

EPIC EXPLAINER - GRADES K-5

The Ramayana: India's Great Epic

The story in a nutshell

The Ramayana (rah-MAH-yah-nah) is one of the oldest stories in the world. Kids in India have grown up hearing it for thousands of years. It is about Prince Rama (RAH-mah), who keeps a promise even though it costs him his throne. He spends fourteen years in the forest. When the demon king Ravana (rah-VAH-nah) kidnaps his wife Sita (SEE-tah), Rama and his friend Hanuman (HAH-nuh-mahn), the monkey warrior, cross the ocean to bring her home. It is a story about promises, bravery, friendship, and good winning over evil.

"A promise is a promise, even when it is hard to keep. And a true friend shows up when you need them."

Key chapters to explore

1. How the epic was written: the sage Valmiki
2. A prince's promise: Rama goes into exile
3. Sita is kidnapped by Ravana
4. Hanuman's giant leap to Lanka
5. Building the bridge to Lanka
6. The great battle: good defeats evil
7. Rama returns home to Ayodhya

Talk about it

1. Rama gave up being king to keep a promise. What would you have done?
2. How does Hanuman show he is a good friend? Give an example from the story.
3. What lesson does this story teach? Tell it in your own words.

Storyboard it!

Retell the Ramayana in 7 pictures, one for each chapter above. Write one sentence under each picture. Then tell the whole epic to a partner using only your drawings.

Teacher tip: pairs well with lessons on sequencing, character traits, and world cultures.



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Hanuman Coloring Page

Coloring page: Hanuman's giant leap!

