

Stories of Krishna



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

CurriculumVisions

VisionMasters

Comprehension Workbook 6

Stories of Krishna



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

understand • key words • summarise • sequencing • AF2-3 • AF4-5 • AF6-7 • discuss • create

Hindu faith

Matches the requirements of the Literacy Strategy and designed to integrate with the study of world religions. (This material is independent of any specific text book and can be used alongside any publisher's books including our Hindu Faith, Mandir, Hindu art and writing and Hindu holy days books.)

Contents

Unit 6: Stories of Krishna

	Stories of Krishna	2
	Understanding words	4
	Finding key words	5
	Summarising	6
	Sequencing	7
	Get to the facts (AF 2-3)	8
	Whys and wherefores (AF 4-5)	9
	Opinions matter (AFs 6-7)	10
	Talking it through	11
	Make a story...	12
	Print the story (from PDF)	13

Stories of Krishna

Krishna is one of the most important Hindu gods. According to Hindu scriptures, when Krishna was a baby, he was saved from a demon by being exchanged for the child of a cow herder. So, Krishna spent his childhood as a cow herder. There are many stories about Krishna as a mischievous boy. Here are two of them.

Krishna Swallows Fire

One autumn day, Krishna and his friends took their cows into the forest. While the cows nibbled on the grass, Krishna and the other cow herders played games. They were so busy playing, they did not see the forest fire coming towards them. The cows became very frightened and bellowed in distress. Cows and cow herders were soon trapped, with fire all around them.

The cow herders were scared and they turned to Krishna to help them and the cattle. "Krishna, save us like you always do or it will be too late," shouted the cowherds. Whipped by a strong wind, the flames were spreading quickly from tree to tree. Krishna said, "Do not be afraid. So long as I am here nothing will happen to any of you. Now, close your eyes for a while and do not open them unless I tell you to. As for the fire, just leave it to me."

The cowherds closed their eyes immediately. Krishna opened his mouth wide and swallowed the fire completely. The blazing fire was gone in an instant. Soon, a cool breeze blew through the forest and Krishna told his friends to open their eyes. "Glory be to Krishna! Long live Krishna," the cow herders cried and, lifting Krishna on their shoulders, they carried him home.

Krishna the butter thief

One day, Krishna's mother was busy churning butter. Krishna began pestering her to give him some of the fresh butter for a snack. Krishna's mother told him that he could not have any butter and that if he was hungry he should wait for dinner. Krishna told his mother that he did not mind, which should have made her suspicious. Usually, Krishna threw a temper tantrum when he did not get his way. It was not like Krishna to accept "no" for an answer.

Krishna walked away and his mother returned to her churning. A few minutes later, she heard a loud noise coming from the yard, where the animals were kept. She rushed outside, only to find that all the goats had got loose from their pen. They were running wild through the garden, crushing the plants and eating the clothes from the line. It took her almost an hour to catch all the goats and return them to their pen.

Finally, tired and irritated, Krishna's mother returned to the kitchen, only to find Krishna sitting on the floor, with his hands in the jar of freshly made butter and a look of happiness on his greasy face. He had eaten most of the butter.

For punishment, Krishna's mother tied him to a post in the kitchen, where he would have to smell the lovely smells of dinner being cooked, but was not able to reach any of the pots to have a taste, or lick a spoon.



Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write a sentence in which you found the word 'forgiveness'.

b From that sentence, write what you think 'forgiveness' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'forgiveness'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'forgiveness'.

e When would you show 'forgiveness' to someone.



Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: trapped	stuck

3

Summarising

(the gist of the story)

To summarise means to rewrite the story in a shorter version using as many of our key words from Task 2 as needed.

1 Write a heading for your summary.

2 Now write the main idea in one sentence.
e.g. "This story tells us..."

3 Now add some detail to the main idea by writing more sentences after it.

**Finally,
can you rewrite your
summary to make it better?**

- 1. Look out for errors such as using the same word too often – use alternatives.**
- 2. Make sure you have summarised the author's purpose in your OWN words.**
- 3. Make sure your summary is in a logical order.**
- 4. Is your summary informative AND interesting to others?**

**There is
nothing wrong
with rewriting; even
the best authors
rewrite their
work.**

123
4

Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.

Traditional churning



While the cows nibbled on the grass, Krishna and the other cowherds played games.

Krishna opened his mouth wide and swallowed the fire completely.

He had eaten most of the butter.

Whipped by a strong wind, the flames were spreading quickly from tree to tree.

She rushed outside, only to find that all the goats had got loose from their pen.

Krishna began pestering her to give him some of the fresh butter for a snack.



Get to the facts

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the facts of the story.



Write a sentence to answer each of these questions:

- (a) Why was Krishna raised by a family of cow herders?
- (b) In the second story, why did Krishna's mother rush outside?
- (c) In the second story, what did Krishna's mother find when she returned to the kitchen?
- (d) In the first story, what were the cows frightened of?
- (e) In the first story, what happened to the fire?



Whys and wherefores

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the meanings in the story and how it was written.

1 In the second story, how do you think the goats got loose?

2 In the first story, what was Krishna's punishment?

3 In the first story, why did the cow herders close their eyes?

4 Why didn't the cow herders see the forest fire coming?



Opinions matter

Answer these questions to give your views and to develop the story.

- 1 In the second story, do you think Krishna was a naughty boy?
- 2 In the second story, do you think Krishna's punishment was right?
- 3 In the first story, do you think Krishna's friends knew he was special?
- 4 In the first story, why do you think Krishna's friends trusted him and closed their eyes?
- 5 From these two stories, do you think Krishna always acts like a god?





Talking it through

It often helps if a group of people get together and discuss a problem.



Discussion topic: Behaviour

Discuss the behaviour of Krishna. Do you think he always acts like a god, or does he sometimes act like a regular person? Why do you think this is?



Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.



Krishna

You are a farmer and a friend of Krishna. One day you and your other farmers get into some trouble. You ask Krishna to help.

(Write a story describing what type of trouble you and the other farmers get into and why you ask Krishna to help. What happens next?)

Stories of Krishna

Krishna is one of the most important Hindu gods. According to Hindu scriptures, when Krishna was a baby, he was saved from a demon by being exchanged for the child of a cow herder. So, Krishna spent his childhood as a cow herder. There are many stories about Krishna as a mischievous boy. Here are two of them.

Krishna Swallows Fire

One autumn day, Krishna and his friends took their cows into the forest. While the cows nibbled on the grass, Krishna and the other cow herders played games. They were so busy playing, they did not see the forest fire coming towards them. The cows became very frightened and bellowed in distress. Cows and cow herders were soon trapped, with fire all around them.

The cow herders were scared and they turned to Krishna to help them and the cattle. "Krishna, save us like you always do or it will be too late," shouted the cowherds. Whipped by a strong wind, the flames were spreading quickly from tree to tree. Krishna said, "Do not be afraid. So long as I am here nothing will happen to any of you. Now, close your eyes for a while and do not open them unless I tell you to. As for the fire, just leave it to me."

The cowherds closed their eyes immediately. Krishna opened his mouth wide and swallowed it completely. The blazing fire was gone in an instant. Soon, a cool breeze blew through the forest and Krishna told his friends to open their eyes. "Glory be to Krishna! Long live Krishna," the cow herders cried and, lifting Krishna on their shoulders, they carried him home.

Krishna the butter thief

One day, Krishna's mother was busy churning butter. Krishna began pestering her to give him some of the fresh butter for a snack. Krishna's mother told him that he could not have any butter and that if he was hungry he should wait for dinner. Krishna told his mother that he did not mind, which should have made her suspicious. Usually, Krishna threw a temper tantrum when he did not get his way. It was not like Krishna to accept "no" for an answer.

Krishna walked away and his mother returned to her churning. A few minutes later, she heard a loud noises coming from the yard, where the animals were kept. She rushed outside, only to find that all the goats had gotten loose from their pen. They were running wild through the garden, crushing the plants and eating the clothes from the line. It took her almost an hour to catch all the goats and return them to their pen.

Finally, tired and irritated, Krishna's mother returned to the kitchen, only to find Krishna sitting on the floor, with his hands in the jar of freshly made butter and a look of happiness on his greasy face. He had eaten most of the butter.

For punishment, Krishna's mother tied him to a post in the kitchen, where he would have to smell the lovely smells of dinner being cooked, but was not able to reach any of the pots to have a taste or lick a spoon.