but I But I want you to just keep that image of the bowl and the flower in your head as you're listening to me reading the story.

So the story I'm going to read to you today is saved on the website like I said. The version that I'm reading you is in the booklet of Sikh stories. It's on page nine. **The Milk and the Jasmine Flower**. If you wanted to find that and read it with me that's fine. Or, maybe once you've listened to me read it you want to spend the rest of the morning or the time that you're at exploring the story and reading it again.

The Milk and the Jasmine Flower

When Guru Nanak went on his travels he took his friend Madana his faithful companion with him. Madana was a musician.

One day after a long and tiring journey, Guru Nanak and Madana reached the city of Multan. They had been travelling for many days and nights and Madana was tired and hungry. He was looking forward to a good meal and a long, long rest.

Now, at that time the city of Multan was famous for its many priests and holy men. People came from far and wide to seek their advice and in return, they gave the priests gifts of jewels and money. So the priests and holy men had grown rich and greedy. They didn't want anyone spoiling their good fortune. When they heard that Guru Nanak was nearing the city they held a meeting to decide what to do.

"We don't want him here," they said. "He'll spoil everything." So they came up with a plan. They sent a messenger to Guru Nanak carrying a bowl of milk. The bowl was so full that there wasn't room in it for a single drop more. The message for Guru Nanak was this...*There are enough priests and holy men here already, there isn't room for anymore!*

Slowly and carefully the messenger carried the bowl to where Guru Nanak was staying. Slowly and carefully, in case he spilt a drop he held the bowl out to Guru Nanak.

“My masters and priests have sent you this milk. Perhaps you have a message in return?”

Madana looked longingly at the milk. It looked so cool and refreshing and he was so thirsty. He hoped that Guru Nanak would take a look at the bowl so that they could both have a drink. Instead he picked a sweet smelling jasmine flower from a nearby bush. He dropped the flower into the bowl. It floated on the top and not a drop of milk was spilt.

“Here is my message for your masters,” Guru Nanak said. “Tell them that there is always room in the world for more goodness and more holiness, just as there is in this bowl for this tiny flower. “

When the priests and holy men heard Guru Nanak’s message, they felt ashamed for their rude and selfish behaviour. At once they apologised to Guru Nanak and gave him a warm welcome to Multan.

So that’s the end of the story of ‘The Milk and The Jasmine Flower’. *Now look, (referring to bowl in front), I wasn’t careful enough and now I’ve just spilt a bit of water on my furniture but that’s ok, that’s why I didn’t use milk.*

So you’ve listened to the story. Hope you enjoyed it? Please feel free to read this story and listen to this story as many times as you can today. Your activity today is to just listen to and read the story as much as you can. So maybe now you’ve listened to me read the story, go onto the website and have a look for the story on the little booklet that I put out and read it to yourself. Then have a go at clicking on the link to the video of the story and watch that story again.

So your job today is just to get that story into your head so you’re becoming familiar with what happens in the story. If you want to, if you’d like an extra challenge, once you’ve listened to the story maybe three or four times and you’re beginning to be able to re-tell the story, maybe you could draw me a picture of your favourite part of the story. Maybe you could draw a picture of the milk and the jasmine flower in the bowl and explain what Guru Nanak meant by putting the jasmine flower in the milk bowl.

So that’s what your job is today, alright, listen to that story as many times as you can, three or four times would be great. Then if you’d like an extra challenge, maybe draw me a lovely picture of your favourite part of the story. Tomorrow we are going to have a go at re-telling the story by drawing our very own story map and I will see you then. Bye!