

WHEN THE SEA TURNED TO SILVER



Dramatic Reading Activity

From the novel by Grace Lin (Little, Brown)

ABOUT THE BOOK

WHEN THE SEA TURNED TO SILVER

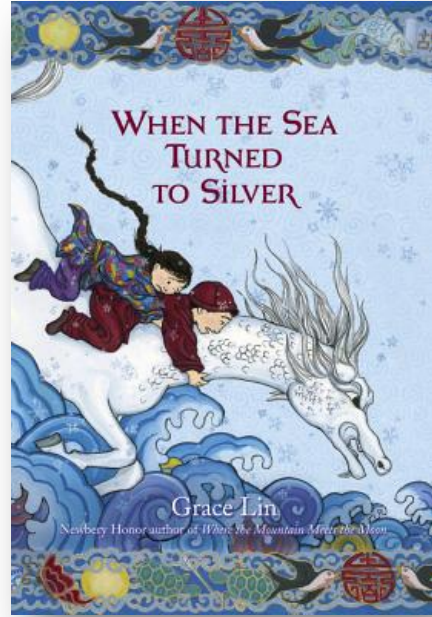
By Grace Lin

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Young Readers

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Age Range: 9 - 12 Years



Pinmei's gentle, loving grandmother always has the most exciting tales for her granddaughter and the other villagers. However, the peace is shattered one night when soldiers of the Emperor arrive and kidnap the storyteller. Everyone knows that the Emperor wants something called the Luminous Stone That Lights the Night. Determined to have her grandmother returned, Pinmei embarks on a journey to find the Luminous Stone alongside her friend Yishan, a mysterious boy who seems to have his own secrets to hide. Together, the two must face obstacles usually found only in legends to find the Luminous Stone and save Pinmei's grandmother—before it's too late.

WHEN THE SEA TURNED TO SILVER is a companion novel to Newbery Honor winner **WHERE THE MOUNTAIN MEETS THE MOON** and **STARRY RIVER OF THE SKY**.

“Lin’s fans will not be disappointed: she again delivers a rich interweaving of ancient tales with fast-paced adventure, fantasy, and slowly unfolding mysteries told through captivating language with beguiling similes.” —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“A stunning addition to a deservedly beloved set of novels; recommended for all middle grade collections.” —*School Library Journal* (starred review)

“This beautifully told companion...offers lyrical storytelling, bringing ‘us to places we have never dreamed of.’” —*Kirkus Review* (starred review)

“Lin's evocative language sweeps readers away, and the stories within the story are juicy and delicious...” —*Booklist* (starred review)

WHY A DRAMATIC READING?

WHEN THE SEA TURNED TO SILVER by Grace Lin (Little, Brown) is a chapter book filled with many stories. One of the book's main characters is the Storyteller, an old woman renowned for her ability to both amaze and educate with her words. You, too, are renowned for this ability. This dramatic reading gives you the role of the Storyteller sharing a tale entitled, *The Story of the Red Stone*. This story was selected for its action, its magic, and for its roles for 4-5 additional readers.



The dramatic reading is a great way to introduce readers to Grace Lin's world in WHEN THE SEA TURNED TO SILVER or to the preceding linked novels WHERE THE MOUNTAIN MEETS THE MOON and STARRY RIVER OF THE SKY.

The script could be used as a Reader's Theater, but we could not resist adding some props, costumes, and blocking!

The script was created by Curious City. Look for a whole collection of Grace Lin engagement tools at CuriousCityDPW.com. We welcome your comments and ideas there for future editions of this document.

READERS & PERFORMERS

1) **The Storyteller:** This is the narrator of the story and the director of the other readers. The Storyteller's script has cues [IN CAPS] to include the audience, introduce the other readers, and perform some simple magic tricks.

The Storyteller may choose to partner with the reader portraying Ku-Ang to perform these tricks. Any tricks that could potentially be done by Ku-Ang are in [BLUE CAPS.] (See script on pages 7-13)

2) **Ku-Ang:** Ku-Ang is the main character of the story and has the most complex speaking part. Ku-Ang also has the opportunity to act out many aspects of the narration including three magic tricks. You may wish to choose an adult partner for this role. If you choose a child, you may need to include rehearsals. You will see in Ku-Ang's script that we have included possible blocking in [BLUE CAPS.] (See script on pages 14-20)

WHEN THE SEA TURNED TO SILVER: Dramatic Reading: Preparation

Some Storytellers have chosen to simply play Ku-Ang themselves to simplify the dramatic reading. There is no need in that instance to juggle two scripts. Ku-Ang's lines are on the Storyteller script [in blue](#).

3) **The Village Elder:** This is a non-speaking role for a child or adult. The Village Elder follows the Storyteller's narration on the back of cue cards. The Elder cues audience participation by holding up sheets that are on the opposite side of that narration script. These are all single-word exclamations for the audience.

You will need to prep the cue cards by taping, gluing, or laminating the paired pages back-to-back. (See cue cards on pages 25+)

The Villagers: The Villagers are your audience, your chorus. They will keep an eye on the Village Elder and exclaim aloud in unison what they read on the cue card.

4) **Old Man:** This role has three complex lines of dialogue with Ku-Ang. (See script on page 21)

5) **The Snake:** This role has three lines of dialogue with Ku-Ang. (See script on page 22)

6) **The Bird:** This role has three lines of dialogue with Ku-Ang. (See script on page 23)

7) **Haiyi:** This role has two simple lines of dialogue with Ku-Ang. (See script on page 24)

COSTUMING

Costuming is optional, of course, but small touches can help propel the story.

1) **The Storyteller:** There are two Storytellers in the book, an old woman and a young girl. A Chinese shirt can mark you as the Storyteller, whatever age you choose to be!

2) **The Village Elder:** The Village Elder will have the cue cards, which will mark him or her as important. A Chinese shirt, however, helps set the stage if you have access to a collection of them.

WHEN THE SEA TURNED TO SILVER: Dramatic Reading: Preparation

- 3) **Ku-Ang:** Ku-Ang is a boy from a fisherman's family. He would have a simple Chinese shirt.
- 4) **Old Man:** The old man is said to wear a long gray robe. A few quick lines of face paint can line the face with age. A white chin beard can also be added with face paint.
- 5) **The Snake:** The snake is a giant one. Can you create a half mask with or for your reader? Face paint might add to the look!
- 6) **The Bird:** The bird is a giant one with poisonous green feathers. Can you create a half mask with or for your reader? You can often find Mardi Gras masks with a beaked nose at party stores. Green feathers could be added to the arms or hands with face paint.
- 7) **Haiyi:** Inserting shoulder pads or foam into an oversized shirt would help make your reader look like a bulked-up bully.

MAGIC TRICKS

Reading this script, you will discover that the red stone Ku-Ang finds is magic. It doubles things that it comes in contact with and eventually turns Ku-Ang into a dragon! You can conduct simple tricks to show this magic. Really! Between the prompts in the script and the preparation notes below, you can wow your readers.

1) Red Stones. To do the magic, you will need three red stones. Red “flat glass beads” or “vase fillers” work great as red stones. Craft stores stock them, and a florist may have a handful they can sell or donate to you.

Why three? The single red stone in the story has to move through a few tricks. In doing so, you leave two behind.

2) Bag & Dumplings. Ku-Ang takes a bag with him into the forest with one dumpling inside. When he finds the red stone, he drops the red stone in the bag. When he gets hungry for his dumpling, he discovers two dumplings inside! He pulls out the red stone and wonders if it had something to do with this magic...

Look for a plain linen or hemp bag to use. There are drawstring burlap bags available online that work well. Get two bread rolls to stand in for dumplings.

There is no magic trick needed to turn one dumpling/roll into two. Simply stock

WHEN THE SEA TURNED TO SILVER: Dramatic Reading: Preparation

the bag with two rolls and act surprised when you find two rolls.

3) Rice Jar. Ku-Ang suspects that the red stone somehow doubled his dumplings. To test his theory, he puts the red stone in a nearly empty jar of rice. When he returns the next morning, the rice jar is full!

You can make this happen in front of your readers by obtaining two identical tall jars. Clear jars work great. Put a little bit of rice in the bottom of #1 Rice Jar. Fill #2 Rice Jar almost to the top and place your second red stone on top of the rice.

You can make both jars seem like the same jar if they both sit behind some sort of partition. Pull out #1 Rice Jar, drop in your stone, and put it away behind the partition like you are putting it in the cupboard. Pause for the lines in the script and then pull out #2 Rice Jar. Open it up and pull out the red stone! Wow! Magic! The rice increased!

4) Money Box. Ku-Ang is delighted with his stone and decides to double his money—literally.

Many craft stores have small, unfinished boxes. If you purchase two identical ones, you can pull off the same trick as the Rice Jar. You will also need coins. Pennies work fine. You can also find inexpensive “Double Dragon Chinese Good Luck” coins online which look fantastic.

Put a few coins in #1 Money Box. Fill #2 Money Box with coins and place your third red stone on top of the money.

You can make both boxes seem like the same box if they both sit behind the partition. Pull out #1 Money Box, drop in your stone, and put it away behind the partition like you are putting it in the cupboard. Pause for the lines in the script and then pull out #2 Money Box. Open it up and pull out the red stone! Wow! Magic!

5) Partition. Look around your house and work for a box or partition that will block the view on three sides. A wooden crate lying on its side with the bottom towards the audience works well. If the partition or box looks like something you would put boxes or jars into, the effect is stronger.

BECOMING DRAGONS

You will notice three suggested endings to the script. Ku-Ang eats the red stone and is transformed into a dragon. The final two script options allow you to “test” your readers to see if they are “pure of heart” and capable of transforming into dragons.

Nuts.com sells “cinnamon buttons.” The hard candy looks very much like the red stones. They come individually wrapped and because they are cinnamon, have a slight spicy burn on the tongue. Perfect for convincing readers that if they suck on the candy they may just transform like Ku-Ang!



SCRIPT

When the Sea Turned to Silver is a book filled with many stories. Each story is a clue to explain how the mighty sea became silver. Today, I am going to tell you one of my favorite of these tales, The Story of the Red Stone.

Imagine you are Chinese villagers....

[INDICATE THE AUDIENCE]

...many hundreds of years ago. You are gathered around a roaring fire in a hut on the side of the mountain. The winter winds rage outside, but you pull your jackets tighter, scoot closer to the fire and look up at the Storyteller. Today, I am the Storyteller.

Storytellers are happiest when the villagers are involved with their stories. Watch the Village Elder...

[INDICATE VILLAGE ELDER]

...who will show you words to say in unison and sounds to make all together. Together we will tell The Story of the Red Stone. Shall we begin?

Village Elder: [Show Sign 1: Yes!]

Villagers: Yes!

There once was a time when the sea overflowed and it churned with monstrous beasts.

Village Elder: [Show Sign 2: Beasts!]

Villagers: Beasts!

The chaos of the sea was devastating to fisherman who could no longer fish. The families of the fishermen were poverty-stricken—barely able to scrape a handful of rice for dinner. In one of those families there was a young boy named Ku-Ang.

Ku-Ang tried his best to help his family. At dawn, he would leave to look for firewood to sell to other villagers. Even though he was a small boy, he never returned home until his back was loaded.

One day Ku-Ang found a small forest with a wealth of wood. He quickly got on his knees to gather fallen branches. As he did so, he saw something red reflect the sun filtering through the trees. Curious, he picked it up. It was a red stone.

[PICK UP RED STONE AND HOLD IT UP TO AUDIENCE.]

WHEN THE SEA TURNED TO SILVER: Dramatic Reading: Storyteller

Village Elder: [Show Sign 3: Ohhhhh!]

Villagers: Ohhhhh!

It was small and round and smooth, and, while it did not glow, it was so shiny Ku-Ang could see himself reflected in it. It was rather pretty, so Ku-Ang thought he would give it to his mother. He put it in his bag and continued to gather wood.

Something unexpected happened at lunchtime. There were two dumplings in his bag.

[PULL OUT TWO DUMPLINGS]

Ku-Ang scratched his head. He was sure there had only been one dumpling in the morning. Ku-Ang pulled the red stone from the bag.

[PULL OUT THE RED STONE]

Had the stone done something?

Village Elder: [Show Sign 4: Hmmm.....]

Villagers: Hmmm.....

When he returned home that evening, instead of giving the stone to his mother as he planned, he slipped it into the nearly empty rice jar.

[OPEN THE #1 RICE JAR AND SHOW THE AUDIENCE THE TINY BIT OF RICE. DROP IN THE RED STONE. PLACE THE #1 BEHIND THE PARTITION.]

The next morning, before his parents woke, Ku-Ang peeked into the rice jar.

[SHOW THE AUDIENCE THE #2 RICE JAR. REMOVE THE RED STONE.] The jar was full!

“It was the stone!” Ku-Ang said to himself.

Village Elder: [Show Sign 5: The stone!]

Villagers: The stone!

He put the stone in their money box ...

[PUT RED STONE IN THE #1 MONEY BOX. PUT THE BOX BEHIND THE PARTITION.]

...and, after closing and opening the lid, was delighted to find their few coins had doubled.

[PULL OUT THE #2 MONEY BOX. SHOW IT FULL OF COINS.]

WHEN THE SEA TURNED TO SILVER: Dramatic Reading: Storyteller

He closed and opened the box again and again, until mountains of coins surrounded him.

His parents and small brothers had been awakened by his laughter and the clinking of the coins. Ku-Ang's family stared in disbelief at all of the money. After Ku-Ang told the story of the red stone, however, his father shook his head.

That stone does not belong to us," his father said, "You must return it to where you found it."

Village Elder: [Show Sign 6: Nooooo.....]

Villagers: Nooooo.....

[BRING OLD MAN FORWARD]

Ashamed, Ku-Ang returned to the mountain forest. When he arrived at the place where he had found the stone, he saw an **Old Man** sitting as if waiting for him.

Ku-Ang: Was this your stone?

Old Man: There are three things of Nuwa left here on earth. A tear, a strand of hair, and a drop of blood. You are holding the drop of blood.

Ku-Ang: Gasp!

Old Man: If you are pure of heart, this stone will bring the Sea King to calm the waters.

Ku-Ang: The Sea King? If the Sea King could calm the waters, the monsters would stop coming to shore. People would no longer be afraid of the sea, and his father could fish again. The world could return to normal.

Old Man: To find him, you must bring the stone safely to the top of the mountain north of the village.

Ku-Ang: No one goes to the Northern Mountain. Evil beasts plagued the way. But to have a Sea King!

Ku-Ang turned and began to make his way to the Northern Mountain. To get to the Northern Mountain, Ku-Ang had to cross the abandoned Black Bridge.

[BRING SNAKE FORWARD]

As he stepped onto the bridge, a monstrous **Snake** sprang from the water, and

WHEN THE SEA TURNED TO SILVER: Dramatic Reading: Storyteller

Ku-Ang saw horrible, sharp teeth coming toward him like flying daggers.

Village Elder: [Show Sign 7: Watch out!]

Villagers: Watch out!

But right before they snapped upon him, the snake caught sight of Ku-Ang's prize.

Snake: The red stone! You wish to go the Northern Mountain?

Ku-Ang: Yes.

Snake: Do you know horrible Haiyi?

Ku-Ang: Haiyi? He is the wicked bully of the village. I know Haiyi and his cruelty all too well.

Snake: I will let you pass if you agree to bring me the ears of horrible Haiyi's old mother. Or I will kill you right now!

Ku-Ang: Never! I have my own mother, and I will never harm another's!

Snake: Then die!

Village Elder: [Show Sign 8: Nooooo.....]

Villagers: Nooooo.....

The snake hissed, and it seized Ku-Ang with its knifelike teeth up into the sky and flung him away with all its might. Ku-Ang landed painfully on the ground, across the lake, bleeding and gasping. The stone was still in his hand, but now it was red from his own blood as well. With great effort, he pushed himself up and began to stagger toward the Northern Mountain.

He had only made it halfway across the plain when a large black shadow began to circle around him.

Village Elder: [Show Sign 9: Look out!]

Villagers: Look out!

[BRING BIRD FORWARD] Above was a gigantic, vile **bird** green poison shining on its feathers in the sun. With a horrible shriek, it landed in front of Ku-Ang, its foul smell making him flinch.

WHEN THE SEA TURNED TO SILVER: Dramatic Reading: Storyteller

Bird: The red stone! You wish to go to the Northern Mountain?

Ku-Ang: Yes.

Bird: Do you know horrible Haiyi?

Ku-Ang: Yes.

Bird: I will let you pass if you agree to bring me the bones of horrible Haiyi's young brother. Or I will kill you now.

Ku-Ang: Never! I have my own brother and I would never harm another's!

Bird: Then die!

Village Elder: [Show Sign 10: Noooooo.....]

Villagers: Noooooo....

Shrieking, the bird grabbed Ku-Ang with its stabbing claws, flew into the sky, and flung him away with all its might. When Ku-Ang was finally able to open his eyes and sit up, he saw he sat on the Northern Mountain. The sea stretched below him, the red stone was in his hand, and the top of the mountain was not far away.

[BRING HAIYI FORWARD]

Although he sobbed with pain, he knew he could not give up now. Swaying and stumbling, he made his way toward the top of the mountain.

Just as he was reaching the top, he heard a loud shout that filled him with dread. It was horrible Haiyi!

Haiyi: Give me that stone!

Ku-Ang clutched the stone. He could not let Haiyi have it. Should he throw it into the sea? But then I'll never find the Sea King, Ku-Ang thought. "What should I do?" The ruffian had almost reached him. His ugly face jeered as he saw that Ku-Ang was trapped!

Haiyi: Give me that stone or I'll get you!

Ku-Ang: Never!

WHEN THE SEA TURNED TO SILVER: Dramatic Reading: Storyteller

Village Elder: [Show Sign 11: Never!]

Villagers: Never!

And then Ku-Ang put the stone in his mouth to keep it from Horrible Haiyi.
[PRETEND TO EAT THE STONE.]

Immediately, an excruciating pain burned inside him. A noise bellowed from his throat, startling Haiyi and himself. Ku-Ang fell backward off the cliff.

Village Elder: [Show Sign 12: Nooooo.....]

Villagers: Nooooo....

The sky seemed to embrace him, for the wind blew around him as if coating him with a new skin. The pain of the stone began to dissipate, but Ku-Ang could still feel its power pulsating, his whole body felt as if it were bursting.

Ku-Ang stretched his hands in front of him, and, in shock, he saw they had turned into claws! His arms were covered in scales! And as he plummeted downward, he saw his reflection in the strangely still water. He had turned into a dragon!

Village Elder: [Show Sign 13: Dragon?!]

Villagers: Dragon?!

The sea stirred. A wild whirlpool began to spin, its white waves becoming a herd of longma—dragon horses—racing to herald him in. When Ku-Ang touched the water, a crashing roar echoed and the entire sea opened, as if welcoming an honored ruler.

For it was. Ku-Ang, the Sea King had arrived.

Village Elder: [Show Sign 14: The Sea King!]

Villagers: The Sea King!

CONCLUSION: VERSION 1: NO CANDIES
The End.

**CONCLUSION: VERSION 2:
WITH CANDIES HANDED OUT**

Ku-Ang proved on the mountain that he was pure of heart. He would not hurt others, not even to save himself. Ku-Ang proved himself worthy of being a king, of being the majestic dragon that rules the sea.

I wonder...would I do the same? Am I pure at heart? Are you? Will you transform into a dragon when a red stone sits on your tongue?

Shall we find out? Take the red stone from the package and place it on your tongue. Don't swallow it. Suck on it. Does it burn a tiny bit on your tongue? Does it taste a little of cinnamon? That means you have a good heart. Will you become a dragon?

[PAUSE. LOOK AROUND.]

Maybe not today. Or maybe that is not the right red stone. Keep looking for the right red stone and keep trying to be of pure heart like Ku-Ang. Someday, I know, you will all be Kings and Queens

**CONCLUSION: VERSION 3:
WITH CANDIES GIVEN FOR LATER**

Ku-Ang proved on the mountain that he was pure of heart. He would not hurt others, not even to save himself. Ku-Ang proved himself worthy of being a king, of being the majestic dragon that rules the sea.

I wonder...would I do the same? Am I pure at heart? Are you? Would you transform into a dragon when a red stone sits on your tongue?

I am going to send you home with a red stone. Ask your family if you can take a dragon test. If they say yes, give yourself lots of space (dragons take up a lot of room). Place the red stone on your tongue. Don't swallow. Suck on it. If it burns a little tiny bit on your tongue or tastes of cinnamon, it means you have a good heart.

If you don't transform into a dragon, well, keep trying to be of pure heart like Ku-Ang. Someday, I know, you will all be Kings and Queens.

WHEN THE SEA TURNED TO SILVER; Dramatic Reading: Ku-Ang

You have been chosen to play **KU-ANG!** **KU-ANG** is an honest fisherman's son and the hero of this tale.

Work with the **STORYTELLER** to decide whether or not you will act out some parts of the story. You can see those non-speaking acting ideas in **[BLUE CAPS.]**

Your speaking lines are marked with **Ku-Ang:**. All the other text belongs to the **STORYTELLER** and the other readers.

SCRIPT

Village Elder: [Show Sign 2: Beasts!]

Villagers: Beasts!

The chaos of the sea was devastating to fisherman who could no longer fish. The families of the fishermen were poverty-stricken—barely able to scrape a handful of rice for dinner. In one of those families there was a young boy named Ku-Ang. **[WAVE TO THE AUDIENCE.]**

Ku-Ang tried his best to help his family. At dawn, he would leave to look for firewood to sell to other villagers. **[PRETEND TO PICK UP STICKS.]** Even though he was a small boy, he never returned home until his back was loaded.

One day Ku-Ang found a small forest with a wealth of wood. He quickly got on his knees to gather fallen branches. **[GET DOWN ON YOUR KNEES.]** As he did so, he saw something red reflect the sun filtering through the trees. Curious, he picked it up. **[PICK UP RED STONE AND HOLD IT UP TO AUDIENCE.]** It was a red stone.

Village Elder: [Show Sign 3: Ohhhhh!]

Villagers: Ohhhhh!

It was small and round and smooth, and, while it did not glow, it was so shiny Ku-Ang could see himself reflected in it. **[HOLD THE STONE UP AND SMILE AT IT LIKE YOU ARE SEEING YOURSELF IN IT.]** It was rather pretty, so Ku-Ang thought he would give it to his mother. He put it in his bag **[PUT STONE IN YOUR BAG.]** and continued to gather wood.

WHEN THE SEA TURNED TO SILVER; Dramatic Reading: Ku-Ang

Something unexpected happened at lunchtime. There were two dumplings in his bag. **[PULL OUT TWO DUMPLINGS.]** Ku-Ang scratched his head. **[SCRATCH YOUR HEAD.]** He was sure there had only been one dumpling in the morning. Ku-Ang pulled the red stone from the bag. **[PULL OUT THE RED STONE.]** Had the stone done something?

Village Elder: [Show Sign 4: Hmmm.....]

Villagers: Hmmm.....

When he returned home that evening, instead of giving the stone to his mother as he planned, he slipped it into the nearly empty rice jar.

[OPEN THE #1 RICE JAR AND SHOW THE AUDIENCE THE TINY BIT OF RICE. DROP IN THE RED STONE. PLACE THE #1 JAR BEHIND THE PARTITION.]

The next morning, before his parents woke, Ku-Ang peeked into the rice jar. The jar was full! **[SHOW THE AUDIENCE THE #2 RICE JAR. REMOVE THE RED STONE.]**

Ku-Ang: It was the stone!

Village Elder: [Show Sign 5: The stone!]

Villagers: The stone!

He put the stone in their money box ... **[PUT RED STONE IN THE #1 MONEY BOX. PUT THE #1 BOX BEHIND THE PARTITION.]**

...and, after closing and opening the lid, was delighted to find their few coins had doubled.

[PULL OUT THE #2 MONEY BOX. SHOW IT FULL OF COINS.]

He closed and opened the box again and again, **[OPEN THE BOX AGAIN AND AGAIN AND LAUGH. TAKE OUT THE RED STONE.]** until mountains of coins surrounded him.

His parents and small brothers had been awakened by his laughter and the clinking of the coins. Ku-Ang's family stared in disbelief at all of the money. After Ku-Ang told the story of the red stone, however, his father shook his head.

That stone does not belong to us," his father said, "You must return it to where you found it."

WHEN THE SEA TURNED TO SILVER; Dramatic Reading: Ku-Ang

Village Elder: [Show Sign 6: Nooooo.....]

Villagers: Nooooo.....

Ashamed, Ku-Ang returned to the mountain forest. When he arrived at the place where he had found the stone, he saw an **Old Man** sitting as if waiting for him.

Ku-Ang: Was this your stone? [HOLD OUT STONE TO OLD MAN.]

Old Man: There are three things of Nuwa left here on earth. A tear, a strand of hair, and a drop of blood. You are holding the drop of blood.

Ku-Ang: Gasp!

Old Man: If you are pure of heart, this stone will bring the Sea King to calm the waters.

Ku-Ang: The Sea King? If the Sea King could calm the waters, the monsters would stop coming to shore. People would no longer be afraid of the sea, and his father could fish again. The world could return to normal.

Old Man: To find him, you must bring the stone safely to the top of the mountain north of the village.

Ku-Ang: No one goes to the Northern Mountain. Evil beasts plagued the way. But to have a Sea King!

Ku-Ang turned and began to make his way to the Northern Mountain. [WALK IN PLACE.] To get to the Northern Mountain, Ku-Ang had to cross the abandoned Black Bridge. As he stepped onto the bridge, a monstrous **Snake** sprang from the water, and Ku-Ang saw horrible, sharp teeth coming toward him like flying daggers. [CRINGE!]

Village Elder: [Show Sign 7: Watch out!]

Villagers: Watch out!

But right before they snapped upon him, the snake caught sight of Ku-Ang's prize.

Snake: The red stone! You wish to go the Northern Mountain?

Ku-Ang: Yes.

WHEN THE SEA TURNED TO SILVER; Dramatic Reading: Ku-Ang

Snake: Do you know horrible Haiyi?

Ku-Ang: Haiyi? He is the wicked bully of the village. I know Haiyi and his cruelty all too well.

Snake: I will let you pass if you agree to bring me the ears of horrible Haiyi's old mother. Or I will kill you right now!

Ku-Ang: Never! I have my own mother, and I will never harm another's!

Snake: Then die!

Village Elder: [Show Sign 8: Nooooo.....]

Villagers: Nooooo.....

The snake hissed, and it seized Ku-Ang with its knifelike teeth up into the sky and flung him away with all its might. Ku-Ang landed painfully [LIE ON TABLE.] on the ground, across the lake, bleeding and gasping. The stone was still in his hand [SHOW THE RED STONE.], but now it was red from his own blood as well. With great effort, he pushed himself up and began to stagger toward the Northern Mountain. [STAGGER-WALK IN PLACE.]

He had only made it halfway across the plain when a large black shadow began to circle around him.

Village Elder: [Show Sign 9: Look out!]

Villagers: Look out!

Above was a gigantic, vile **bird** green poison shining on its feathers in the sun. With a horrible shriek, it landed in front of Ku-Ang, its foul smell making him flinch. [WAVE YOUR HAND IN FRONT OF YOUR FACE!]

Bird: The red stone! You wish to go to the Northern Mountain?

Ku-Ang: Yes.

Bird: Do you know horrible Haiyi?

Ku-Ang: Yes.

WHEN THE SEA TURNED TO SILVER; Dramatic Reading: Ku-Ang

Bird: I will let you pass if you agree to bring me the bones of horrible Haiyi's young brother. Or I will kill you now.

Ku-Ang: Never! I have my own brother and I would never harm another's!

Bird: Then die!

Village Elder: [Show Sign 10: Nooooo.....]

Villagers: Nooooo....

Shrieking, the bird grabbed Ku-Ang with its stabbing claws, flew into the sky, and flung him away with all its might. [LIE ON TABLE & CLOSE EYES.] When Ku-Ang was finally able to open his eyes and sit up, he saw he sat on the Northern Mountain. [SIT UP.] The sea stretched below him, the red stone was in his hand, [SHOW THE RED STONE.] and the top of the mountain was not far away. Although he sobbed with pain, he knew he could not give up now. Swaying and stumbling [SWAY AND STUMBLE IN PLACE.], he made his way toward the top of the mountain.

Just as he was reaching the top, he heard a loud shout that filled him with dread. It was horrible Haiyi! [PUT YOUR HANDS ON YOUR HEAD WITH DISMAY.]

Haiyi: Give me that stone!

Ku-Ang clutched the stone. [CLUTCH THE STONE TO YOUR CHEST AND LOOK DISTRESSED.] He could not let Haiyi have it. Should he throw it into the sea? But then I'll never find the Sea King, Ku-Ang thought. "What should I do?" The ruffian had almost reached him. His ugly face jeered as he saw that Ku-Ang was trapped!

Haiyi: Give me that stone or I'll get you!

Ku-Ang: Never!

Village Elder: [Show Sign 11: Never!]

Villagers: Never!

And then Ku-Ang put the stone in his mouth to keep it from Horrible Haiyi. [PRETEND TO EAT THE STONE.]

WHEN THE SEA TURNED TO SILVER; Dramatic Reading: Ku-Ang

Immediately, an excruciating pain burned inside him. [PUT YOUR HANDS TO YOUR THROAT.] A noise bellowed from his throat [BELLOW!], startling Haiyi and himself. [WINDMILL ARMS AND LEAN BACK.] Ku-Ang fell backward off the cliff.

Village Elder: [Show Sign 12: Nooooo.....]

Villagers: Nooooo....

[LIE FACEDOWN ON THE TABLE FACING THE AUDIENCE IF YOU CAN! LIE WITH YOUR ARMS ABLE TO HANG OFF THE TABLE.]

The sky seemed to embrace him, for the wind blew around him as if coating him with a new skin. The pain of the stone began to dissipate, but Ku-Ang could still feel its power pulsating, his whole body felt as if it were bursting.

Ku-Ang stretched his hands in front of him [STRETCH OUT ARMS.], and, in shock, he saw they had turned into claws! [MAKE HANDS INTO CLAWS.] His arms were covered in scales! And as he plummeted downward, he saw his reflection in the strangely still water. [LOOK TOWARD THE FLOOR.] He had turned into a dragon!

Village Elder: [Show Sign 13: Dragon?!]

Villagers: Dragon?!

The sea stirred. A wild whirlpool began to spin [STAND UP AND SPIN SLOWLY.], its white waves becoming a herd of longma—dragon horses—racing to herald him in. When Ku-Ang touched the water, a crashing roar echoed and the entire sea opened, as if welcoming an honored ruler.

[STOP SPINNING & THROW UP ARMS.] For it was. Ku-Ang, the Sea King had arrived.

Village Elder: [Show Sign 14: The Sea King!]

Villagers: The Sea King!

[PLACE YOUR PALMS TOGETHER AND BOW.]

CONCLUSION: VERSION 1: NO CANDIES

The End.

**CONCLUSION: VERSION 2:
WITH CANDIES HANDED OUT**

Ku-Ang proved on the mountain that he was pure of heart. He would not hurt others, not even to save himself. Ku-Ang proved himself worthy of being a king, of being the majestic dragon that rules the sea.

I wonder...would I do the same? Am I pure at heart? Are you? Will you transform into a dragon when a red stone sits on your tongue?

Shall we find out? Take the red stone from the package and place it on your tongue. Don't swallow it. Suck on it. Does it burn a tiny bit on your tongue? Does it taste a little of cinnamon? That means you have a good heart. Will you become a dragon?

[PAUSE. LOOK AROUND.]

Maybe not today. Or maybe that is not the right red stone. Keep looking for the right red stone and keep trying to be of pure heart like Ku-Ang. Someday, I know, you will all be Kings and Queens.

**CONCLUSION: VERSION 3:
WITH CANDIES GIVEN FOR LATER**

Ku-Ang proved on the mountain that he was pure of heart. He would not hurt others, not even to save himself. Ku-Ang proved himself worthy of being a king, of being the majestic dragon that rules the sea.

I wonder...would I do the same? Am I pure at heart? Are you? Would you transform into a dragon when a red stone sits on your tongue?

I am going to send you home with a red stone. Ask your family if you can take a dragon test. If they say yes, give yourself lots of space (dragons take up a lot of room). Place the red stone on your tongue. Don't swallow. Suck on it. If it burns a little tiny bit on your tongue or tastes of cinnamon, it means you have a good heart.

If you don't transform into a dragon, well, keep trying to be of pure heart like Ku-Ang. Someday, I know, you will all be Kings and Queens.

WHEN THE SEA TURNED TO SILVER; Dramatic Reading: Old Man

You have been chosen to play the **OLD MAN**! The Old Man is bent with age, but is also curious and wise.

The **STORYTELLER** will point to you when it is time to step forward.

Stand beside the **STORYTELLER** and **KU-ANG**.

Read the **OLD MAN** lines after the **STORYTELLER** and **KU-ANG** read theirs.

SCRIPT

STORYTELLER: Ashamed, Ku-Ang returned to the mountain forest. When he arrived at the place where he had found the stone, he saw an old man sitting as if waiting for him. Was this your stone?

OLD MAN: There are three things of Nuwa left here on earth. A tear, a strand of hair, and a drop of blood. You are holding the drop of blood.

KU-ANG: Gasp!

OLD MAN: If you are pure of heart, this stone will bring the Sea King to calm the waters.

KU-ANG: The Sea King? If the Sea King could calm the waters, the monsters would stop coming to shore. People would no longer be afraid of the sea, and his father could fish again. The world could return to normal.

OLD MAN: To find him, you must bring the stone safely to the top of the mountain north of the village.

WHEN THE SEA TURNED TO SILVER; Dramatic Reading: Snake

You have been chosen to play the **SNAKE**! The Snake is gigantic and feared by all. Try hissing when you say a word with an “S” or hissing between your lines.

The STORYTELLER will point to you when it is time to step forward.

Stand beside the STORYTELLER and **KU-ANG**.

Read the **SNAKE** lines after the STORYTELLER and **KU-ANG** read theirs.

SCRIPT

STORYTELLER: As he stepped onto the bridge, a monstrous snake sprang from the water, and Ku-Ang saw horrible, sharp teeth coming toward him like flying daggers. **LOOK OUT!** But right before they snapped upon him, the snake caught sight of Ku-Ang’s prize.

SNAKE: The red stone! You wish to go the Northern Mountain?

KU-ANG: Yes.

SNAKE: Do you know horrible Haiyi?

KU-ANG: Haiyi? He is the wicked bully of the village. I know Haiyi and his cruelty all too well.

SNAKE: I will let you pass if you agree to bring me the ears of horrible Haiyi’s old mother. Or I will kill you right now!

KU-ANG: Never! I have my own mother, and I will never harm another’s!

SNAKE: Then die!

WHEN THE SEA TURNED TO SILVER; Dramatic Reading: Bird

You have been chosen to play the **BIRD**! The gigantic bird has poisonous green feathers and is feared by all. Its voice is a horrible shriek.

The STORYTELLER will point to you when it is time to step forward.

Stand beside the STORYTELLER & **KU-ANG**.

Read the **BIRD** lines after the STORYTELLER and **KU-ANG** read theirs.

SCRIPT

STORYTELLER: Above was a gigantic, vile **BIRD** green poison shining on its feathers in the sun. With a horrible shriek, it landed in front of Ku-Ang, its foul smell making him flinch.

BIRD: The red stone! You wish to go to the Northern Mountain?

KU-ANG: Yes.

BIRD: Do you know horrible Haiyi?

KU-ANG: Yes.

BIRD: I will let you pass if you agree to bring me the bones of horrible Haiyi's young brother. Or I will kill you now.

KU-ANG: Never! I have my own brother and I would never harm another's!

BIRD: Then die!

WHEN THE SEA TURNED TO SILVER; Dramatic Reading: Haiyi

You have been chosen to play **HAIYI!** Haiyi is the bully of the village. He shouts when he speaks and makes everyone he meets miserable.

The STORYTELLER will point to you when it is time to step forward.

Stand beside the STORYTELLER & **KU-ANG**.

Read the **HAIYI** lines after the STORYTELLER and **KU-ANG** read theirs.

SCRIPT

STORYTELLER: Just as he was reaching the top, he heard a loud shout that filled him with dread. It was horrible **HAIYI!**

HAIYI: Give me that stone!

STORYTELLER: Ku-Ang clutched the stone. He could not let Haiyi have it. Should he throw it into the sea? But then I'll never find the Sea King, Ku-Ang thought. "What should I do?" The ruffian had almost reached him. His ugly face jeered as he saw that Ku-Ang was trapped!

HAIYI: Give me that stone or I'll get you!

KU-ANG: Never!

When the Sea Turned to Silver is a book filled with many stories. Each story is a clue to explain how the mighty sea became silver. Today, I am going to tell you one of my favorite of these tales, The Story of the Red Stone.

Imagine you are Chinese villager many hundreds of years ago. You are gathered around a roaring fire in a hut on the side of the mountain. The winter winds rage outside, but you pull your jackets tighter, scoot closer to the fire and look up at the Storyteller. Today, I am the Storyteller.

Storytellers are happiest when the villagers are involved with their stories. Watch the Village Elder...

[SHE IS TALKING ABOUT YOU! TAKE A BOW !]

...who will show you words to say in unison and sounds to make all together. Together we will tell The Story of the Red Stone. Shall we begin?

[SHOW SIGN]

Villagers: Yes!

Yes!

There once was a time when the sea overflowed and it
churned with monstrous beasts.

[SHOW SIGN]

Villagers: Beasts!

Beasts!

The chaos of the sea was devastating to fisherman who could no longer fish. The families of the fishermen were poverty-stricken—barely able to scrape a handful of rice for dinner. In one of those families there was a young boy named Ku-Ang.

Ku-Ang tried his best to help his family. At dawn, he would leave to look for firewood to sell to other villagers. Even though he was a small boy, he never returned home until his back was loaded.

One day Ku-Ang found a small forest with a wealth of wood. He quickly got on his knees to gather fallen branches. As he did so, he saw something red reflect the sun filtering through the trees. Curious, he picked it up. It was a red stone.

[SHOW SIGN]

Villagers: Ohhh!

O h h h h !

It was small and round and smooth, and, while it did not glow, it was so shiny Ku-Ang could see himself reflected in it. It was rather pretty, so Ku-Ang thought he would give it to his mother. He put it in his bag and continued to gather wood.

Something unexpected happened at lunchtime. There were two dumplings in his bag. Ku-Ang scratched his head. He was sure there had only been one dumpling in the morning. Ku-Ang pulled the red stone from the bag. Had the stone done something?

[SHOW SIGN]

Villagers: Hmmm...

Hmmmm...

When he returned home that evening, instead of giving the stone to his mother as he planned, he slipped it into the nearly empty rice jar.

The next morning, before his parents woke, Ku-Ang peeked into the rice jar. The jar was full!

“It was the stone!” Ku-Ang said to himself.

[SHOW SIGN]

Villagers: The stone!

The stone!

He put the stone in their money box and, after closing and opening the lid, was delighted to find their few coins had doubled. He closed and opened the box again and again, until mountains of coins surrounded him.

His parents and small brothers had been awakened by his laughter and the clinking of the coins. Ku-Ang's family stared in disbelief at all of the money. After Ku-Ang told the story of the red stone, however, his father shook his head.

That stone does not belong to us," his father said, "You must return it to where you found it."

[SHOW SIGN]

Villagers: Noooooo.....

Nooo...

Ashamed, Ku-Ang returned to the mountain forest. When he arrived at the place where he had found the stone, he saw an **Old Man** sitting as if waiting for him.

Ku-Ang: Was this your stone?

Old Man: There are three things of Nuwa left here on earth. A tear, a strand of hair, and a drop of blood. You are holding the drop of blood.

Ku-Ang: Gasp!

Old Man: If you are pure of heart, this stone will bring the Sea King to calm the waters.

Ku-Ang: The Sea King? If the Sea King could calm the waters, the monsters would stop coming to shore. People would no longer be afraid of the sea, and his father could fish again. The world could return to normal.

Old Man: To find him, you must bring the stone safely to the top of the mountain north of the village.

Ku-Ang: No one goes to the Northern Mountain. Evil beasts plagued the way. But to have a Sea King!

Ku-Ang turned and began to make his way to the Northern Mountain. To get to the Northern Mountain, Ku-Ang had to cross the abandoned Black Bridge. As he stepped onto the bridge, a monstrous **Snake** sprang from the water, and Ku-Ang saw horrible, sharp teeth coming toward him like flying daggers.

[SHOW SIGN]

Villagers: Watch out!

Watch out!

But right before they snapped upon him, the snake caught sight of Ku-Ang's prize.

Snake: The red stone! You wish to go the Northern Mountain?

Ku-Ang: Yes.

Snake: Do you know horrible Haiyi?

Ku-Ang: Haiyi? He is the wicked bully of the village. I know Haiyi and his cruelty all too well.

Snake: I will let you pass if you agree to bring me the ears of horrible Haiyi's old mother. Or I will kill you right now!

Ku-Ang: Never! I have my own mother, and I will never harm another's!

Snake: Then die!

[SHOW SIGN]

Villagers: Nooooo.....

Nooo...

The snake hissed, and it seized Ku-Ang with its knifelike teeth up into the sky and flung him away with all its might. Ku-Ang landed painfully on the ground, across the lake, bleeding and gasping. The stone was still in his hand, but now it was red from his own blood as well. With great effort, he pushed himself up and began to stagger toward the Northern Mountain.

He had only made it halfway across the plain when a large black shadow began to circle around him.

[SHOW SIGN]

Villagers: Look out!

Look out!

Above was a gigantic, vile **bird** green poison shining on its feathers in the sun. With a horrible shriek, it landed in front of Ku-Ang, its foul smell making him flinch.

Bird: The red stone! You wish to go to the Northern Mountain?

Ku-Ang: Yes.

Bird: Do you know horrible Haiyi?

Ku-Ang: Yes.

Bird: I will let you pass if you agree to bring me the bones of horrible Haiyi's young brother. Or I will kill you now.

Ku-Ang: Never! I have my own brother and I would never harm another's!

Bird: Then die!

[SHOW SIGN]

Villagers: Nooooo....

Nooo...

Shrieking, the bird grabbed Ku-Ang with its stabbing claws, flew into the sky, and flung him away with all its might. When Ku-Ang was finally able to open his eyes and sit up, he saw he sat on the Northern Mountain. The sea stretched below him, the red stone was in his hand, and the top of the mountain was not far away. Although he sobbed with pain, he knew he could not give up now. Swaying and stumbling, he made his way toward the top of the mountain. Just as he was reaching the top, he heard a loud shout that filled him with dread. It was horrible Haiyi!

Haiyi: Give me that stone!

Ku-Ang clutched the stone. He could not let Haiyi have it. Should he throw it into the sea? But then I'll never find the Sea King, Ku-Ang thought. "What should I do?" The ruffian had almost reached him. His ugly face jeered as he saw that Ku-Ang was trapped!

Haiyi: Give me that stone or I'll get you!

Ku-Ang: Never!

[SHOW SIGN]
Villagers: Never!

Never!

And then Ku-Ang put the stone in his mouth to keep it from Horrible Haiyi.

Immediately, an excruciating pain burned inside him. A noise bellowed from his throat, startling Haiyi and himself. Ku-Ang fell backward off the cliff.

[SHOW SIGN]

Villagers: Nooooo...

Nooo...

The sky seemed to embrace him, for the wind blew around him as if coating him with a new skin. The pain of the stone began to dissipate, but Ku-Ang could still feel its power pulsating, his whole body felt as if it were bursting.

Ku-Ang stretched his hands in front of him, and, in shock, he saw they had turned into claws! His arms were covered in scales! And as he plummeted downward, he saw his reflection in the strangely still water. He had turned into a dragon!

[SHOW SIGN]

Villagers: Dragon?!

Dragon?!

The sea stirred. A wild whirlpool began to spin, its white waves becoming a herd of longma—dragon horses—racing to herald him in. When Ku-Ang touched the water, a crashing roar echoed and the entire sea opened, as if welcoming an honored ruler.

For it was. Ku-Ang, the Sea King had arrived.

[SHOW SIGN]

Villagers: The Sea King!

[YOUR PART IS DONE! THANKS!]

The Sea King!!