

Lesson 9: Words of Wisdom

Getting Started

In the previous reading, Min says that he will never teach Tree-ear how to be a potter because it is something that is only passed down from father to son. Do you think people can love people who are not related by blood as much as those who are? What makes a family? Are Tree-ear and Crane-man a family? Are they related? Do they love each other?

After you have finished your reading, remember to add details to the "Elements of Korean Culture" pages in the "Centuries Past" column.

Stuff You Need

- ✓ *A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park
- ✓ journal
- ✓ art paper* (Activity 1 - Option 1)
- ✓ paints and other art materials* (Activity 1 - Option 1)

Ideas to Think About

- How do our relationships with others affect our decisions and emotions?
- What makes a family and why are familial relationships important?

Things to Know

- Wisdom is a deep understanding of people, things, or situations.

Reading and Questions

Read Chapters 9 and 10 and then answer the questions below in complete sentences.

1. Why does Tree-ear decide to go on the journey despite knowing that he can never learn to be a potter?

2. Why does Min's wife invite Crane-man to come to her house to work while Tree-ear is on his journey? Why does Crane-man refuse her offer?

3. How does Tree-ear try to convince Crane-man to work for Min's wife while Tree-ear is on his journey?

4. What animal comes upon Tree-ear when he is sleeping in the woods? What does Tree-ear learn from this experience?

Activities

Sentence Correcting

Copy the following sentences in your journal, correcting any grammar, spelling, or punctuation errors:

- It some times took Tree-Ear a while to figure out Crane-mans riddles but he prefered puzzling over them to being told what they ment.
- Not you Tree-ear shouted flapping his arms in frustration like a giant bird.

Activity 1: Quotes

Wisdom is a deep understanding of people, things, or situations. Crane-man is very wise, and he believes it is important to share with Tree-ear the wisdom he has gained through

living. When Tree-ear is on his journey, he remembers many of the truths and words of wisdom he learned from Crane-man, and these truths serve as a great comfort and help to him. Crane-man teaches Tree-ear about life and how the world works. One way he does this is through storytelling and the wise and meaningful words he spins together to give Tree-ear guidance and self-assurance. Crane-man and Tree-ear have a very special relationship — they depend on one another for love and for survival.

On the page, "Quotes," read through some of the meaningful words Crane-man speaks to guide and help Tree-ear navigate the world.

When you finish interpreting the quotes, select one of the following options.

Option 1: Memorable Quote

Select one of your favorite quotes from Crane-man. On a blank sheet of art paper, neatly write the quote and then create a drawing, painting, collage, or other visual image to illustrate the quote. Hang your artwork in a place where you will be reminded of Crane-man's truths and look for opportunities to apply the words to your own life.

Option 2: Your Own Words of Wisdom

Make up your own words of wisdom that you could pass down to a younger sibling, cousin, or family friend. Think about how the truth you write has helped you in the past. You might want to explore Korean proverbs and find one that has special meaning for you that you can "translate" to your own life experiences or culture and make it understandable for a young child. For example, there's a Korean proverb, "Another person's ddeok (rice cake) looks bigger," which is like our "grass is greener on the other side of the fence" saying. A retelling for a child might be "The toys are always better at a friend's house." The link below has a list of other Korean proverbs.

Write down your words of wisdom and share them with a younger child. Explain to the child how you have seen the truth play out in your own life.

Korean Proverbs
www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/737/
This is a link to a number of Korean proverbs that can be used in this lesson.

Wrapping Up

Today Tree-ear sets out his journey and Crane-man's words of wisdom continue to guide and help him even though Crane-man is not physically present.

Life Application

Have you ever had an elder speak words of wisdom that helped you in some important way? Record the words the person(s) spoke in your journal. Whenever you hear wise words that you think can help you better understand life and people, take the time to write them down in a special journal. Review them often so you can remember them and use them to help you.

quotes

Directions: In your own words, explain each of Crane-man's quotes.

"Scholars read the great words of the world. But you and I must learn to read the world itself."



"Work gives a man dignity, stealing takes it away."



"My friend, the same wind that blows one door shut often blows another open."

"A well-kept tradition can be stronger than a law."

"We are afraid of things we do not know— just because we do not know them."

Parent Overview

Lesson 9: Words of Wisdom

Getting Started

? Big Ideas

- How do our relationships with others affect our decisions and emotions?
- What makes a family and why are familial relationships important?



Facts and Definitions

- Wisdom is a deep understanding of people, things, or situations.

⦿ Skills

- Write responses to literature and develop an interpretation exhibiting careful reading, understanding, and insight. (LA)
- Organize interpretations of literature around several clear ideas, premises, or images from the literary work. (LA)
- Develop and justify the interpretation of literature through sustained use of examples. (LA)
- Extend understanding by creating products for different purposes, different audiences, and within various contexts. (LA)

Introducing the Lesson

Ask your child to explain what happened in the last two chapters he read. Review how the glaze on Min's pieces was brown and he had nothing to show the emissary. But the emissary said he would still consider Min for royal commission if Min could bring his work to the palace in Songdo. Min was too old to travel, so Tree-ear volunteered to take it for him. When Tree-ear asked Min to teach him to be a potter, Min refused because the tradition is only passed down from father to son.

Reading and Questions (Answers)

1. Why does Tree-ear decide to go on the journey despite knowing that he can never learn to be a potter?
 - He is doing it for Min's wife, for the kindness she has shown him.
2. Why does Min's wife invite Crane-man to come to her house to work while Tree-ear is on his journey? Why does Crane-man refuse her offer?
 - She knows that Tree-ear is worried about how Crane-man will eat while Tree-ear is gone. Crane-man refuses the offer because he is proud and does not wish to be fed out of pity.
3. How does Tree-ear try to convince Crane-man to work for Min's wife while Tree-ear is on his journey?
 - Tree-ear says that Min's wife really needs Crane-man and that if Crane-man doesn't help her, Tree-ear will worry about her his entire journey.
4. What animal comes upon Tree-ear when he is sleeping in the woods? What does Tree-ear learn from this experience?
 - A fox. He learns that the fox is not evil, as others believe, but is just an animal and needn't be feared.

Outline of Activities and Answer Keys

Sentence Correcting

Here are the suggested sentence corrections. (Changes from the original are underlined.)

- It sometimes took Tree-ear a while to figure out Crane-man's riddles, but he preferred puzzling over them to being told what they meant.

- "Not you!" Tree-ear shouted, flapping his arms in frustration like a giant bird. (A comma instead of an exclamation point after *you* would also be correct.)

Activity 1: Quotes

Read your child's interpretation of the quotes on the page, "Quotes." Check to see that he understands the truths behind Crane-man's words.

The following are possible interpretations of the quotes. Your child's interpretation will be in his own words. The important thing is that he understands the universal truths behind the quotes.

- "Scholars read the great words of the world. But you and I must learn to read the world itself." (People who are not educated must learn how to survive in the world and must live by their wits and the practical demands of the world.)
- "Work gives a man dignity, stealing takes it away." (When you work, you show that you have pride and know the value of whatever it is you are working for, but when you steal, you lose your pride and disrespect the value of what you stole.)
- "My friend, the same wind that blows one door shut often blows another open." (Often in life you may want something and realize you can't have it, but at the same time you may often find new options available.)
- "A well-kept tradition can be stronger than a law." (Just because something is not a law does not mean that society doesn't follow it as if it were a law and that there are not consequences for breaking it.)
- "We are afraid of things we do not know — just because we do not know them." (We often fear things that are unknown, but once something is no longer mysterious, we often realize it did not need to be feared.)

Then your child will select to either illustrate one of Crane-man's quotes or to make up his own quote that could help someone better understand life.

Option 1: Memorable Quote

Ask your child to share his artwork and to explain how the image reflects the quote.

Option 2: Your Own Words of Wisdom

Ask your child to share his quote and describe two ways he has seen the quote ring true in his own life.

Wrapping Up

Questions to Discuss

- Do you think Min should teach Tree-ear to be a potter even though Tree-ear is not his son? Why or why not?
- What did Crane-man say would be Tree-ear's biggest danger on his journey? (People are the greatest danger.) Do you think he will be right? Why or why not?
- What do you think Tree-ear meant when he thought, "Why was it that pride and foolishness were so often close companions?" (Possible answer: Sometimes a person's pride can stand in the way of what is best or can keep him from making decisions that would be beneficial.)
- How has pride helped and hurt both Tree-ear and Min? (Answers might include that it has helped Min be a gifted potter, but it almost lost him the commission. It has also hurt Min because it has kept Min from bonding with and teaching Tree-ear. Pride has helped Crane-man live a life of independence and dignity.)
- Are Tree-ear and Crane-man a family? Are they related by blood? What makes a family?

Things to Review

Discuss with your child what wisdom means.

