

The Fable of the Two Doves

Long ago, there lived a wealthy scholar and his daughter, Koong-se. The scholar had an assistant working for him, whose name was Chang. Chang and Koong-se were very much in love. However, Chang was seen as just a poor assistant so a relationship between the two was not allowed. Instead, every night, the couple secretly meet under the stars.



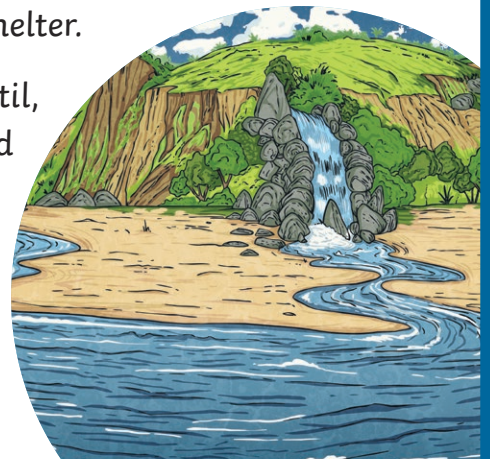
One night, the scholar noticed that his daughter was missing and sent someone to follow her. When he heard that she was with Chang, the scholar was furious. He immediately fired Chang and ordered that a high fence should be built around the palace. He locked Koong-se in her room and stopped anyone from visiting her. Then, he arranged for his daughter to marry a rich duke. Because she did not want to be locked away, Koong-se agreed to the marriage. Secretly, she wished that Chang would come and help her to escape but it was agreed that Koong-se and the duke would get married on the day that the first blossom fell from the willow tree.



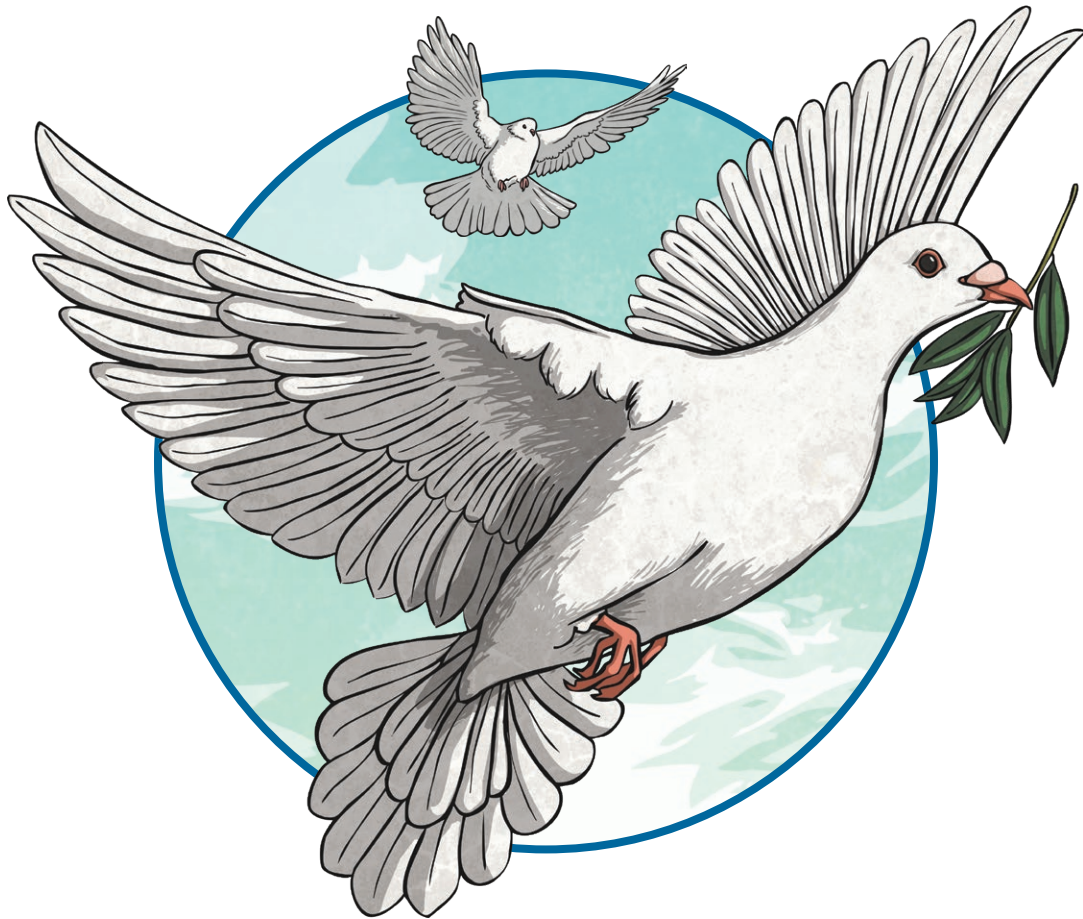
On the day of the wedding, Chang disguised himself as a servant and crept past the palace guards. Koong-se was so happy to see him! He quickly explained his plan to escape. They began to run down the palace corridors and they did not stop until they were through the palace gates.

One of the guests recognised the couple and shouted that the bride was trying to escape. The wealthy scholar chased after them but it was too late. Chang and Koong-se had already escaped in the duke's ship. Not wanting to be caught, they sailed quickly away from the palace. Eventually, they came across a beautiful deserted island, which was covered with tall palm trees and large ferns. They landed and began to build a shelter.

The couple lived together for many happy years until, one day, the duke heard about two people who had been spotted living on a small island. Desperate for revenge, the duke sent his soldiers to find them. A few days later, the couple were captured.



Luckily for Koong-se and Chang, the gods had been watching them. They were so moved by their story that they transformed Koong-se and Chang into a pair of doves. The couple flew away from the guards and happily spent the rest of their lives together.



Questions

1. What was the first thing that Koong-se and Chang did when they landed on the island?
Tick one.

- ☐ turned into doves
- ☐ got married
- ☐ caught some fish
- ☐ built a shelter

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- ☐ Chang and Koong-se turn into doves.
- ☐ Chang and Koong-se find an island.
- ☐ The scholar fires Chang.
- ☐ The soldiers capture Chang and Koong-se.

3. Who is Koong-se supposed to marry when the first blossom falls from the willow tree?
Tick one.

- ☐ Chang
- ☐ the duke
- ☐ the scholar
- ☐ a servant

4. Who transformed Koong-se and Chang into a pair of doves? Tick one.

- ☐ the gods
- ☐ Koong-se
- ☐ the scholar
- ☐ the duke

5. Why was Koong-se not allowed to be in a relationship with Chang?

6. What did Chang disguise himself as to get past the guards?

7. Do you think that Koong-se and Chang were happy to be turned into doves? Explain your answer.

Answers

1. What was the first thing that Koong-se and Chang did when they landed on the island?
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4. Who transformed Koong-se and Chang into a pair of doves? Tick one.

- ☒ **the gods**
- ☐ Koong-se
- ☐ the scholar
- ☐ the duke

5. Why was Koong-se not allowed to be in a relationship with Chang?

Koong-se was not allowed to be in a relationship with Chang because he was just seen as a poor assistant.

6. What did Chang disguise himself as to get past the guards?

Chang disguised himself as a servant so that he could get past the guards.

7. Do you think that Koong-se and Chang were happy to be turned into doves?

Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Koong-se and Chang were happy to be turned into doves because now they can live together forever and just fly to a new place if the duke finds them again.

The Fable of the Two Doves

Long ago, in ancient China, there lived a wealthy scholar and his beautiful, intelligent daughter, Koong-se. The scholar employed an assistant accountant named Chang. Chang and Koong-se had many interests in common and they were very much in love. However, Chang was seen as just a poor assistant so a relationship between the two was forbidden. Because of this, whenever the moon hung high in the sky, the couple would secretly meet.



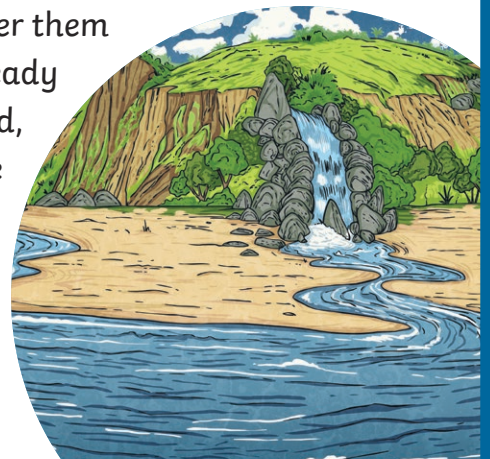
One night, the scholar noticed that his daughter was missing and sent his guard to follow her. When he heard that she was with the assistant, the scholar was furious. He immediately fired Chang and ordered that a high fence should be built around his palace to keep Chang and Koong-se apart. He locked Koong-se in her room and refused to allow her any visitors. The scholar then arranged for Koong-se to marry a rich and powerful duke. Koong-se was so lonely and she was desperate to leave the prison that her room had become so she reluctantly agreed to the marriage.

Secretly, Koong-se wished that Chang would run away with her but, unfortunately, he never appeared and it was agreed that Koong-se and the duke would be married on the day that the first blossom fell from the willow tree.



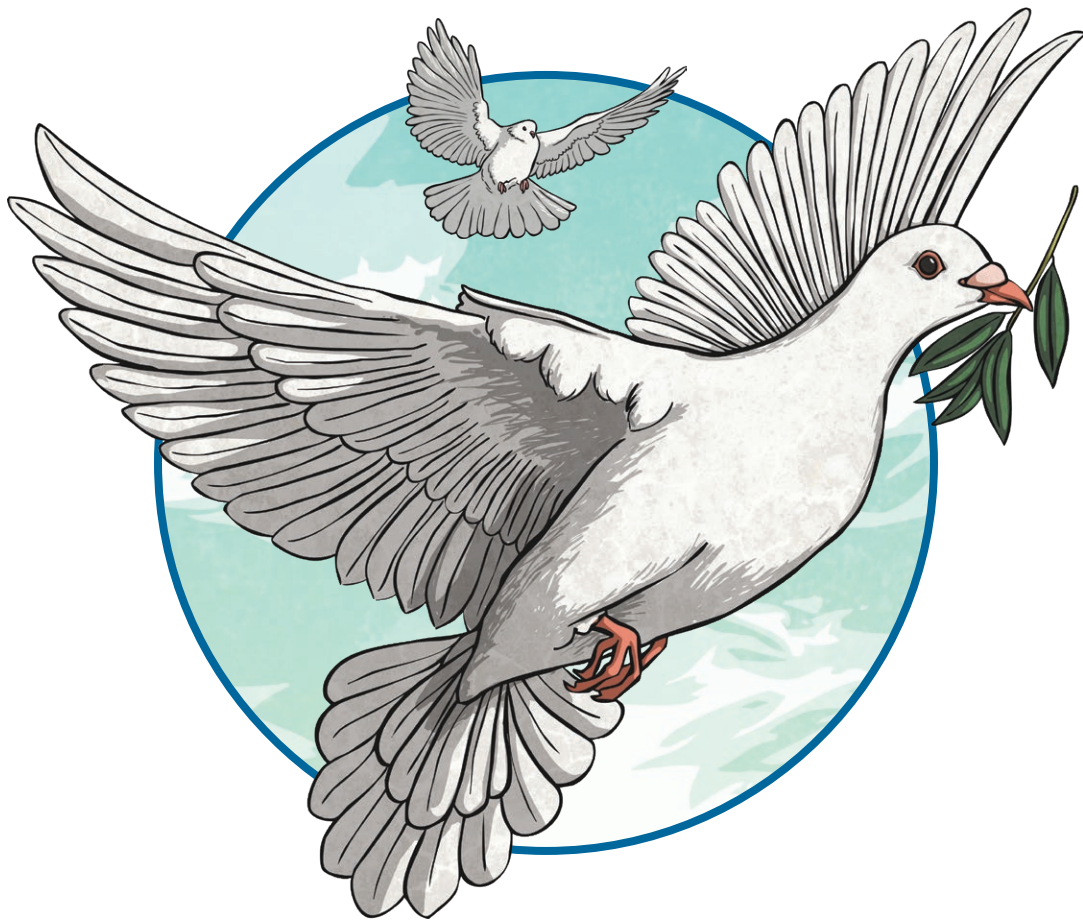
On the day of the wedding, Chang disguised himself as a servant and slipped past the palace guards. Koong-se was so happy to see him that she forgot the danger that they were now both in. Chang quickly explained his escape plan and the pair began to run down the palace corridors, which were already swarming with wedding guests, and out of the silver gates.

One of the guests recognised the couple and raised the alarm that the bride was trying to escape. The scholar chased after them but it was too late. Chang and Koong-se had already escaped in the duke's ship. Aided by the strong wind, they sailed towards the horizon and away from the palace. After several days, the pair came across a beautiful deserted island which was covered with large palm trees and leafy ferns. They landed and began to build a shelter.



The couple, safely together, lived on the island for many happy years until, one day, an explorer told the duke about some people he had seen on a remote island. Desperate for revenge, the duke sent his soldiers to the island. Within days, the couple were captured.

Luckily for Koong-se and Chang, the gods had been looking down at them from high in the heavens. Deeply moved by their story, the gods transformed Koong-se and Chang into a pair of doves. The couple were now able to live the rest of their lives free and together.



Questions

1. Before he was fired, what was Chang's job? Tick one.

- ☐ assistant accountant
- ☐ chief accountant
- ☐ chef to the scholar
- ☐ assistant chef to the scholar

2. What helped the couple to sail away quickly? Tick one.

- ☐ the ship belonged to the duke
- ☐ the wind was strong
- ☐ the island was close
- ☐ the sea's current was strong

3. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- ☐ Chang disguises himself as a servant.
- ☐ Koong-se agrees to marry the duke.
- ☐ The couple steal the duke's ship.
- ☐ The gods choose to help the couple.

4. Draw four lines to complete the sentences.

Koong-se felt forced to marry ●

● the couple.

The couple were transformed ●

● the duke.

The duke sent his soldiers to find ●

● by the gods.

Chang managed to slip past ●

● the palace guards.

5. Look at the paragraph beginning: **On the day of the wedding...**

Find and copy one word which shows that there were lots of people in the palace.

6. How long were the couple living on the island for before they were discovered?

7. Describe the scholar's character. Explain your answer.

8. Do you think that it was fair for Koong-se's father to lock her in her room?
Explain your answer.

Answers

1. Before he was fired, what was Chang's job? Tick one.

- ☒ **assistant accountant**
- ☐ chief accountant
- ☐ chef to the scholar
- ☐ assistant chef to the scholar

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The couple were transformed	the duke.
The duke sent his soldiers to find	by the gods.
Chang managed to slip past	the palace guards.

5. Look at the paragraph beginning: **On the day of the wedding...**

Find and copy one word which shows that there were lots of people in the palace
swarming

6. How long were the couple living on the island for before they were discovered?

The couple were living on the island for many years before they were discovered.

7. Describe the scholar's character. Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The scholar is not very nice because he refuses to let his daughter visit Chang. He is also very powerful because he can arrange a wedding with a rich duke.

8. Do you think that it was fair for Koong-se's father to lock her in her room?

Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I do not think that it was fair because Koong-se did not do anything wrong and he didn't let her have any visitors. He made her feel really lonely, which was unfair.

The Fable of the Two Doves

Long ago, in ancient China, there lived a wealthy scholar. He had a beautiful and intelligent daughter, whose name was Koong-se. Working for the scholar was an assistant accountant named Chang. He and Koong-se had many interests in common and they were very much in love. However, as Koong-se was the daughter of a scholar and Chang was just seen as a poor assistant, a relationship between the two was forbidden. As a result, whenever the moon hung high in the sky, the couple would meet in secret.



One night, the scholar noticed that Koong-se was missing and sent his guard, Jian, to follow her. Upon hearing that she was with Chang, the scholar was furious.

He immediately fired Chang and ordered that a high fence should be built around his palace to keep the lovers apart. He locked Koong-se in her room and forbade anyone to visit her unless they had sought his permission. The scholar then arranged a marriage between Koong-se and a powerful duke. Koong-se was so lonely (having been locked in her room for weeks) that she reluctantly agreed to the marriage. Secretly, she wished that Chang would appear and take her away. Unfortunately, with no sign of Chang, it was agreed that Koong-se and the wealthy duke would be married on the day that the first blossom fell from the willow tree.

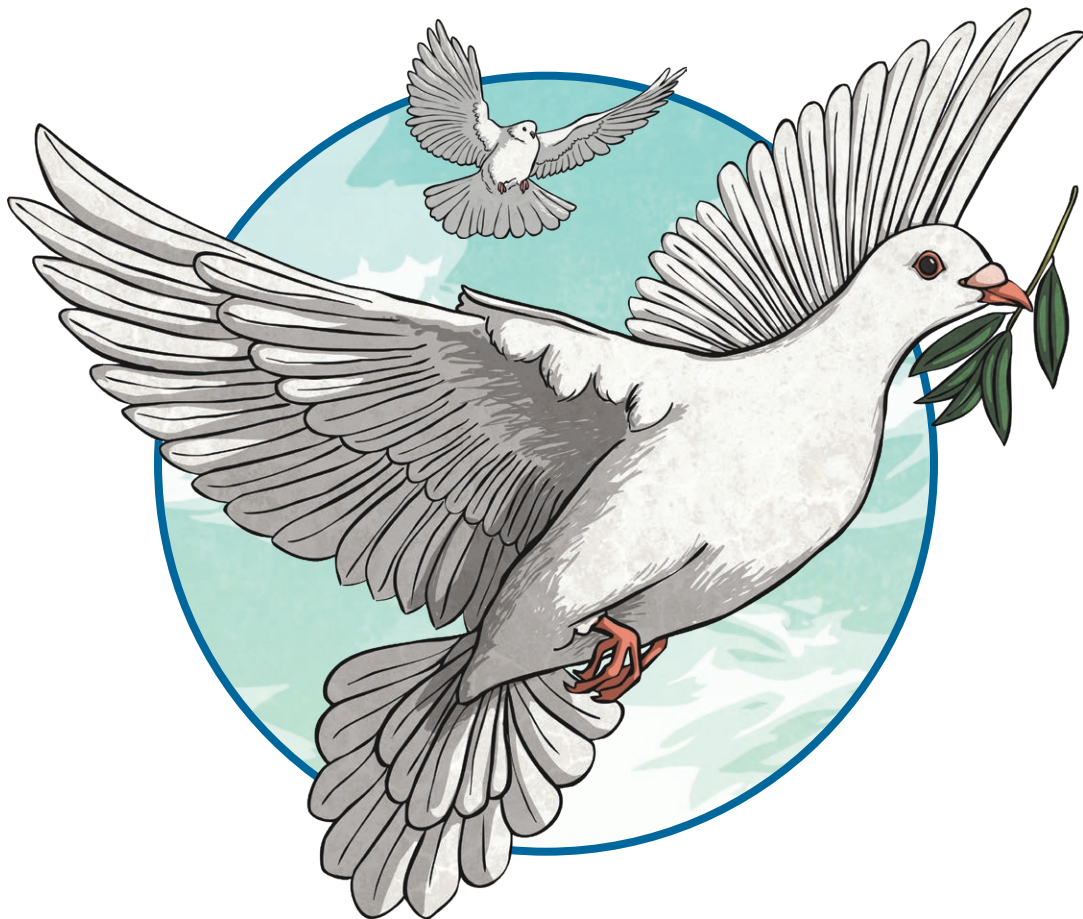
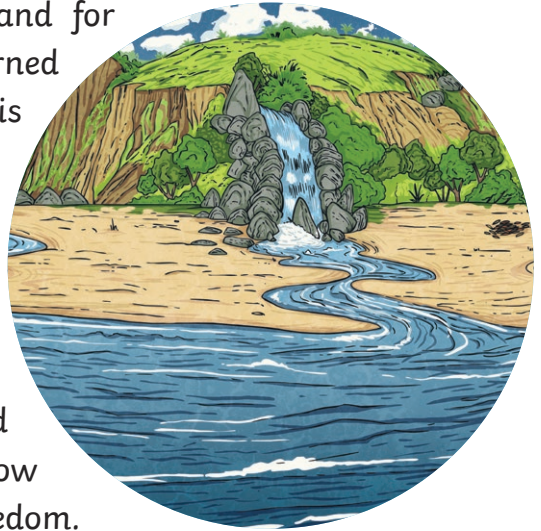
On the day of the wedding, Chang disguised himself as a servant and managed to slip past the palace guards. Koong-se was delighted to see him and threw her arms around him. Chang quickly explained his escape plan and the pair began to run down the palace corridors, through the garden (which was already filling with wedding guests) and out of the silver gates.



One of the arriving guests recognised the fleeing couple and raised the alarm that the bride was trying to escape. The scholar flew into a rage and chased after the couple but it was too late. Chang and Koong-se had already boarded the duke's ship. Aided by the persistent wind, they sailed towards the horizon. After several days, the pair came across a beautiful, secluded island which was filled with palm trees and colourful vegetation. They landed the ship and began to build a shelter.

The couple, safely together, lived on the island for many happy years until, one day, the duke learned of their refuge. Hungry for revenge, he sent his soldiers to the island. Outnumbered, the couple were swiftly captured.

From high in the heavens, the gods gazed upon the unhappy lovers. They had been watching them for a while and were so moved by their story that they transformed Koong-se and Chang into a pair of doves. The couple were now able to live the rest of their lives together in freedom.



Questions

1. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- ☐ Chang disguises himself as a servant.
- ☐ Koong-se and Chang are captured.
- ☐ Chang helps Koong-se to escape.
- ☐ Chang and Koong-se meet under the moon.

2. Who captured Koong-se and Chang on the island? Tick one.

- ☐ the duke
- ☐ the duke's soldiers
- ☐ the scholar
- ☐ the gods

3. How did Koong-se and Chang get to the island?

4. Look at the paragraph beginning: **One of the arriving guests...**

Find and copy one word which means 'on its own'.

5. Who alerted the scholar to the fact that Koong-se was escaping?

6. Compare Koong-se and Chang at the beginning of the story to the end of the story.

7. Do you think that this story has a happy ending? Explain your answer.

8. **He locked Koong-se in her room and forbade anyone to visit her unless they had sought his permission.**

Do you think that the way the scholar reacted was fair? Explain your answer.

Answers

1. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- 2** Chang disguises himself as a servant.
- 4** Koong-se and Chang are captured.
- 3** Chang helps Koong-se to escape.
- 1** Chang and Koong-se meet under the moon.

2. Who captured Koong-se and Chang on the island? Tick one.

- ☐ the duke
- ☒ **the duke's soldiers**
- ☐ the scholar
- ☐ the gods

3. How did Koong-se and Chang get to the island?

Koong-se and Chang got the island using the duke's ship.

4. Look at the paragraph beginning: **One of the arriving guests...**

Find and copy one word which means 'on its own'.

secluded

5. Who alerted the scholar to the fact that Koong-se was escaping?

One of the guests alerted the scholar that Koong-se was escaping.

6. Compare Koong-se and Chang at the beginning of the story to the end of the story.

Pupils' own responses provided that a reasonable comparison is made, such as: At the beginning of the story, Koong-se and Chang can only meet in secret and nobody knows about their relationship. At the end of the story, they can spend the rest of their lives together but they are now doves instead of humans.

7. Do you think that this story has a happy ending? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that this story does have a happy ending because Koong-se and Chang do not remain captured and they are free to live the rest of their lives together.

8. **He locked Koong-se in her room and forbade anyone to visit her unless they had sought his permission.**

Do you think that the way the scholar reacted was fair? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I do not think that the scholar was fair to lock Koong-se in her room because all that she had done was go to see Chang. Chang wasn't a bad person; the scholar just didn't like him.