













## Setting And Characters

### Activity

- Reread the **third and fourth paragraphs** of the folk tale, *Diamond Cuts Diamond*, then complete this activity sheet.

When the poor man had finished his rice, he approached the rich man's fancy house, and asked the cook for some water. As he was drinking the water, he told the cook that his rice was extra tasty because of the smell of her curry.

When the cook served the rich man the curry, he said it was tasteless. He was very angry. He slammed down his spoon on his marble table. The cook began to shake with fear, "It is not my fault that the curry does not taste good, it is a poor man's fault who stole its taste today."



1. What type of language tells us how the rich man is feeling? (Is a verb used, an adjective, etc.?)

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2. What type of language tells us how the cook is feeling? (Is a verb used, an adjective, etc.?)

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3. Do you think the poor man has done anything wrong? Why do you think this?

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4. Colour red who you think is being unfair in the story. Underneath, write why you think this.




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5. What is the setting at this point in the folk tale?

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6. What type of language is used to describe this setting? (An adjective?)

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## Dilemmas

## Activity

- Reread the **fifth paragraph** of the folk tale, *Diamond Cuts Diamond*, then complete this activity sheet.

The rich man ordered his servants to find the poor man and bring him to his majestic house to be punished. When the poor man was found he apologised. The rich man asked the poor man to hand over all of his money. The poor man only had one gold coin in his pocket. He needed this coin to buy medicine for his sick brother.



1. A 'dilemma' is when someone has to make a very difficult decision. The rich man creates a dilemma for the poor man. What is this dilemma?

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2. Circle the adjectives that could be used to describe the rich man at this point in the story.

<b>unreasonable</b>	<b>kind</b>	<b>selfish</b>	<b>mean</b>
<b>gentle</b>	<b>uncaring</b>	<b>generous</b>	<b>angry</b>
<b>hungry</b>	<b>nasty</b>	<b>cruel</b>	<b>irrational</b>

3. What does the poor man decide to do?

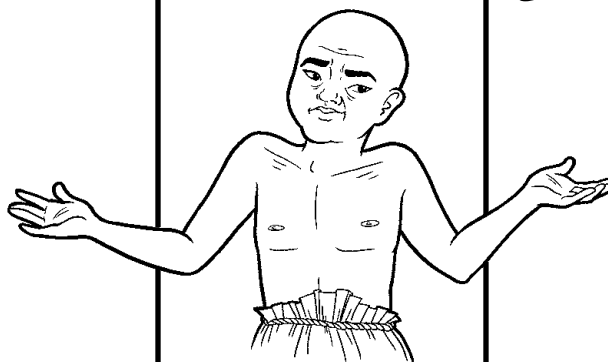
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4. What are the consequences of this choice?

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5. Give an example of a time when you have had to make a difficult decision because you've had to choose between two things. *Once, I had to decide between ...*

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B

- Read this Vietnamese folk tale entitled *Toad Goes To Heaven*, then complete the activity sheets which follow.

# TOAD GOES TO HEAVEN

(retold by Lindsay Marsh)

A long time ago, Heaven forgot to send rain down to Earth. The rivers dried up, the plants and trees died, and all the animals were thirsty and hungry and had nowhere to live.

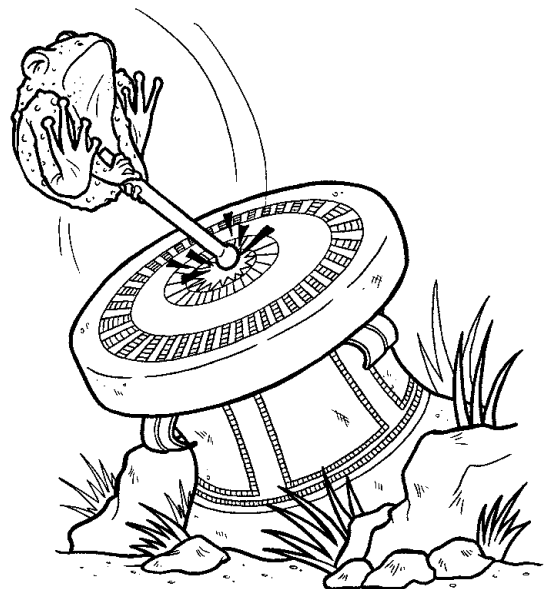
One day, a brave animal named Toad decided to make the long journey to Heaven and ask for rain.

On his way, he met a crusty crab, a weak tiger, a very tired bear, a thin wasp and a sunburnt fox. They all decided to join Toad on his long journey to Heaven, "It is better than waiting here to die," they said.



When they reached the gates of Heaven, Toad told the animals to hide. He said that he would croak when he wanted them to come out of their hiding places.

Beside the big gate, there was a big drum. Toad banged on the drum three times. The drum woke Mr. Heaven and Mr. Thunder up. Mr. Thunder opened his eyes for the first time in a long time and opened the gate.







When he saw Toad, he was angry that he had been woken up and sent Rooster to gobble up Toad, so that he could go back to sleep.

As Rooster was about to swallow Toad, Toad croaked, and Fox jumped out from his hiding place, and ate Rooster up.

Furious, Mr. Thunder told Hound to attack Toad, but Toad croaked again and Bear pounced on Hound and sent him flying over the next mountain.

Mr. Thunder lifted his lightning hammer to destroy Toad himself with one blow, but Wasp flew up Mr. Thunder's nose and stung him several times and Crab nipped him.

Mr. Thunder dropped his hammer and fell to the ground. Tiger then tore Mr. Thunder into two pieces.

The animals walked through the gates of Heaven and said to Mr. Heaven, "For four long years, Earth has had no rain because you and Mr. Thunder have been too busy napping. If you want us to put Mr. Thunder back together again, you must send rain immediately to Earth."

Scared, Mr. Heaven sent rain down to Earth straight away. "And if you ever forget to send rain again," said Toad, "We will be back".

"You will never have to come back, Uncle \* Toad," said Mr. Heaven, "I will never forget to send rain again. Every time you need rain, just croak."

For over a thousand years, the sound of toads croaking is a sure sign that rain is on its way.

\*Uncle is a term of respect in Vietnamese culture.



## Another Point Of View

## Activity

- After reading *Toad Goes To Heaven*, complete this activity sheet.

The folk tale *Toad Goes To Heaven* is told from the point of view of Toad. This point of view makes us dislike Mr. Heaven and Mr. Thunder and see Toad as a hero. In the form of an email, present the point of view of Mr. Heaven OR Mr. Thunder. Who will you address your email to? Colour the character who you have chosen below right.

New Message

To:

Subject:

Sample

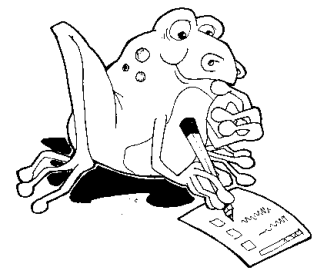


Mr. Thunder



Mr. Heaven

1. Now that you have finished, edit your email (check for spelling errors, etc.).
2. Read your email out to the class.
3. Does your email still make us dislike Mr. Heaven or Mr. Thunder?




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