

# The Dragon and the Pearl

Chinese folk tale

Social justice / climate change / inequality

**Bible Passages:**

- Leviticus 23:22
- Deuteronomy 15:11 or 26:6-9
- Proverbs 22:9
- Isaiah 58:7-11
- Matthew 25:35-37
- Luke 4:17-19 or 6:38
- James 2:16

**Additional materials:**

- Large white marble / pearl
- 2 small black circles, 1 large black circle
- ‘broken’ heart



Words	Actions (storyteller’s perspective)
This is a Chinese folk tale. There was once a greedy emperor. He lived in luxury while the people had nothing.	Place 1 disc at 3 o’clock, 1 at 1 o’clock, and 5 at 7-9 o’clock Add person with cloak at 3 o’clock Add 5 people at left, shortest figure at 9 o’clock.
The soil was bare and the people had no food.	Place 3 brown strips in a row at 12 o’clock with gap at right
One day, a boy found a field with lush green plants. He took some home for his family to eat. Every time he cut them down, they grew straight back.	Walk boy to field. Add extra brown strip and 3 green leaves. Walk boy to village with 2 leaves. Tap leaves by nearest villager then remove. Add 2 new leaves. Repeat.
“I will take these wonderful plants home!” thought the boy, but when he dug into the ground he found a pearl. He took the pearl home and hid it in a sack of rice.	Walk boy to field and tap at soil. Place pearl on soil. Walk boy and pearl to village. Hide pearl under cream square.
The next day, the field had died, but the rice sack was overflowing! There was enough to feed the whole village	Remove leaves from field. ‘Sprinkle’ with fingers over rice sack. Bring each villager to rice sack and back.
The greedy emperor heard about the wonderful pearl and came to take it.	Indicate emperor, then make snatching movement above pearl.
“I must hide the pearl,” thought the boy, so he swallowed it.	Tap pearl on head of boy, then remove it.
The boy ... became ... a mighty ... dragon ...  and chased the emperor away.	Remove boy and construct dragon starting with tail by village, spreading across circle.  Remove emperor.
The dragon protected the whole land and the people lived well.	Add green leaves to all brown strips.

# Building the Dragon

Have the parts for the dragon set out ready:

- three 'tulip & mango sandwiches' (see right)
- a pile of yellow circles (10 in this example)
- a pile of mango slices (8 in this example)
- a pile for the face (from the bottom)
  - 2 small black circles
  - 2 yellow circles
  - 3 red teardrops in a tulip shape
  - 2 sides of broken heart
  - large black circle



1  
Place a 'tulip and mango sandwich' near where the boy was standing.



2  
Form tail with yellow circles and mango spikes.  
Note that first circle does not have a spike.



3  
Form main body with more circles. Body should form an S shape.



4  
Finish body. Last circle does not have a spike.  
Leave gap for head



5  
Add two more 'tulip and mango sandwiches' at 4 o'clock and 8 o'clock around where eyes will be.

6  
Add large black circle level with emperor and two sides of broken heart for teeth above and below.



7  
Add 3 teardrops in tulip arrangement for beard.



8  
Add 2 yellow circles just touching for eyes.



9  
Add black pupils looking at emperor.  
Finished dragon

