

Korean Folktale, *Dangun* Story

Developed by Nicole Kahwaty

| Subject: Writing | Context: Yesterday we wrote fictional stories | Grade: 2nd |
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| Standards | Objectives | Assessment |
| Standard: Literacy RL.2.2. Recount stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message/theme, lesson, or moral. | We Are Learning To (WALT) identify the main lesson in a folktale with 3 key details from the text. | Formative Assessment : Comic strip created and handed in graded based on rubric listed below Summative Assessment : Answering questions throughout lesson *Students should give the anticipated responses listed in the right column. |

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| | Teacher: What do you do, ask, say, show | Students: Where do they sit? Who do they work with? What materials do they use? How will some students be supported? |
| Engage | How will you greet students? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a folktale? • Have you ever read one? If so, what do you notice about it? How will you introduce the SLO? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Today we are going to read a folktale from American culture and one from Korean culture. We are going to focus on the lesson they learned at the end of the story. How will you relate the SLO to students' prior knowledge and lived experiences? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the main lesson of a story? • What can you use to figure out the lesson within a story? | Assess what students already know about the SLO: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student will share what they already know about folktale and what they have read so far. |
| Model (I do) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will read Tortoise and the Hare; throughout I will talk aloud about lessons, details, and ask questions. • What have they learned? How do you know? • What has happened so far? • What do you think will happen next? | What responses do you seek and anticipate? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I know that the one character is doing something different than the other. • He is learning to be patient. |

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| | | What graphic organizer or template will the students use? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attached below |
| Guided practice (We do) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Let's create a comic strip to explain the story in smaller details with pictures and drawings to explain the story together. What happened first? What happened next? What did they learn at the end? We will create a comic strip together. Afterwards, we will read the Dangun story together. We will discuss the lesson and details & write information on the board. | What will students say/do/write? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will write on graphic organizers and look and listen about how to create a comic strip about it. Students should respond to questions with answers about how the main characters learned to be patient throughout the story. |
| Independent practice (You do) | Students will work on creating a comic strip with details and lessons on the board. | Students will work independently on creating their own comic strip. |
| Share | How will you close your lesson? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who would like to share their comic strip? What is the lesson of the story? | How will you evaluate the students? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on their comic strip with rubric below Their answer to what is the lesson of the story should be related to patience/endurance. |

Rubric for Evaluating Comic Strips

| Included one detail contributing to the lesson | Included two details contributing to the lesson | Included 3 details that contribute to the lesson of the story |
|--|---|---|
| Student Name- Anecdotal Notes | | |
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Assessment: Students will be assessed based on how many details they provide that contribute to the main lesson. The objective being that they include 3 key details that contribute to the lesson of the story. Students should be reminded of this objective throughout the lesson and asked about what details they are using and why. The main lesson is to behave well and have patience/ persevere. Some possible details the students can use are:

Version 1:

- The bear endured therefore became a human.
- Because the bear waited she was able to be married and become a mother.
- The tiger did not get what he wanted because he ran away.

Version 2:

- The bear telling the tiger that if we just wait a little bit longer we can become human; we just have to endure.
- Hwanung was impressed by the bear's dedication and granted her the transformation earlier than expected.
- Ungnyeo prays consistently which allows her to get her wish to be married and have children.

Materials: All materials are attached below, including the story of Dangun in two different versions, graphic organizer, and comic strip worksheet.

Citations

Jeong, In-seop. *Folk Tales From Korea*. Hollym Corp., 2005.

Talk To Me In Korean. *Korean Folktales in Everyday Conversation: Must-Know Stories for Korean Learners*. Longtail Books, 2024.

STORY MAP

Name _____ Date _____

Book Title _____

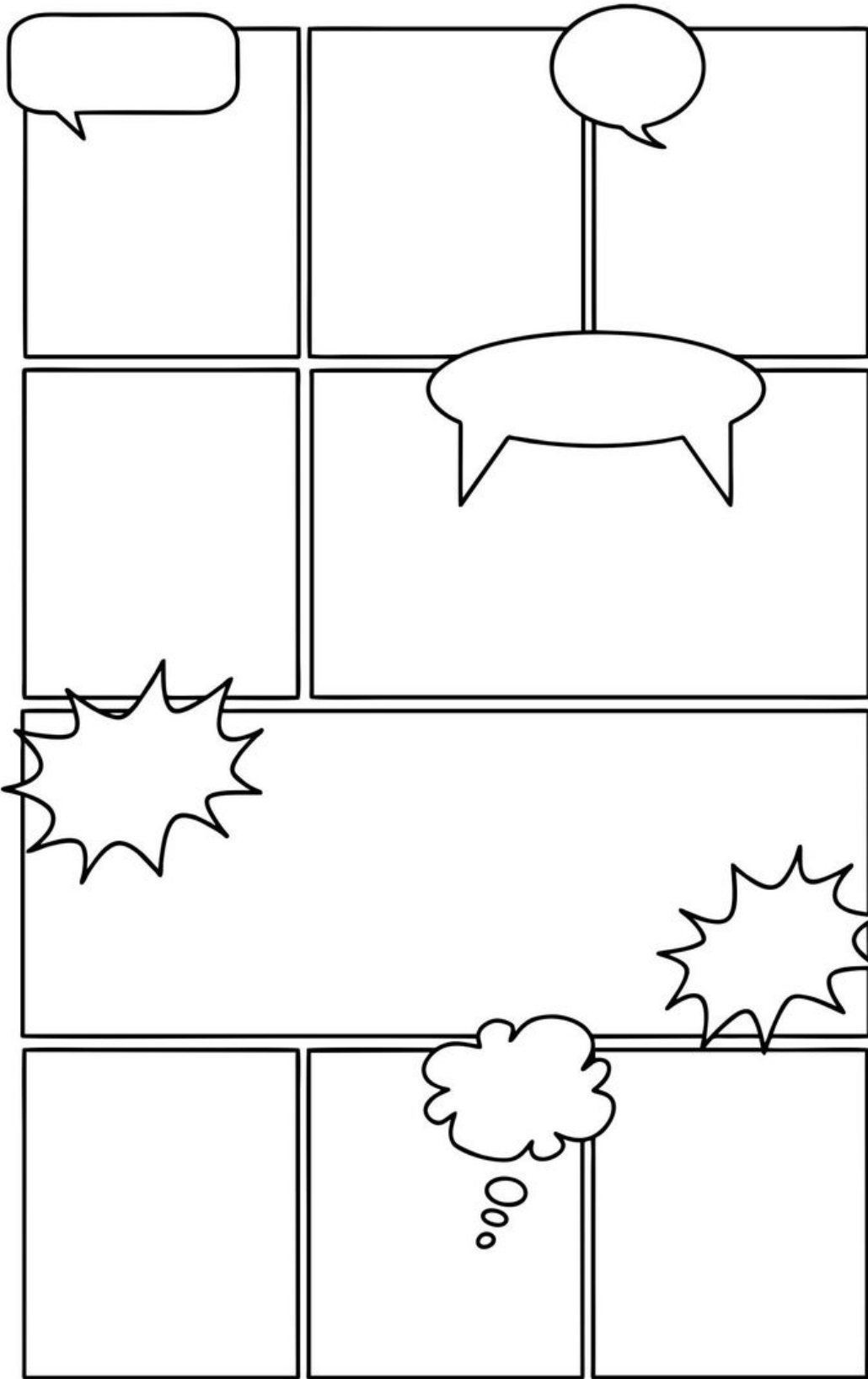
Setting

Characters

Theme

Problem

Solution



Dangun, First King of Korea

1

There was once a wise and brave prince, Hwanung by name, son of the heavenly king. The prince asked his father to grant him the beautiful peninsula of Korea to govern. The king granted his wish, and he was dispatched to the Earth, bearing three heavenly seals, and accompanied by three thousand followers.

The heavenly prince arrived under the sacred sandalwood tree on the Taebaek Mountains, where he ascended the throne and established the Sacred City. There were three ministers to carry out his orders, Pungbaek (Earl Wind), Usa (Chancellor Rain), and Unsa (Chancellor Cloud), who were charged with the supervision of about three hundred and sixty officials, and controlled all things such as grain, life, sickness, as well as the determination of good and evil.

At that time a bear and a tiger were living in a big cave near the sandalwood tree. They wished ardently that they could become human beings. Every day they prayed in earnest before the tree that the heavenly prince, who was now the ruler of the land, would be moved by their sincerity. In time, the heavenly prince was indeed moved by their sincerity, so gave them twenty bulbs of garlic and a bundle of mugwort and said, 'Eat these, and confine yourselves deep in your cave for one hundred days, at which time you will become human.'

So the bear and the tiger took the garlic and the mugwort and went into their cave. They prayed steadfastly that their wish might be granted. The bear patiently endured weariness and hunger, and after twenty-one days became a beautiful woman, but the tiger ran away, for it could not tolerate the long days of sitting quietly in the cave.

The woman was overjoyed, and upon visiting the sandalwood tree again she prayed that she might become the mother of a child. Her

ardent wish was granted, and before long she became queen, and gave birth to a prince, who was given the royal name Dangun, or the Sandalwood King.

The people of the country rejoiced at the birth of Dangun, who reigned afterwards as the first human king of the peninsula. When he came to the throne, he established a new capital at Pyeongyang, and gave the kingdom the name of Joseon (also spelled Choson—Land of the Morning Calm). This was done in 2333 B.C. As the king's real name was Wanggeom, the capital was also known as the Castle of Wanggeom.

He later removed the capital to Mount Asadal (now Mt. Guwol, in Hwanghae province), where there is now a shrine called Samseong, or three saints: Hwanin (the heavenly king), Hwanung (the heavenly prince), and Dangun (the first human king). It is said that when Dangun abdicated, leaving his throne to the next king, he became a Sansin, or Mountain God.

Today on Mt. Myohyang, in the Taebaek Mountains, there is a cave that is still known as the cave of Dangun, where the heavenly prince originally descended and the first king was born. There are also historical relics of Dangun on Ganghwa Island's Mt. Mani, just west of Seoul.

From *Samgug-yusa* and *Ondoru Yawa*

Go Jumong, King of Goguryeo

2

In ancient times, there was a kingdom called Buyeo whose territory included the Korean peninsula and the whole of Manchuria. Though he had reached an advanced age, the king of this land, Haeburu, was yet without an heir. He therefore prayed constantly to the gods of the mountains and rivers that he might be granted a son.

The Dan-gun Story

A very long time ago, in the heavenly kingdom, there lived a king named Hwanin. The king had a son named Hwanung. Hwanung was more interested in the human world than in the heavenly kingdom. Hwanung, who would observe the human world every day, wanted to go down to the human world. Aware of his son's desire, the king said to Hwanung.

"You shall go down to the human world and make it more beautiful."

"Really? Thank you, Father!"

"Also, take this mirror, sword, and bell, which are heavenly possessions. The humans will recognize that you have come from the heavens and serve you."

Hwanung descended to the human world with 3,000 servants and the heavenly possessions that the king had given him. Among his servants were those who controlled the wind, rain, and clouds. That is how Hwanung began to govern the human world.

Then one day, a bear and a tiger came to Hwanung.

"Hwanung, please help us."

"What is the matter?"

"We also want to become human. Please grant our wish."

"Human? To become human is not an easy task."



"We are also aware of that. We will do anything if we can become human."

Since the tiger and the bear made their request earnestly, Hwanung handed them mugwort and garlic and said, "To become human, you must live for 100 days without seeing sunlight, only eating mugwort and garlic. Can you do it?"

"Yes, we can! Thank you, Hwanung!"

From that day on, the bear and the tiger entered a very dark cave and began eating only mugwort and garlic. However, living like that every day was extremely challenging. The cave was narrow and dark, making the bear and the tiger feel frustrated. Eating only bitter mugwort and spicy garlic was also too painful.

After a few days, the tiger became angry and said to the bear, "Well, I cannot eat mugwort and garlic anymore! I am going out right now!"

The bear appealed to the tiger and said, "If we stay just a little longer, we can become human, too. Let us endure a little more together."

"Well, I do not care! I am just going to go out and eat delicious meat!" replied the tiger, and he ended up dashing out of the cave. Left alone, the bear felt even lonelier and had a more difficult time, but he persevered, waiting for the day to become human.

It was the 21st day since the bear had been eating only mugwort and garlic alone in the cave. Suddenly, a bright light shone from inside the cave, and the bear transformed into a beautiful woman.



The bear could not believe that she had become human even though it had not been 100 days yet. At that moment, Hwanung appeared in front of the bear who had become human. Hwanung was impressed by the bear's dedication in keeping the promise and granted her the transformation into a human earlier than the agreed-upon time.

"Oh my, I have truly become a human! Thank you so much, Hwanung!" said the bear, deeply moved.

People called the bear-turned-woman "Ungnyeo". Ungnyeo wanted to get married and have children like other people. However, no one wanted to marry Ungnyeo, who used to be a bear. So Ungnyeo prayed to the heavens every day.

"Sob, I also want to get married and have children. Please grant my wish."

Even on rainy days and snowy days, Ungnyeo prayed fervently. Witnessing Ungnyeo's heartfelt devotion, Hwanung was touched. Therefore, Hwanung decided to grant Ungnyeo's wish this time as well. He transformed into a human man and married Ungnyeo.

Soon, Ungnyeo had a child as she wanted. As time passed, the child was born with a loud and powerful sound.

"My child, may you grow up splendidly."

In the future, the child grew up well, just as Ungnyeo wished, and established a country. That country is the first nation of Korea, called "Gojoseon", and the child is none other than "Dan-gun Wanggeom".

