



Big stories, fewer barriers.



# KING MIDAS

Teaching and Learning Resources

## Summary

King Midas had a beautiful daughter and more money than he could ever spend. He owned the most beautiful rose garden in the Kingdom, but he was a very selfish and materialistic King and always wanted more!

When Midas found a satyr in his garden, he was angry and upset. Satyrs were known for destroying gardens. King Midas went to meet the satyr. After a short conversation, he found out that the satyr was best friends with a god called Dionysus. Dionysus was a very powerful God. Midas decided to look after him.

When Midas took the satyr back to Dionysus, Dionysus gave him one wish as a reward. Midas wished that everything he touched would turn to gold. But after his wish came true, King Midas quickly learnt that he had made a mistake.

He went back to Dionysus and begged him to undo the wish. Dionysus only did this when Midas accepted that love is more important than money or gold.

## Context

King Midas is a story from Greek mythology. Greek mythology is a group of legends about gods, heroes and monsters. Many stories have been told using Greek mythology as their inspiration. It was believed that these stories taught people important life lessons. King Midas taught lessons about greed and has been rewritten by several different authors, all with slightly different endings.

### Glossary

satyr

A creature that is half man and half goat. The top half is man, and the bottom half is goat.

## 1. Pre Read Discussion

**Activity 1:** Research Greek mythology. Have you heard of any other Greek mythology stories before?

**Activity 2:** Draw your own Greek mythology creature.

Mythological creatures are often half human and half animal - get creative and see what you can come up with.

Readers could also be given the challenge to draw the top or bottom half of a creature and then these could be mixed together to make different mythological creatures.

## 2. Questions Based on the Book Cover

### Activity 1: Front Cover Analysis

Label the book cover, looking for:

- Its main features.
- Potential main themes.
- Genre clues.
- Inferences about the text.

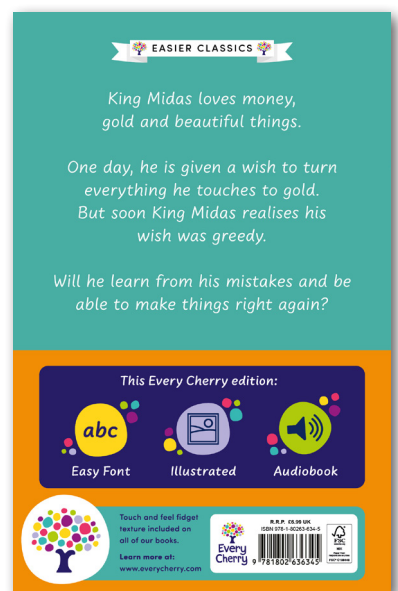
### Discussion Questions:

- What does the title tell us about the story?
- Who is the main character and what do you think they will be like?
- Who wrote the book?
- What do you notice about one of the characters on the front cover?

### Activity 2: Back Cover Analysis

Look at the blurb on the back of the book:

- What have you learnt already about the story?
- What genre do you think the book is? Why do you think this?
- What mistake do you think King Midas made?



**Challenge:** Can you think of two predictions for the story? Your predictions can be presented verbally, written, drawn or painted.

## **Greed**

King Midas had lots of money, more than he could ever use. But when he was given a wish from Dionysus, Midas asked for everything he touched to turn to gold. Dionysus checked that Midas was sure he wanted this wish, which King Midas said he was. But Midas soon realised that his wish wasn't the best idea, when his food, bed and daughter turned to gold. Midas returned to Dionysus to beg him to undo the wish. Midas realises that love is more important than money and gold.

## **Selfishness**

Midas was very greedy and wanted all the money and gold that he could have. After being made to judge a music contest, Midas did not choose the best musician. Instead, he chose the musician that didn't make him think about his greedy choice to turn everything to gold. He chose the winner based on how he felt instead of their talent. Midas was always thinking of himself and how he could be happier, instead of others.

## **Consequences of Our Actions**

King Midas makes very bad choices within the story, it takes him a while to understand that his poor choices have consequences. Initially, Midas wished that everything he touched turned to gold. He became even richer, but he quickly learnt that his food, bed and daughter would also turn to gold. Midas still didn't learn his lesson. He judged a music competition, choosing the winner based on his selfishness, not on talent alone. He was then punished by being given donkey ears! Despite Midas's mistakes, he still struggled to understand that these had bad consequences.

**Challenge:** Think about a time when you have been a bit greedy and wanted something you didn't need?

# Your Own Mythical Story

Using the information from the text, plan your own mythical story based on the themes of greed and selfishness.

Complete a word bank of key words to include in your story:


Draw a picture of your main character:

Plan a simple plot for your story that teaches people about the consequences of greed and selfishness:



**Challenge:** Can you create a character spotlight for Dionysus? How is Dionysus different or similar to King Midas?

- What was King Midas obsessed with?
- What did King Midas think the satyr was going to do?
- **Page 28** - Why did King Midas decide he had to be kind to the satyr? Was he thinking about the satyr or himself?
- How did King Midas show the satyr he was sorry and ask for forgiveness?
- **Page 60** - What tells you that Dionysus thought that Midas's wish wasn't a good idea?
- Make a list of all the things that King Midas turned into gold.
- **Page 71-74** - It says:  
**King Midas suddenly felt empty. He told himself it was because he was hungry.**  
What do you think this means? What else might be making him feel empty?
- **Page 86** - Look at the way the author describes what happened to King Midas's daughter. How do they want the reader to feel?
- Why did Dionysus grant King Midas a wish that became a curse?
- How did King Midas reverse the curse?
- What contest did King Midas have to judge and why?
- Why did King Midas choose Lord Pan as the winner?
- Why did Apollo punish him for his choice?
- Why did nobody listen to King Midas anymore?
- What lesson did King Midas learn?

If Dionysus knew King Midas had tied up Silenus, he would be **punished**.

Dionysus might even take away the king's money and expensive things!


'I'm sorry, Silenus. My servants should not have tied you up,' King Midas said. 'Please forgive me!'



**punished** - When someone is made to suffer because they have done something wrong.

King Midas touched the rose. Its soft petals turned to gold.

He realised something he hadn't expected. The flowers had all lost their smell. The sweet-scented garden was now dull and **lifeless**.



**lifeless** - Having no life.

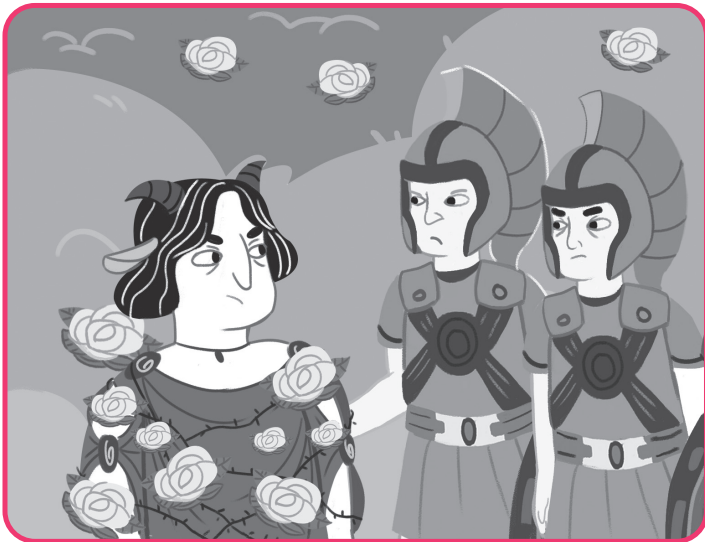
## Activities

**Activity 1:** Create story map or story mountain for the story; verbally retell the story to a friend.

**Activity 2:** Design your own book cover for the story.

**Activity 3:** Create your own mythical tale to teach people how to be kind.

**Activity 4:** Draw or craft a picture of the inside of King Midas's castle. Use words from the text to help you imagine what it looked like.





*This Teaching and Learning Resource has been written by  
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