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M I D - A U T U M N F E S T I V A L

The Legend of Chang'e

嫦 娥 奔 月



Moon Festival Reading & Activity Pack

Grades K-5

Print & Go

No-prep

Story · Comprehension · Vocabulary · Craft · Coloring

Your guide: Yaopu, the little lantern friend

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Mid-Autumn Festival & the Legend of Chang'e

Grade band: K–5 (passage at two levels) · **Time:** 45–60 min · **Prep:** none, print & go

ELA · reading

Social studies

Art

Learning objectives — students will be able to:

- Retell the Chang'e story in the correct order (beginning → middle → end).
- Explain why the full moon, mooncakes, and reunion (团圆 tuányuán) belong together.
- Recognize and pronounce key names in pinyin: Hòu Yì, Cháng'é, Yù Tù.
- Make a personal connection: who do they want to be together with?

Suggested flow

1. **Hook (5 min):** "There is a woman who has lived alone on the moon for a thousand years. Want to know how she got there?"
2. **Read (15 min):** Read the passage aloud, or have students read in pairs.
3. **Check (10 min):** Comprehension questions + vocabulary.
4. **Make (20 min):** Choose one craft (rabbit lantern or mooncake design).
5. **Share (5–10 min):** "Mid-Autumn is about reunion. Who would you want to look at the moon with?"

Background for the teacher: The Mid-Autumn Festival (中秋节 Zhōngqiū Jié) falls on the 15th day of the 8th lunar month, when the moon is roundest and brightest. The round moon and round mooncake both stand for **reunion** — families coming back together, the way the moon comes back to full. It is second only to Lunar New Year in importance.

Reading passage — The Legend of Chang'e

★ Level A (Grades 3–5)

Long ago, **ten suns** rose into the sky at the same time. The rivers dried up, the crops burned, and the people cried out for help.

A great archer named **Hou Yi (后羿)** climbed the tallest mountain, drew his enormous bow, and shot down nine of the ten suns — leaving the single sun we still see today.

To reward him, the Queen Mother of the West gave Hou Yi one pill: the **elixir of immortality**. Whoever drank it would rise into heaven and live forever. But Hou Yi loved his wife, **Chang'e (嫦娥)**, more than he wanted to live forever without her. So he gave her the elixir to keep safe.

One day, while Hou Yi was away hunting, a greedy apprentice broke into their home and demanded the elixir. Chang'e refused. With no other way to keep it from him, she did the only thing she could — she swallowed the pill herself.

At once her body grew light. Her feet lifted off the floor. She floated past the window, past the rooftops, up and up into the autumn night — until she came to rest on the **moon**: the place closest to the people she loved, and the farthest away.

When Hou Yi came home and learned what had happened, he set out her favorite fruits and cakes under the full moon. People everywhere copied him. That is how sharing round **mooncakes** under the moon became the heart of the Mid-Autumn Festival — a night for **reunion (团圆)**. And Chang'e is not all alone: beside her lives the **Jade Rabbit (玉兔)**, pounding herbs for the elixir of life.

🌙 Level B (Grades K–2)

Long ago, **ten suns** burned the sky. It was too hot. A hero named **Hou Yi** shot down nine suns and left **one** for us.

As a thank-you he got a **magic pill** that could take you to the sky forever. He gave it to his wife, **Chang'e**, to keep safe. One day a bad man tried to steal it. To keep it safe, Chang'e swallowed it — and floated up, up, up to the **moon**.

Hou Yi missed her. He put out round cakes under the full moon. Now families eat round **mooncakes** and look at the moon together. On the moon, Chang'e has a friend: a little **Jade Rabbit**.

Comprehension questions

Remember (find it in the story)

1. How many suns were in the sky at the start? _____
2. Who shot down the extra suns? _____
3. What was the special pill called? _____
4. Where did Chang'e go after she swallowed the pill? _____
5. Who lives on the moon with Chang'e? _____

Think (use your own words)

6. Why did Hou Yi give the elixir to Chang'e instead of drinking it himself?
7. Why did Chang'e swallow the pill? Was there another choice?
8. The moon is "the place closest to the people she loved, and the farthest away." What do you think that means?
9. Why is a *round* mooncake a good symbol for *reunion* (being together)?
10. If you could send one thing up to the moon for someone you love, what would it be — and why?

Vocabulary — say it like a native

English	Hanzi	Pinyin	Say it like
Mid-Autumn Festival	中秋节	Zhōngqiū Jié	jong-cho jyeh
moon	月亮	yuèliang	yweh-lyang
mooncake	月饼	yuèbǐng	yweh-bing
reunion / together	团圆	tuányuán	twan-ywen
Chang'e	嫦娥	Cháng'é	chahng-uh
Hou Yi	后羿	Hòu Yì	ho-ee
jade rabbit	玉兔	Yù Tù	yoo-too

Culture note — why mooncakes? why reunion?

The Mid-Autumn Festival happens when the moon is the **roundest and brightest** of the whole year. In Chinese, the word for "round" (圆 yuán) is also part of the word for "reunion" (团圆 tuányuán). So the round moon, the round mooncake, and families coming **back together** all share one idea: *completeness*.

No matter how far apart family members are, they can all look up at the **same moon** on the same night — and feel close. That is the quiet, beautiful heart of this festival.

Craft activities



Craft 1 — Jade Rabbit paper lantern

Color the rabbit, cut along the solid lines (ask an adult for the first cut), fold on the dotted line, roll into a tube and tape, add a paper handle on top. Hang it up and let the moon glow!



Craft 2 — Design your own mooncake

Mooncakes have beautiful pressed patterns on top — flowers, the moon, or lucky words. On the coloring page, design your own pattern. What would *your* mooncake say?



Write & draw

"If I lived on the moon, I would want _____ to visit me, because _____."

COLORING PAGE

Chang'e flies to the moon



COLORING PAGE

The Jade Rabbit 玉兔



Answer key

1. Ten. 2. Hou Yi. 3. The elixir of immortality (a magic pill). 4. The moon. 5. The Jade Rabbit (and the woodcutter Wu Gang).

6–10: Open responses — accept any answer the student can support from the story. Sample for #8: the moon is high where everyone can see it (close), but no one can reach her there (far).

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