

The Ghost Catcher: A Bengali Folktale

Read Aloud Guide

Themes: Generosity, Overcoming Fears, Resourcefulness

Book Brief: A kind-hearted barber from Bengal uses his quick wit to outsmart a frightening ghost under a banyan tree. This engaging children's book follows the barber's journey from poverty to prosperity as he turns a scary encounter into a clever solution for his family.

Author:
Martha Hamilton and
Mitch Weiss

Illustrator:
Kristen Balouch

Before Reading

The Cover: Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover.

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they notice.

Prior Knowledge: Ask, "Have you ever played a trick on someone??"

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, think about how about how the barber was able to find a way to help better provide for his family by tricking several ghosts. How does he accomplish this?"

During Reading

Check for understanding & make connections:

- Who are the main characters in this story?
- What is the conflict or problem?
- Did the barber like his job?
- What would the barber do if someone told him a tale of woe?
- What objects did the barber always keep in his bag?
- Why did the barber go to the next village to work? How did he get there?
- How did the barber trick the ghosts?
- What lesson does this story teach? How can you apply it to your own life?



Think Aloud:

"I notice that the barber is very generous to many people around him."

I'm wondering..."Have you ever given up something to help someone else?"

After Reading

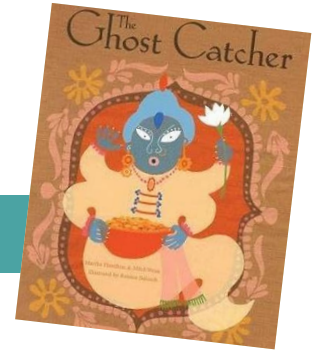
Our Purpose: "How did the barber get what he needed for his family and his community?"

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.

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Extension Activities



Create a Timeline

Directions:

- Assign students to each work with a partner to create a timeline of the story events.
- Explain that timelines should include a list of events in chronological order as well as illustrations of the events.
- Ask each pair to share their timelines with the class.

Design a Bookmark

Materials:

- strips of paper ((approx. 3 inches x 11 inches)
- writing and drawing pens, pencils, crayons, markers

Directions:

- Create a bookmark using 1 strip of paper per student.
- Include the title, author, illustrator, pictures and important words from the story.

Story Rewrite

Directions:

- Inform students that they will write a different ending to the story.
- Instruct students to write a new ending to the story, pretending that either the barber did not think to show the ghost his image in a mirror *or* the ghost recognized his reflection in the mirror and was not scared.
- Share new story ending with the class.