



TEACHER RESOURCES  
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# BROWNSTONE'S MYTHICAL COLLECTION

## KAI AND THE MONKEY KING

by Joe Todd-Stanton



## MYTHS AND LEGENDS

### RESOURCE PACK FOR KS1-2 TEACHERS

**Suitable for:** Ages 5-9

**Includes:** Free illustrated extracts from the books and discussion questions and suggested activities

**Themes:** Chinese Mythology; Mythical Objects; Legendary Beasts; Qualities of a Hero

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# ABOUT THE BOOK

When Kai grows tired of her bookish mum not being adventurous enough for a Brownstone, she decides to seek out the mischievous and rebellious Monkey King – who she's always been told to stay away from. Will he bring her the adventure she craves, or will he cause her more trouble than he's worth?

Read the latest story from the mythical Brownstone's family vault where we venture to China and learn about the story of the Monkey King, meet magical gods, taste powerful peaches and see that maybe our heroes aren't always what they're cracked up to be.

## CONTENTS

### LESSON 1: Chinese Mythology

Objectives: Identify different character types in myths and legends; experiment with musical instruments and sound effects to interpret characters; use predictive skills to guess relationships between characters.

Subjects: Literacy: Reading Comprehension and Inference, Geography, Art, Design and Technology, Music, Drama

### LESSON 2: Mythical Objects

Objectives: Consider how objects are used in myths and legends; make inferences based on illustrations in the text; create new objects and use them to formulate stories.

Subjects: Literacy: Reading Comprehension and Inference, Art, Design and Technology

### LESSON 3: Qualities of a Hero

Objectives: Understand what we mean by the terms "hero" and "heroic"; identify personal heroes and their qualities; create a poem or collage that represents a particular quality of a heroic person.

Subjects: Literacy: Reading Comprehension and Inference, Creative Writing, Citizenship, RSHE, Art, Design and Technology

### LESSON 4: Legendary Beasts

Objectives: Understand why myths and legends include a beastly or monstrous character; create a new "Legendary Beast" for a story; draft a new myth or legend using a storyboard.

Subjects: Literacy: Reading Comprehension and Inference, Creative Writing, Drama, Art, Design and Technology



# LESSON 1: Chinese Mythology



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you know about China? Have you ever been there?
2. What is a "Myth" and what is a "Legend"? Do you know of any myths or legends in your local area?
3. What can you tell about each of the characters included in Extract Pack 1?
4. How do Joe Todd-Stanton's illustrations help you to understand more about the characters?
5. Which character would you like to find out more about? Why?

# LESSON 1 Continued: Chinese Mythology

## ACTIVITY 1 – CHARACTER TUNNELS

Subjects: Reading Comprehension and Inference

- There are lots of different types of characters in myths and legends. In pairs or groups, can you sort the characters pictured in the Extract Pack into the different Character Tunnels below?
- Remember: there are no right and wrong answers at this point. Just make sure you give reasons for your choices: you might decide to categorise a character based on facial expression, name, or appearance – for example!

HEROIC CHARACTERS	VILLAINOUS CHARACTERS	OBJECTS	MONSTERS	FRIENDLY CHARACTERS

## ACTIVITY 2 – MYTHOLOGY MUSICAL!

Subjects: Reading Comprehension and Inference, Drama, Music

- In pairs or groups, choose one of the eight characters that you see pictured in the Extract Pack. Using musical instruments or sound effects (or simply your own voices!) create a theme tune for your chosen character.
- Consider how you can create mood and emotion through sound: how can you present an accurate interpretation of your character?
- As an extension, can you evoke the sights and sounds of China in your musical creation? What instruments make you think of this particular setting?
- When you have finished your piece, perform in front of your classmates; invite them to the Chinese Mythology Musical! Can your classmates guess which character you are portraying?
- Finally, create a Character Map for these characters showing your ideas for what relationships these characters might have with each other. Who do you predict will be friends? Who will be enemies?

## LESSON 2: Mythical Objects



### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who do you think the narrator might be in this extract? Where is he?
2. What can you tell about the character speaking to you from up the ladder? Do you like him?
3. Who do you think the Brownstone family might be? What do you know about them?
4. Which objects in the vault draw your eye?
5. How does the author, Joe Todd-Stanton, create a sense of mystery and intrigue?

## ACTIVITY 1 – WHAT CAN I SEE IN THE BROWNSTONE VAULT?

Subjects: Literacy: Reading Comprehension and Inference

- Look over the extract again and search the shelves in the vault for the objects listed below. What do the objects make you think of? Why could they be interpreted as “mysterious”? Share your ideas with a partner.



IMAGE	WHAT IT MAKES ME THINK ABOUT	WHY IT COULD BE MYSTERIOUS

# LESSON 3: Qualities of a Hero

When the Monkey King realised Kai only had one peach left, he demanded that they return to the Emperor's palace to get more.

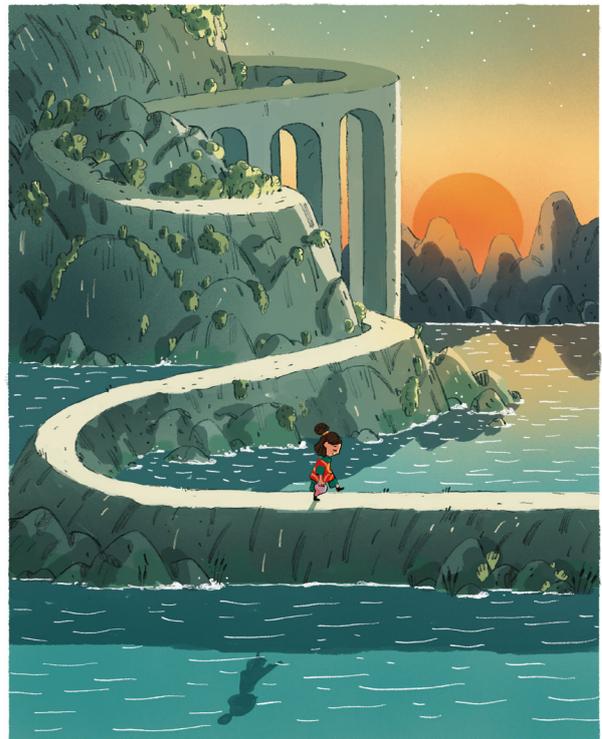


Kai refused to go back without defeating the beast first and the Monkey King refused to help Kai stop the beast without getting more peaches.



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And so, Kai was angry, hurt and alone once again.



She made her way back to her mum, still clutching the one squashed peach she managed to save. It was all she had to show for her daring adventures.

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What qualities can you see that Kai has in the extract? List at least three.
2. Do you get the impression that Kai and the Monkey King are similar? How?
3. Why is the Monkey King frustrated here?
4. Why do you think Kai feels lonely? Do you think heroes often feel lonely? Why?
5. Where is Kai going next? How does she feel about where she is going?

## ACTIVITY 1 – MY HERO

Subjects: Literacy: Reading Comprehension and Inference, RSHE, Citizenship

1. In pairs, discuss what qualities you think Kai possesses based on the extract and everything you have learned about her so far.
2. Then, think of someone close to you that you think is heroic or that you find inspiring. It might be someone in your family, a friend, a member of the community, or a local role model. Consider the following questions:
  - o Why is the person you have chosen heroic?
  - o What does your chosen person do to be a hero in your eyes?
  - o What sort of qualities does your chosen person have?

## ACTIVITY 1 – QUALITIES

Subjects: Literacy: Reading Comprehension and Inference, Writing, RSHE, Art, Design and Technology

- Look at the word bank of qualities below. In pairs, rank the top five qualities that you look for in a heroic person. Give reasons for your choices – and remember: there are no right or wrong answers! Can you think of any qualities that are not listed in the word bank?
- Which of the qualities listed does your chosen hero possess? Draw a picture or place a photograph of your hero in the centre of a piece of paper and annotate it with the words that you choose. Be prepared to present your ideas.
- Individually, choose one quality from the word bank. Use that word as inspiration for a poem or an A3 collage, depicting what that word represents for you. Then, collect all of your poems and collages and create a classroom display to remind you of what it means to be a hero. It might help you to create future heroes for your own stories!

CREATIVE

REACHABLE

unique

calm

Responsible

funny

kind

GENEROUS

Accepting

DIFFERENT

DETERMINED

STRONG

BOLD

friendly

consistent

OPEN

original

DEDICATED

# LESSON 4: Legendary Beasts

As she got closer to the village, she saw a terrifying sight.



The gigantic beast was stalking down from the mountains and the only thing standing in its path was the tiny, helpless figure of Kai's mum!



Kai and her mum had taken on every challenge together, and she wasn't going to let this one be any different.

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She mustered all the strength she had left and sprinted down the mountain...



...but the beast saw her coming and quickly moved to block her.



Its rotten breath hit Kai in the face as it revealed its giant jaws, ready to swallow her whole!

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the "terrifying sight" that Kai can see in the extract?
2. How does Joe Todd-Stanton make the beast seem scary? Pick out key words.
3. How does Joe Todd-Stanton make the beast seem scary? Pick out key illustrations.
4. How does Kai feel here? Who or what is she concerned about?
5. How does Kai show bravery in the extract?

## ACTIVITY 1 – CREATING A BEAST

Subjects: Literacy: Reading Comprehension and Inference, Writing, Art, Design and Technology

- 1. Discuss in pairs: why is it important to have a beast or monster in a myth or legend?
- 2. How effective is the beast in Kai and the Monkey King? What do you find frightening about it? What is effective about the way that Joe Todd-Stanton has illustrated the beast?
- 3. Use the template below first to describe the beast in Kai and the Monkey King. Then, use the same template to create your own Legendary Beast Biography.
- 4. Include images of your beast as well as key information about its appearance and special skills.

## ACTIVITY 1 – MY MYTH OR LEGEND

Subjects: Literacy: Creative Writing, Art, Design and Technology

- Using everything that you've learned from reading *Kai and the Monkey King* and all of the material that you've created in this Resource Pack, it's time to start planning your own Myth or Legend.
- Use the Storyboard Template below to draft your story. Don't forget to include a mysterious cast of characters – from heroes to monstrous beasts! – as well as any important and mysterious objects and settings.
- When you have completed your draft, begin writing your story. You might even want to write in the form of a script so that you can perform your story in a group. Share what you create with your classmates and, most importantly, have lots of fun!



MY BEAST:

NAME:

APPEARANCE:

HOW MY BEAST IS TERRIFYING:

MY BEAST'S UNIQUE FEATURES:

SPECIAL SKILLS:

MY MYTH - STORYBOARD

