

Story Telling

Instructions: Draw an image to represent the stages of the story. You will then need to put the story into your own words using the images as reference points.

THE STORY OF RAMA AND SITA

A long time ago in the kingdom of Ayodha a king, King Dashratha had four sons by three different wives. Rama was the eldest, Lakshman and Satrugna were twins and Bharat was the youngest.

The kingdom of Ayodha was in jubilation. Rama had wed a beautiful princess, Sita and through this marriage Dashratha was able to hand over the throne and the ruling of the kingdom to his son, Rama.

Rama was a good and kind ruler and Dashratha was confident in his son's ruling abilities; knowing that the kingdom would be in safe hands with Rama reigning.

Bharat's mother was very jealous of this decision and she wanted her son to have the throne even though he was the youngest. She had previously saved Dashratha's life, and in return he granted her two wishes. She requested that Rama be sent away for fourteen years so that Bharat could rule Ayodha.

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The King, being a man of his word, would not go back on his agreement with Bharat's mother and so fulfilled her wishes. He reluctantly banished Rama, Sita and Rama's brother, Lakshman, to the forest.

Rama, Sita and Lakshman found a cottage deep in the forest and lived there happily for some time. They would go for walks, lived a simple life and enjoyed the quiet life the forest had to offer.

One day the demon king, Ravana, spotted Sita. He had twenty arms, ten heads which each had a pair of red eyes that burned like hot coals and a mouth full of yellow fangs.

Ravana was so spellbound by Sita's beauty that he wanted her; believing that she should belong to him. He decided to set up a trap. Using magic, he crafted a golden deer to entice her.

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When Sita spotted the golden deer, she begged Rama to catch it for her. Rama agreed but placed Sita in a magic circle to keep her safe while he was away from her.

As soon as Sita was alone Ravana transformed himself into an old man and tricked Sita into leaving her protective circle. As soon as she left the circle, Ravana grabbed Sita and kidnapped her - taking her to the Island of Lanka, his home.

Sita thought quickly, and while on the journey to Lanka, left a trail of her jewellery. She dropped it piece by piece, while Ravana wasn't looking, to enable Rama to trace their steps.

Meanwhile, back in the forest, Rama had tracked down the golden deer and as soon as he caught hold of the deer it transformed into a demon. Realising he had been tricked he ran back to the magic circle fearing he might be too late.

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Upon discovering the circle empty, and Sita missing, his heart was filled with dread. Though it was not long until he saw Sita's first piece of jewellery and so he began to follow the trail left by his clever wife.

The trail came to an end. What was he to do now? All was not lost though, the trail ended in the kingdom of Hanuman, the monkey-king.

As Rama fell to the floor in despair Hanuman approached him and took Rama to the monkey city that was in a giant cave under the hill. After Rama told Hanuman of his troubles, Hanuman called together the monkey army to help Rama.

The monkeys and their friends, the bears, had gathered in their millions to help search for Sita. The search, which lasted almost as long as their time in banishment, began.

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Hanuman, who could also fly like a bird, finally discovered where Sita was being kept imprisoned. He spotted her sitting in an orchid near Ravana's palace

Rama, Lakshman and Hanuman prepared for the epic battle. However, they struggled to figure out how to get the army to the Island of Lanka. Then Hanuman ordered his army to create a bridge out of stone, grass and sand that lay on the shore.

Many creatures from the monkey kingdom helped to create the bridge, and before Rama and Lakshman could quite believe it, they were leading Hanuman's animal army across the bridge.

The battle, long and terrible, raged on with animals fighting demons – good fighting evil - until Rama spotted Ravana who was a great match for Rama, the great warrior.

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Each time Rama would swipe at Ravana, and cut off one of his heads, another head grew back. Rama then pulled out his bow and arrow, a gift from the gods.

With the single arrow he had, he took aim, recited a prayer asking that it meet its target before letting go of the arrow.

It shot out of the bow with a flash of light and the demon king fell to the ground - dead. The world rejoiced. The demon king dead and Rama and Sita were also able to return from exile following the extensive search and battle.

The Kingdom of Ayodha was in jubilation once more. Rama and Sita were returning. To celebrate their homecoming, the people of Ayodha cleaned, strung garlands of flowers everywhere and decorated the footpaths to their houses with rangoli patterns.

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As dusk approached, and daylight faded, the people of Ayodha placed small lamps in their windows to guide Rama and Sita home. It is said that there were more flickering diva lamps than stars in the sky.

Rama, on his return, was made king and the kingdom of Ayodha was once more at peace.

Extension.

Once you have drawn your images you can cut them out and test your friends to see if they can put the story into the correct order. Or have a go at the tasks below:

1. What do you think was the most important part of the story and why?
2. Explain the message Rama's reciting the prayer before shooting the arrow teaches a devotee.
3. Explain how this story is linked to Diwali and is remembered today by Hindus in Britain and around the world.