



The Korean Cinderella Tale (and a little drama)

- Introduce the HTY play by reading aloud this simple folklore version ●
- Guide students to explore the story through drama ●

The Tale

Once upon a time in Korea there lived a girl named Kongji. She was an only child. Kongji's mother passed away when she was very young. Her father then married a widow with a daughter of her own. The daughter was named Patji. After Kongji's father passed away, both her stepmother and stepsister treated Kongji in a very unfair way. They made her do all the household chores and gave her ragged clothes to wear. Poor Kongji worked very hard from dawn to dusk without complaining.

One day her stepmother told her to plow the field. The entire field was covered with rocks and weeds. Kongji had no idea how was she going to finish the task. She started plowing the field but her wooden hoe struck a large rock and broke in two. Kongji's eyes started flowing with tears, but she did not give up and began to weed the fields with her hands. Her hands hurt and she started to weep again.

Suddenly, out of nowhere, an ox appeared. The ox told her to rest and gave Kongji a basket of apples to eat. The ox plowed the entire field. Kongji took the basket of apples home to share with her stepmom and her sister. On seeing the basket of apples, Kongji's step mom accused her of stealing and gave her more work to do.

A few days later the New Mayor invited every household in the village to a ball. Kongji wanted to go but her stepmother gave her a series of tasks to complete before she could attend the ball. She told her to fill a large clay jar with water, hull all the unmilled rice and finish weaving the jute fibers into cloth.

The clay jar had a hole in the bottom and, no matter how hard she tried, she could not fill it up. Kongji started weeping. Hearing her cries a turtle appeared and offered to help her by blocking the hole in the clay jar. With its help, Kongji was able to fill the clay jar with water. Then she spread the rice on the mat in the courtyard for hulling. Suddenly, hundreds of sparrows descended from the trees above and began helping her by pecking the rice, leaving behind, the hulled rice on the mat. And finally, a beautiful fairy descended from the heavens to help her weave of the jute fibers in to the cloth.

The fairy then offered Kongji a beautiful silk hanbok with a floral silk gomusin. She rushed to the ball in her new clothes. Everybody, including the New Mayor, was awed by her beauty. The New Mayor was so captivated by her looks that he instantly fell in love with her and offered to marry her. Kongji blushed at his proposal. As everyone crowded around Kongji, she spotted her stepmother and sister heading towards her. Fearing that she would be humiliated by her stepmother, she ran out of the ball.

On her way out, Kongji dropped her left shoe in a river, which the Mayor found. The Mayor roamed the entire village, trying the lost shoe on every maiden in hopes of finding its owner. When the lost shoe fits Kongji, the Mayor decides to marry her. Patji, in a fit of jealousy, pushes Kongji into the river. She then disguises herself as Kongji. The real Kongji appears in the Mayor's dreams and tells him the truth. The Mayor then brings Kongji back to life with a kiss. The Mayor locks Patji and her mother in a dark prison while he and Kongji live happily ever after.

And a Little Drama Exploration

The more engaged students are with a story, the more they look forward to seeing it on stage. After sharing the version on the previous page, guide students to explore the story through drama as below.

Procedure

- 1) Students stand in personal space. Let them know they will create statues of parts of the story.
- 2) Prompt students with, 'Show me how you look...' using vocabulary words such as *naïve*, *complain*, *plow*, *weed*, *accuse*, *hull rice*, *weep*, *stunned*, *blush*, *humiliate*, *jealous*.
- 3) Encourage students to exaggerate their statues, count to three and call freeze.
- 4) Guide them to try more than once, each time finding more expressive, creative ways.
- 5) Share good ideas. Repeat with each word.

Second, guide pairs of students to create statues together to show character relationships.

- 1) Pairs stand together in personal space.
- 2) Prompt pairs with, 'Show me how it looks when...' The stepmother makes Kongji work, the animals help her, the mayor is stunned by her, the mayor tries the shoe on others, the stepmother and sister in the 'dark prison.'
- 3) Give pairs 10 seconds to decide who is which character and then call freeze.
- 4) Guide them to try more than once, each time finding more expressive, creative ways.
- 5) Share good ideas. Repeat with each story moment.