



RE

Justice and Freedom

What Is Justice?

Exploring Stories 1



twinkl

Aim

- I can examine the concept of justice.

Success Criteria

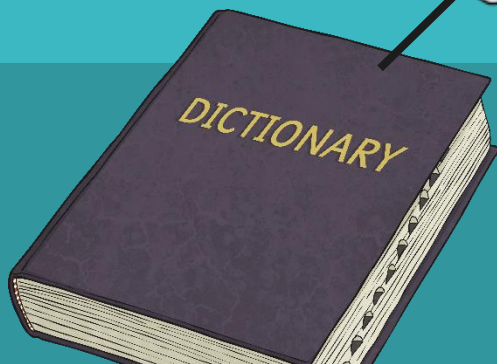
- I can understand that there are different concepts of justice.
- I can identify the concept of justice by reading a range of stories.

Definition of Justice.

Being **fair** and **reasonable**

Fair: Treating people equally without favouritism or discrimination

Reasonable: Based on good sense, logical, sensible, appropriate



Remember to concentrate on both words.

Is It Justice?



The Story of Exodus



When Moses was born, the Hebrews were slaves in Egypt. Pharaoh was afraid of them because he thought they might take over his country. He ordered his soldiers to kill all the baby boys at birth so they would not grow up and fight him.



To save Moses, his mother made a plan. She put him in a basket and set him adrift on the River Nile and left his fate to God's will.



Moses floated down the river where the Pharaoh's daughter found him and rescued him. She brought him back to the palace and raised him as a son.



Moses grew up in the palace as a royal prince. One day, he lost his temper and killed an Egyptian who had beaten a Hebrew slave to death. He had to flee to another land.



He lived in the land of Midian and worked as a shepherd for forty years. One day, when he was in the desert, Moses heard the voice of God from a burning bush. God asked Moses to lead his people out of slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land.



Moses went back to Egypt and asked the Pharaoh to free his people. Pharaoh did not want to lose his slaves so he refused. God unleashed ten plagues on the Egyptians.



It was the tenth plague that finally made the Pharaoh let them go. The eldest son in every family, including the Pharaoh's, died.



The Hebrews marked their doorposts with lamb's blood so that they would be safe. The Hebrews fled but soon after the Pharaoh changed his mind and sent his army after them.



The army chased the Hebrews to the banks of the Red Sea, where they were trapped. God told Moses to lift up his rod and so he did. The waters parted to make a dry path.



When all the Hebrews were safely at the other shore, Moses raised up his rod again and the water closed on the Pharaoh's army who had been chasing them. God saved the Hebrews.



Even though the Hebrews were free, they were still in the desert. They wanted to find a land called Canaan which God had promised them.



The journey was very long and they soon ran out of food. They were hungry and blamed Moses for taking them out of Egypt. Moses told them that God would provide food.

The Dog King Silver

A Buddhist Story about Justice.



Once, the King of Benares had a fancy decorated chariot, which he loved mostly because of the rich hand-worked leather belts and straps.

On this occasion the chariot was left outside in the compound all night, instead of being locked up properly.



During the night the pampered palace dogs smelled the delicious leather scent, came down into the compound and chewed off the soft, wet chariot straps.

They returned unseen to their places in the palace.



When the King woke up and came down, he saw that the leather had been chewed off and eaten by dogs. He called the servants and demanded to know how this happened. Since they were supposed to watch the palace dogs, the servants were afraid to blame them. Instead, they made up a story that stray dogs, the mutts and mongrels of the city, had come into the grounds and eaten the fancy leather.

The King flew into a terrible rage and decreed that whenever anyone in the city saw a dog, he was to kill him or her at once! The people began killing dogs. The dogs could not understand why suddenly they were being killed. Later that day, they learned of the King's decree.

They became very frightened and retreated to the cemetery just outside the city. This was where their leader lived, the Dog King Silver.

Silver was King not because he was the biggest, or strongest, or toughest. He was average in size, with sleek silver fur, sparkling black eyes and alert pointed ears. He walked with great dignity, that brought admiration and respect from men as well as dogs. In his long life he had learned much, and was able to concentrate his mind on what is most important. So he became the wisest of all the dogs, as well as the one who cared most for the others. Those were the reasons he was King of Dogs.



In the cemetery, the dogs were in a panic and the Dog King Silver asked them why this was. They told him all about the chariot straps and the King's decree, and the people killing them whenever they saw them. King Silver knew there was no way to get into the well-guarded palace grounds. So he understood that the leather must have been eaten by the dogs living inside the palace.

He comforted them by saying, "Do not be afraid. I will save you all. Stay here in the cemetery and don't go into the city. I will tell the King of Benares who are the thieves and who are the innocent. The truth will save us all."

Justice



Was justice done in these stories?

For whom?

Was the focus on fairness and reasonableness similar in the stories or different?

Judgement of King Solomon

(Judeo-Christian)

Two women came to King Solomon one day with a baby boy.

Each mother told the same story. They both lived in the same house, had both given birth to a baby boy recently, and that one of the boys had died during the night. Each claimed that the living baby boy was theirs and that the other had stolen it, replacing it with the dead child.



There was no evidence or witness. King Solomon deliberated and then called for a sword. He declared that there was only one fair solution – to split the baby in half and give each woman half of the child.

Upon hearing this the mother of living baby boy cried out. “Please, give the baby to her – if you split him, he will die!” The other woman, however, said “It shall be neither mine nor yours, divide him.”



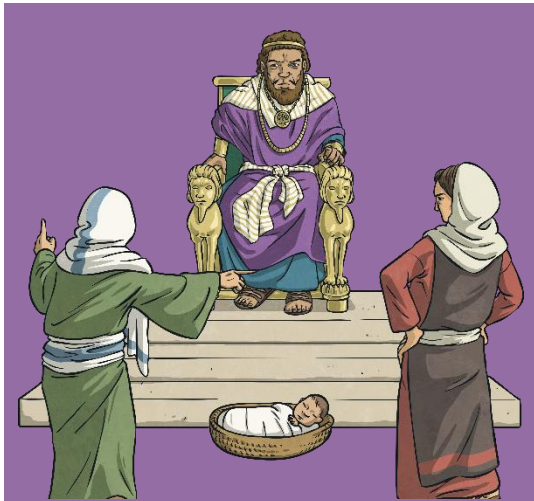
King Solomon knew that the real mother would want to protect her child, and would prefer to give him away to save his life. In this way, he was able to distinguish between the woman who was telling the truth and the one who was lying.

King Solomon was able to give the real mother her baby.



Judgement of King Solomon

(Judeo-Christian)



What does this story tell us about justice?

Is the idea of justice here the same as in the other stories you have read so far?

Why/Why not?

What Is Justice?



Can you be fair and not reasonable?

Can you be reasonable but not fair?

What examples can you give?

