

Introduction

You can listen to a recording of this story at:
<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/stories/stone-cutter>

This support pack contains the following materials:

- a pre-reading vocabulary activity;
- the story that you can listen to;
- a comprehension activity based on the story.

LearnEnglish *would like to thank the Sage Arts Unlimited (Martial Arts & Fitness Training) website for letting us reproduce this story.*

Before you read

Activity 1

Match the words at the top to their definitions.

a. boulder	b. brilliance	c. (not) budge
d. chisel	e. frustrated	f. illusion
g. impassive	h. inhabitant	i. interrupt
j. lightning	k. obstruct	l. pour
m. privilege	n. resound	o. storm
p. thunder	q. unsatisfied	r. wonder

1. a flash of bright light in the sky which is produced by electricity moving between clouds or from clouds to the ground.
2. a person or animal that lives in a particular place.
3. a very large rock.
4. an advantage that only one person or group of people has, usually because of their position or because they are rich.
5. an extreme weather condition with very strong wind, heavy rain and often thunder and lightning.
6. an idea or belief which is not true; something that is not really what it seems to be.
7. describes a person's face when it expresses no emotion, because they seem not to be affected by the situation they are experiencing.
8. feeling annoyed or discouraged because you cannot achieve what you want.
9. (not) move.
10. state of being full of light, shining or bright in colour.
11. the sudden loud noise which comes from the sky especially during a storm.
12. to (cause to) flow quickly and in large amounts.
13. to ask yourself questions or express a desire to know about something.
14. to block a road, passage, entrance, etc. so that nothing can go along it, or to prevent something from happening correctly by putting difficulties in its way.
15. to sound loudly or for a long time.
16. to stop something from happening for a short period.
17. to use a tool with a long metal blade that has a sharp edge for cutting wood, stone, etc..
18. unhappy because you have not got what you wanted, or because something has happened in a way that you didn't want.

Read the story

The Stonecutter

Once upon a time there was a stone cutter. The stone cutter lived in a land where a life of privilege meant being powerful. Looking at his life he decided that he was unsatisfied with the way things were and so he set out to become the most powerful thing in the land.

Looking around his land he wondered to himself what it is to be powerful. Looking up he saw the Sun shining down on all the land. "The Sun must be the most powerful thing that there is, for it shines down on all things and all things grow from its touch." So he became the Sun.

Days later, as he shone his power down on the inhabitants of the land, there came a cloud which passed beneath him obstructing his brilliance.

Frustrated he realized that the Sun was not the most powerful thing in the land, if a simple cloud could interrupt his greatness. So he became a cloud, in fact, he became the most powerful storm that the world had ever seen.

After reading

Activity 2

Decide if the following 15 statements about the story are true or false.

1. Where the stone cutter lived, those advantaged because of their position or because they were rich were those with the ability to control people and events.
2. The stone cutter was unhappy because he did not have what he wanted.
3. The stone cutter decided that the sun was the most powerful thing in the land because it was so shiny.
4. The stone cutter could turn into different things.
5. The cloud prevented the sun from demonstrating its intelligence.
6. The stone cutter believed that a cloud was more powerful than the sun.
7. Never before had the world witnessed such a storm.
8. The storm lasted for less than a day.
9. The storm hit the boulder with lightning.
10. The storm attempted to move the boulder.
11. The storm felt annoyed and discouraged because it could not achieve what it wanted.
12. The boulder showed how powerful it was by not moving.
13. The stone cutter used a tool to destroy the boulder.
14. According to the moral of the story, you sometimes have everything you need already, right inside of you.
15. According to the moral of the story, power is something that is not really what it seems to be.

And so he blew his rain and lightning, and resounded with thunder all over the land, demonstrating that he was the most powerful. Until one day he came across a boulder.

Down and down he poured and his thunder roared, lightning flashed and filled the sky, striking the ground near the boulder. His winds blew and blew and blew, and yet, despite all his efforts, he could not budge the boulder.

Frustrated again, he realized that the storm was not the most powerful thing in the land, rather it must be the boulder. So he became the boulder.

For days he sat, unmovable, and impassive, demonstrating his power, until one day, a stone cutter came and chiselled him to bits.

The Moral of the Story

Sometimes the most important thing to remember is that you have everything you need already, right inside of you. Power is an illusion.

Answers

Activity 1: 1. *j*; 2. *h*; 3. *a*; 4. *m*; 5. *o*; 6. *f*; 7. *g*; 8. *e*; 9. *c*; 10. *b*; 11. *p*; 12. *l*; 13. *r*; 14. *k*; 15. *n*; 16. *i*; 17. *d*; 18. *q*

Activity 2: 1. *True (T)*; 2. *T*; 3. *False (F)*; 4. *T*; 5. *F*; 6. *T*; 7. *T*; 8. *F*; 9. *F*; 10. *T*; 11. *T*; 12. *T*; 13. *T*; 14. *F*; 15. *T*

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