World Folktales

Book key

1 Open answers

2 **a** maid **b** eagles, falcons **c** peasants **d** temple **e** roubles, rupees **f** crocodile **g** vodka, whiskey **h** giant **i** silk **j** melon

3 **1** g **2** e **3** j **4** b **5** h **6** f **7** a **8** d **9** i **10** c

4 **a** Because he has spent all their money on buying a dog and a cat.
b He throws his bag of sand on the fire and puts it out.
c When it is thrown from one hand to the other, twelve young men appear who will bring the owner of the ring whatever he wants.
d She gives him vodka until he is very drunk. She then keeps him talking until finally he tells her about the magic ring.
e He locks Martin up in a tower with no food and water.
f They go to the Czardom of the Mice and chase the mice until they agree to get the ring back. A mouse soldier slides under the czarevna's door while she sleeps and takes the ring from her.
g While Jourka and Vaska are swimming across the ocean, a seabird bites Vaska and she drops the ring into the ocean.

5 Martin buys Jourka and Vaska because they are being badly treated. When the priest offers him payment, he chooses a bag of sand rather than gold and silver. He returns to his mother to help her. When he is rescued by Jourka and Vaska, he orders musicians to play beautiful music in order to make people happy. He forgives the czarevna and agrees to take her back.

6–8 Open answers

9 **a** meat **b** river **c** fish **d** water **e** fair **f** piece of cloth, horse **g** show **h** refuses

10 The mat and piece of cloth say that when they are new they are well treated, but when they become old they are thrown away. The horse says that when a horse is young it is well looked after, but when it is old and sick it is told to look after itself.

11 **a** The crocodile is left in the tall grass, far away from the river, where the hunter first found him.
b When Boaji is asked for his opinion by the hunter, he decides that the hunter is right and that it is not fair for the crocodiles to eat the hunter – the crocodile is the one who should be punished.

12–14 Open answers

15 **a** good man **b** find **c** Cardelana **d** kill **e** kills **f** ten **g** leaves **h** kill **i** evil **j** good

16 Possible answers:
a … the mandate has ordered him to. When he hears Prudencio's name, he suddenly feels he must kill him.
b … he is in prison and her boss is kind to her.
c … he has no enemies.
d … it makes him cough and he can see pieces of the evil light everywhere, dancing around him.
e … he changes the mandate and does not write an order to kill someone.

17 The story is called *Breaking the Chain* because the evil mandate has been passed from person to person, ordering people to kill. The old man has been part of this chain and has killed and ordered another person to kill. Now the old man tells Juanantes how to break the chain by not ordering someone to be killed.

18–19 Open answers

20 **a** F **b** T **c** F **d** T **e** F **f** F **g** T **h** T

21 The ducat the old woman gives Lucas becomes ten ducats and keeps multiplying until it is a golden pile of money. Lucas buys back all his property and manages it wisely.

22–23 Open answers

24 **a** orphan **b** wisdom **c** merchant's son **d** melon **e** witness **f** crazy **g** think deeply **h** poisoned **i** advisor

25 **a** The Brahman boy writes this down on a piece of paper and gives it to the merchant's son when he asks for a rupee's worth of wisdom.
b The Brahman boy says this to the merchant when the merchant asks him to return the rupee that his son paid.
c A maid says this to another maid when they start arguing about the same melon.
d The Brahman boy says this to the merchant's son when he asks for advice about how to behave when he goes to the palace as a witness to the maid's fight.
e The Brahman boy says this to the king when the king asks him if he has any more wisdom to sell.
f The doctor says this to the king when he fears that the king has guessed that his drink is poisoned.

26–27 Open answers

28 **1** c **2** f **3** b **4** a **5** e **6** g **7** d **8** h

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29 **a** Because he is at least 100 years old and very ugly.
b The prince wants to stop the wizard marrying his sister. The wizard tells the prince how to make the horse fly up into the sky but not how to make it come down again.
c He says he must fight the king's army of 80,000 soldiers.
d Because everyone thought he was dead.
e She does this so that people will stay away from her.

30–31 Open answers

32 **a** F **b** T **c** F **d** T **e** T **f** T **g** T **h** F **i** T

33 Hsiang-Ling is in her special chair, the hua-chiao, on the way to her wedding. She hears a woman crying inside an old hua-chiao next to her. She hears that the woman is very poor and has no gifts for her wedding. She gives the woman her wedding box as a gift. She does not know that the wedding box has a piece of fine jade inside it. The woman and her husband sell the jade and use the money to start a business and become rich.
When Hsiang has lost everything – her house, husband and child – she stands in a long line of people, waiting for some food. She is given the last bit of food and an older woman behind her starts to cry. Hsiang-Ling gives the woman her food. The servant of the wealthy man who is giving out the food witnesses her unselfish act. He offers her a job taking care of the man's young son. The rich man's wife is the woman that Hsiang-Li gave the wedding box to six years ago.

34 Open answers

35 **a** men **b** eats **c** bring him **d** Jotunheim **e** growing old **f** small stone **g** the eagle **h** become young again

36 **a** Loki is exciting, handsome, and smart but also unfaithful, selfish and always ready to cheat you. It is never wise to trust him. He can play tricks because he has the power to change shape, and even his sex.
b Idun is the wife of the god Bragi. She is the goddess of poetry and is very gentle and does not worry about wars or silly arguments. She is like an innocent child and comforts people when they are sad or frightened. In her basket she carries the golden apples which have the gift of never-ending youth.
c Thiazi is a giant and can change into an enormous eagle. The giants are the ancient enemies of the gods and live in the land of Jotunheim.
d Odin is the most powerful, the strongest, and the oldest of the gods. He created heaven, the earth, the sky and everything in them. The one-eyed god of war, he is very frightening and is the gods' leader. His one eye can see things that other gods cannot see.

37–38 Open answers

39 **a** Mrs. Yeh **b** A-ken Sao **c** Mr. Yeh **d** Mrs. Yeh **e** Hsiao-pao **f** Hsiao-pao **g** Liu Sao **h** A-ken, A-ken Sao

40 Mr. Yeh gives A-ken Sao the silver yüan-pao that he has worked so hard for over the last year. He does this because she intends to kill herself; she has no money to pay the rent and will have to sell her daughter.
Hsiao-pao hears Mr. Yeh tell the story about the silver yüan-pao to the Buddha in the small temple by the edge of the sweet potato field. Mr. Yeh asks the Buddha if it is all right to "borrow" some sweet potatoes if someone has money problems. Hsiao-pao arranges ch'ien sticks so the answer is yes. He then secretly throws sweet potatoes at Mr. Yeh, who thinks they are a gift from the Buddha.
When Hsiao-pao tells his mother, Liu Sao, the story about Mr. Yeh, she feels sorry for him and brings him some of the delicious New Year's food that she has cooked.

41–51 Open answers

Discussion activities key

1 **a** Africa **b** China **c** the Middle East **d** Guatemala **e** Czechoslovakia **f** Russia **g** Scandinavia

2 Open answers

3 Suggested answers:
a the prime minister and the czar
b one of the Mouse Czar's soldiers
c Vaska
d the czar's soldiers:

4 Suggested answer
The dog and cat get his magic ring back for him. He uses the bag of sand to put out the fire and rescue the daughter of the Snake Czar. She then gives him the magic ring.

5–6 Open answers

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7 Suggested answer:
The hunter dragged the crocodile to the river by the foot. The crocodile dragged the hunter into the river by the foot.

8–14 Open answers

15 Suggested answers:
- a constant
- b desperately
- c bent
- d warmly
- e unkind
- f gratefully
- g sweet-smelling
- h anxiously
- i ordinary
- j carefully

16 Open answers

17 Suggested answer:
They live in a tiny cold wet house with no food, no land, and no money. They live very well in a fine farmhouse with fields, animals, and plenty to eat.

18 Open answers

19 500 + 500 + 100,000 rupees = 101,000 rupees (He gives back the 1 rupee he gets at the beginning from the merchant's son.)

20–26 Open answers

27 Suggested answers:
- a She has to shelter from the heavy rain. She hears another bride crying and decides to give the bride her wedding box. This action brings her back to her family later in the story.
- b She is separated from her husband and son and loses her home and everything she owns in the flood.
- c A rich man gives food to people who have lost everything in the flood. Hsuang-ling gives her share to an old woman who needs it more than her. The rich man's servant sees this and offers her a comfortable job.
- d The ball rolls into the forbidden temple. She goes inside and discovers that her wedding box is in the temple. She realizes that her boss is the poor bride who she met in the rainstorm.
- e The piece of green jade in her wedding box allowed the poor bride and her husband to start a business. They became rich. They can now help Hsuang-ling to find her family and live a comfortable life again.

28–37 Open answers

38 Suggested answers:
- a *Breaking the Chain*
- b *Lukas's Luck*
- c *The Wooden Horse*
- d *Happy New Year*
- e *The Wedding Box*
- f *The Good Peasant's Son*
- g *The Golden Apples*
- h *The Crocodile and the Hunter*
- i *Wisdom for Sale*

Activity worksheets key

1
- a … dies.
- b … go into town and buy flour, salt and bread.
- c … a dog.
- d … a cat.
- e … throws him out of the house.

2
- a hides from > shares with
- b forest > river.
- c on the riverbank > at the edge of the deep water
- d a rope > his enormous jaws
- e fairly > badly/unfairly
- f doesn't agree > agrees

3
- a Some people have found the "good light" after drinking alcohol.
- b It can bring you good health, long life, happiness and good business.
- c By a large fire in the forest on top of a mountain called the Hill of Sand.
- d excitement, desire, worry, ambition, fear
- e An evil spirit seems to take him over. He is filled with a desire for another man's blood.
- f In order to bury the evil light within him
- g It is the chain of death, where each man has to tell the next man to kill someone.
- h Because she pushed him to go to the Hill of Sand in the first place and take the bag.

4 a 3 b 4 c 1 d 5 e 2

5
- a Lukas's wife to Lukas when their daughter is born.
- b Lukas to the major's wife when he asks her to be his girl's godmother.
- c The major's wife to Lukas when he asks her to be his girl's godmother.
- d the old lady accepting Lukas's offer
- e the old lady to Lukas when giving him a gold ducat.

6 Open answers

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World Folktales

7 a the wizard
b Prince Kamar Al'Akmar
c the slave boy
d the king's army/80,000 soldiers
e the princess

8 a working b flood c son d house e spoiled

9 a the gods
b men
c He asks to share their food and then eats it all.
d To bring Idun and her golden apples out of Asgard in seven days.
e They stay young forever.
f Because she trusts everyone.
g She loses her beauty, her skin sags, her body becomes old and thin. She cries golden tears.
h He has only one eye but he can see things that no other god can see.
i They light a huge fire along the walls of Asgard and Thiazi flies straight into it.

10 Suggested answers:
a explore the world of men.
b two big pigs.
c cook
d sitting in a tree
e all the food
f the eagle
g Loki promises to bring Idum to him.
h when he tells her about a tree he saw in Midgard
i a giant called Thiazi
j all the gods start getting old

11 Suggested answers:
a What happened to Mr. Yeh's year's salary?
b What was Mr. Yeh's favorite meal?
c What was the owner of A-ken Sao's building going to do if she did not pay the rent?
d What did Mrs. Yeh want Mr. Yeh to do?
e Where did Mr. Yeh think the sweet potatoes came from?
f Why was A-ken completely confused?

12–14 Open answers

Progress test key

1 a the old sad-eyed hunting dog
b the small boy's mother
c his mother
d a priest
e the daughter of the Snake Czar

2 a 3 b 1 c 5 d 4 e 2

3 a 3 b 4 c 1 d 5 e 2

4 a wealthy b careless c poor d major's e old

5 a 1 b 1 c 1 d 2 e 2

6 a King Sabur
b some merchants in the market
c a doctor from Persia
d the king and his soldiers
e the king of Sana'a, his father-in-law

7 a 1 b 4 c 5 d 3 e 2

8 a True b False c True d False e True

9 a Mrs. Yeh to Mr. Yeh when he comes back from work.
b Mr. Yeh to Mrs. Yeh when talking about his earnings.
c Mr. Yeh to Mrs. Yeh when explaining how he gave away his earnings
d the woman to Mr. Yeh when he tried to stop her
e Mr. Yeh to Mrs. Yeh when she wants him to steal some sweet potatoes.

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