

Mr Wah

Talking Points

These Talking Points are suggestions designed to allow exploration and discussion of the story. You may wish to select from the range at various points in the unit or explore other aspects of the story which interest your class.

Getting the facts

- Why was Chung-i-Ling lucky?
- What did Mr. Wah tell Chung-i-Ling she must do with the stories he told her? What did she do with them?
- What invitation did Chung-i-Ling receive?
- How were the stories going to get their own back on Chung-i-Ling?
- What happened when Chung-i-Ling went to bed in Beijing? How did the story end?

Using the imagination

- Describe Chung-i-Ling's bedroom. What was the box like?
- Mr Wah told Chung-i-Ling stories about deserts and forests and lots more. Make up one of the stories that he told her.
- Draw portraits of Chung-i-Ling and Mr. Wah. What did they wear? How tall were they? What colour and style was their hair? How old was Mr. Wah?
- We aren't told anything about Chung-i-Ling's parents. What kind of people do you think they were? Did they have jobs?
- If you were a story, how would you get your own back on Chung-i-Ling?

Using the senses

- Chung-i-Ling's house had a 'spectacular garden'. What did it look like? What scents were there? What would you hear there?
- Describe the streets of Beijing as Chung-i-Ling travelled through them to her cousin's house. And what about the wedding party? What could she see, hear, feel and smell?
- If you were one of the guests at the wedding party, what would you have eaten? Describe the meal and how it tasted.
- What was the view like from the bedroom in the wooden tower?

Using the emotions

- If you were Mr Wah, how would you feel about Chung-i-Ling?
- If you were one of the stories, how would you feel when you were locked in the box?
- What did Chung-i-Ling's friends think about her before she went to Beijing and after she became the best storyteller in China?
- How did Chung-i-Ling feel when she realised that Mr Wah had saved her life so many times?

Philosophical enquiry

- Mr Wah didn't tell Chung-i-Ling, or her parents, what he had overheard the stories planning. Was he right to keep quiet about it?
- The stories wanted to take revenge on Chung-i-Ling. Is revenge ever right?
- Is this a happy story?
- Would you be Chung-i-Ling's friend? Why/ why not?