Once there lived a farmer in a village. One day he saw a big ash pumpkin growing on his chena. Every day he came to look at the ash pumpkin which was growing bigger and bigger. “I can sell this big ash pumpkin at the village fair and get a lot of money,” he thought. However, one night a thief entered the chena and stole the big ash pumpkin.

The farmer was very sad. He went to the village headman to complain about the theft. The headman thought of a good plan to catch the thief. He asked all the people in the village to come to one place. Then he took a bell and went round the people ringing the bell and saying to them, “There’s ash on the thief’s shoulder. There’s ash on the thief’s shoulder.” When the thief heard this he secretly looked back and wiped his shoulder. The headman saw this and cried, “That’s the ash pumpkin thief. Catch him”.

The village headman wanted to punish the thief. He asked the thief to go round the village with the stolen ash pumpkin on his shoulders.

1. Why was the farmer happy?
2. Why was the farmer unhappy?
3. How did the thief carry the stolen ash pumpkin?
4. Point to the thief in the picture.
Read and act

The hare and the tortoise are good friends. The hare says to the tortoise, “You’re very slow. You can’t run fast like me”. The tortoise says, “I am slow, but I can beat you in a race”.

O.K. Let’s have a race then.

All right then. I challenge you to a race.

They fix a date for the race. All the animals come to see the race. They start the race.

The hare runs fast. The tortoise runs slowly.

The hare runs for some time. He can’t see the tortoise. He sits under a tree and falls asleep.

The tortoise runs on and on slowly.

At last he comes near the winning post. The hare wakes up and sees the tortoise near the winning post. He starts running to catch the tortoise. But the tortoise passes the winning post first. The tortoise is the winner.

Memorise

SLOW AND STEADY WINS THE RACE
The Jambu tree in the king’s courtyard was full of jambu fruit.

But the king had ordered that no one was to look at or touch the jambu fruit. Andare thought of a good plan to eat the jambu fruit.

He covered his eyes with a piece of cloth and went under the jambu tree with his hands clasped behind his back.

Then he ate all the jambu fruit that came near his mouth.

The king saw that some jambu fruit were missing. He asked the palace guards to catch the jambu thief. The guards caught Andare and brought him before the king. The king told Andare that he was going to punish him for going against his orders. Andare said he ate the jambu fruits but did not see or touch them as the king had ordered.

The king asked Andare to show him how he ate the jambu fruit without looking at them or touching them. Andare showed the king how he ate the jambu fruit. The king was very amused at Andare’s trick and started laughing. Instead of punishing Andare he gave him presents to take home.

“Your Majesty I did not see or touch the jambu fruit.”

Andare remembered the king’s orders.
Thennali Raman was a poor farmer but he was clever. He had a plot of vegetables and a well to water the vegetables. Once there was a drought and all the wells dried up. There was a little water in Thennali’s well but it was very deep. One day when Thennali was in the vegetable plot wondering how to water the garden, he saw two thieves hiding behind the bushes. He thought of a good plan.

He called his wife and told her loudly “Everyone knows we have a lot of gold and jewels. Someday thieves are going to steal these. Therefore let’s put all our gold and jewellery in a bag and put it in the well.”. The two thieves heard this. In the evening Thennali and his wife went and put a heavy bag into the well.

At night the two thieves began to draw water from the well. Thennali quietly took a mammoty and cut a path for the water to go to the vegetable plot. The thieves emptied the well and took the heavy bag out. There were only stones in the bag. Thennali began to laugh. The thieves had watered his vegetable plot for him.

1. Why was there not much water?
2. What was inside the bag?
a. Once there was a little boy called Sama. His parents were blind. He looked after them very well.

b. One day Sama went to the jungle to pick some fruit for his parents to eat. At that time King Brahmadatta was hunting for deer in the jungle.

c. The king shot at a running deer. He missed his target and the arrow hit Sama. Sama fell to the ground.

d. Sama’s parents waited a long time for him to return home. When he did not, the parents went into the jungle looking for him. They found Sama lying on the ground unconscious.

e. The parents were very sad. They prayed and asked the gods to bring Sama back to life because he was such a good boy. The gods brought Sama back to life.

f. The parents were very happy. They hugged and kissed Sama. Then all of a sudden they found they could see again. Sama’s good behaviour had cured the parents’ blindness.
The Story of Lord Muruga

Children: Grandfather, tell us a story please.

Grandfather: Alright. Once there was an Ashura king called Sooran.

Roy: The Ashuras? Who were they?

Grandfather: The Ashuras were like men but they were bigger and stronger. Sooran was the king of the Ashuras and he prayed to Lord Siva to make him strong and powerful.

Amali: And did Lord Siva make him a strong, powerful king?

Grandfather: Yes, he did. But after that Sooran became very proud and he began to behave badly. He treated even the Devas and the Rishis badly. The Devas and the Rishis were very sad and they went and complained to Lord Siva.

Ruwan: What did Lord Siva do then?

Grandfather: Lord Siva had an eye in his forehead. He looked angrily at the world with this eye. Six rays from the eye fell on a lotus pond. These six rays became six beautiful babies. Lord Siva’s wife, Parvati, saw the six beautiful babies, took them and hugged them together. The six babies then became one but with six heads. This baby with six heads became Lord Muruga. Later Lord Muruga fought Sooran and defeated him. Sooran became a good king after that.

Amali: That was a lovely story Grandfather! Thank you.

1. Who made Sooran a strong, powerful king?
2. Why did the Devas and the Rishis complain to Lord Siva?
3. Where did Parvati see the six babies?
Recite

Myths and beliefs
People all over the world have myths and superstitions. Some people believe them and some people don’t. Here is a poem about myths and superstitions from England.

Magpie Poem
One for sorrow,
Two for joy.
Three for a girl,
Four for a boy.
Five for silver,
Six for gold.
Seven for a secret,
That’s never been told.

Read and match

If you meet someone carrying a pot full of water it will be good for you.

If you see a cat washing its face in front of the house there will be a visitor to your house.

If a crow on a tree begins to caw a relative will visit you.

If you hear a dog flapping its ears when you go out it will be bad for you.

If you hear a house gecko crying when you step out of the house it will be bad for you.

Do you know any other myths and beliefs like these? Tell them to the class.

If ............... will ...............
You Lord Krishna used to play with his friends on the banks of the river Yamuna. Madhu was one of his friends. Everybody brought some food from home for Krishna and they all shared it. Madhu never brought any food.

One day Krishna asked Madhu to bring him some food from home. Madhu went home and asked his mother to give him some food. His mother only had some sour curd and she asked Madhu to give it to Krishna. Madhu was ashamed to give the sour curd to Krishna. Therefore, on the way, he went behind a tree and drank the curd.

Krishna saw this. He said to Madhu, “Isn’t this what your mother sent for me? Why are you drinking it yourself?” Then Krishna took some curd from Madhu’s lips and tasted it. He said, “You have cheated me of the sweet nectar your mother sent me.” “But my mother sent you only sour curd.” said Madhu.

Krishna said to Madhu, “What your mother gave me was sweet like nectar to me because she gave it out of love and kindness.”

1. Why did Madhu go to the banks of the river Yamuna?
2. What did Madhu’s mother give to Krishna?
3. Why did he not give it to Krishna?
The soldiers brought a poor villager before King Kekille. He asked the soldiers what wrong the villager had done. The soldiers said the villager had killed a robber.

“Why did you kill the robber?”

“I didn’t kill the robber. The robber tried to knock down the wall and enter the house. Then the wall fell on him.”

“Then the mason who made the wall is guilty. Bring the mason here.”

“The wall was not strong because I added too much water when mixing the clay. The mouth of the pot I was using was too big.”

“Then the potter who made the pot is guilty. Bring the potter here.”

“The mouth of the pot got too big because I looked at a beautiful girl walking along the road while I was making the pot.”

“Then the girl who was walking along the road is guilty. Bring the girl here.”

“The goldsmith made a beautiful pair of earrings for me. I walked along the road to show them off.”

“Then the goldsmith who made the earrings is guilty. Bring the goldsmith here.”

“Your majesty I’m very thin. Your elephant’s tusks are very long. They will go through my body quickly, hit the ground and break. It is better to kill the shopkeeper next door. He is fat and your elephant will not damage his lovely tusks.”

“M…m… yes, that’s true. Kill the fat shopkeeper then.”
One day a villager came to Mahadenamutta for advice. “What’s the problem?” asked Mahadenamutta. The villager said, “Sir, my goat cannot get its head out”. “Where is his head?” asked Mahadenamutta. “It’s stuck inside a pot.” replied the villager. “All right. I’ll come and get the goat’s head out,” said Mahadenamutta.

The people put Mahadenamutta on an elephant and took him in procession to the villager’s house. Mahadenamutta came to the villager’s house on the elephant but could not enter the compound. There was a wall round the compound with a small entrance. The villagers asked Mahadenamutta what they should do. He asked them to knock down the wall and take the elephant inside.

The villager then showed him the goat with its head inside the pot. Mahadenamutta asked a lot of questions from the villager. “Why did the goat put its head inside the pot?” “What was inside the pot?” “What time did this happen?” “What kind of goat is this?” Then suddenly he told the villager “Cut the goat’s head off”. The villager cut the goat’s head off but the head was still inside the pot. They looked at Mahadenamutta. “Why are you looking at me? Don’t you know what to do? Now break the pot and take the goat’s head out.” He said.
Once Nasruddin went on a journey with a friend. After walking for a long time they felt tired and decided to drink something. They did not have much money with them. Therefore they bought only one glass of milk for both of them to drink.

When the waiter brought the glass of milk Nasruddin asked his friend to drink half of the milk first.

“No, you drink your half first.”, said his friend.

“Why is that?” asked Nasruddin.

His friend said “I have a little sugar. It is only enough for me. You drink your half first. Then I’ll add the sugar to my half and drink it.”.

Nasruddin thought for a moment. Then he said “All right. I have a little salt with me. I’ll add that salt and drink my half first. You add your sugar and drink the other half after that.”.

Answer the questions

1. Why did Nasruddin and his friend buy only one glass of milk?
2. Why did his friend ask Nasruddin to drink his half first?
3. What kind of a man was Nasruddin’s friend?
4. Who was the cleverer of the two? Why?
Amaris lived by selling salt. He had a donkey. Every week he took a sack of salt to the fair on the donkey’s back and sold it there. On the way to the fair he had to cross a small stream. One day the donkey slipped accidentally and fell into the stream with the sack of salt. A lot of salt got washed away by the water. When the donkey got up it found that its load was lighter. The donkey was very happy. Now every time the donkey crossed the stream it fell into it. Every time it found its load was lighter.

Amaris understood the donkey’s trick. So he thought of a plan to teach the donkey a lesson. On the next day he loaded the sack on the donkey’s back and to took it to the fair. When the donkey came to the stream he fell into it as usual. But when the donkey got out of the water its load was not lighter but heavier. The donkey did not know that Amaris had not put a sack of salt on its back that day. He had put a sack of cotton instead. The donkey took the heavy load to the fair with difficulty. The donkey learnt a good lesson and never fell into the stream again.

1. What happened when the donkey fell into the stream with the sack of salt?
2. What happened to the sack of cotton when it fell into the stream?
Kusum: What’s the story you’re going to tell us today?

Grandfather: I’m going to tell you the story of Nandimitra?

Ruwan: Who is Nandimitra?

Grandfather: He was one of the ten strong men in King Dutugemunu’s army. He helped the king to win many fights against his enemies.

Kusum: Is it a true story?

Grandfather: We don’t know. It is a very old story.

Kusum: Alright grandfather. Please tell us the story.

Grandfather: Nandimitra was very strong even when he was very young. One day his parents tied him to the heavy grinding stone at home with a leather strap and went to work in the field. But Nandimitra went everywhere dragging the heavy grinding stone after him.

Another day the parents tied young Nandimitra to a bamboo bush with a strong rope before going to the field. Nandimitra pulled the bamboo bush out of the ground and went with it to the field where his parents worked.

Kusum: Then he must have been very strong.

Grandfather: Yes. One day the king wanted to test how strong Nandimitra was. He made his elephant ‘Kadol’ drunk with toddy and sent the angry elephant to Nandimitra.

Ruwan: Was Nandimitra afraid?

Grandfather: No. He got hold of Kadol’s tusks and made him sit on the ground.

Ruwan and Kusum: That was a nice story. Please tell us stories about the other nine strong men another time.
A long time ago Ravana was the king of Lanka. He was a very powerful king. At that time Prince Rama and his beautiful wife Sita lived in a forest in India. Ravana came to hear how very beautiful Sita was. He wanted to make her his wife. So he went into the forest where Sita lived and took her away when Rama was not there. He brought her to his palace in Lanka in a flying chariot shaped like a peacock.

Rama searched everywhere for his wife with his brother Lakshman and Hanuman, the monkey king. At last Hanuman found Sita at Ravana’s palace in Lanka. He went back to give the news to Rama. But before going back he set fire to many towns and villages in Ravana’s kingdom.

Rama got together a large army and went back to Lanka to fight Ravana. They crossed the sea on a stone bridge built by Hanuman. Rama’s army met Ravana’s army and there was a great battle between them. Many soldiers and heroes on both sides died in the fight. Rama’s army was able to defeat Ravana’s army at last. After the defeat of Ravana, Rama took Sita back to India.

1. Why did Ravana bring Sita to Lanka?
2. Who was Lakshman?
3. Who found Sita in Ravana’s palace?
4. How did Rama’s army cross the ocean?
Once upon a time a fox and a stork lived in the forest. They were very good friends. One day the fox invited the stork to dinner.

At dinner the fox served the food on two flat plates. The fox ate all the food. The stork could not eat any food because of its long beak. Afterwards the fox ate the stork’s food too. The stork went home very hungry.

The next day the stork invited the fox to dinner. He served the food in two jugs which had long necks. The fox could not eat the dinner because the jug had a long neck. He watched hungrily as the stork ate his dinner using his long beak.

1. Who invited the other to dinner first?
2. What did the fox serve his food on?
3. What did the stork serve his food in?
Once there were two friends in the forest—a sparrow and a crow. One day while hunting for food they saw some red chillies spread on a mat to dry. The crow spoke to the sparrow and said, “Let’s find out who can eat the most number of chillies first. The one who loses has to agree to whatever the winner says.” The sparrow agreed and they started eating the chillies. But the crow cheated. For every chillie he ate he hid three others under the mat. When all the chillies were finished the crow said, “I ate more chillies than you did. I’m the winner. You must now agree to whatever I say.”. Then the crow jumped at the sparrow and said, “I’m going to eat you now.”. “All right”, said the sparrow. “But you must wash your beak before you eat me.”.

So the crow went to the river to get some water. “But you must bring a pot first.”, said the river.

The crow went to the potter to get a pot. “But you must bring a mammoty to mix the clay first.”, said the potter.

The crow then went to the blacksmith to get a mammoty. “But you must bring some fire to heat the furnace first.”, said the blacksmith.

The crow went to the farmer’s wife to get some fire.

“But how are you going to carry the fire?” asked the farmer’s wife. “Put it on my back.”, said the crow. So the farmer’s wife put some red-hot coal under the crow’s wings. The wicked crow was burnt and dead.