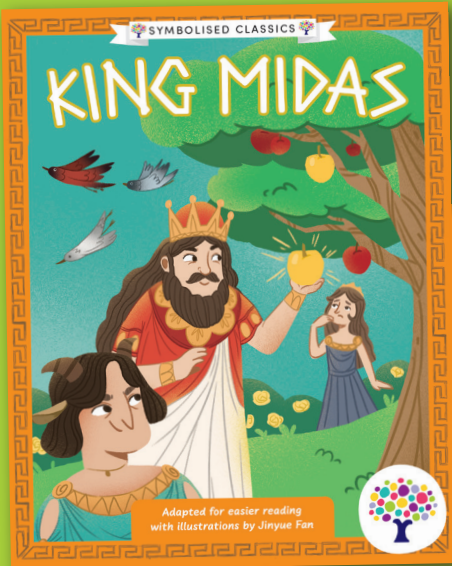




Big stories, fewer barriers.



SYMBOLISED CLASSICS

KING MIDAS

Teaching and Learning Resources

Summary

King Midas had a beautiful daughter and lots of money. But he 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 the satyr.

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 learned 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 stories about gods, heroes and monsters. 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.

Activity 1: Look at some images online of characters from Greek mythology. What do you think about them? Have you seen any characters like this in any films?

Activity 2: Draw your own Greek mythology creature. They often have creatures that are half human and half an 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.

Questions Based on the Book Cover

Activity 1: Front Cover Analysis

Label the front cover looking for:

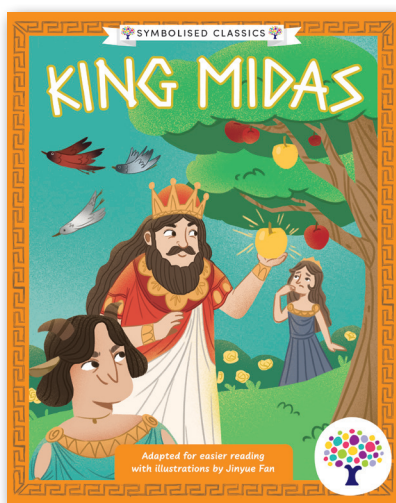
- Its main features.
- Potential main themes.

Discussion Questions:

- What does the title tell us about the story?
- Who are the main characters?
- Who wrote the book?

Activity 2: Back Cover Analysis

- What have you learnt already about the story?
- Do you like the look of this story? Give a reason for your answer.



Challenge: Can you guess that might happen in the story? Your guess can be presented verbally, 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?

Draw a picture of King Midas and stick it on the wall.

As a class, use symbols or words to describe King Midas. Stick them on, or around, your picture of King Midas.



Use words or symbols to describe:

- What King Midas looks like.
- His actions.
- His mistakes.
- What he learns.
- Key symbols / words to describe him.


Now look at your picture, do the words and symbols best describe King Midas?




Challenge: Can you do the same but for the god, Dionysus? How are these characters different?

- Page 12 - What did King Midas have lots of? What does this tell you about him?
- What is a satyr?
- Why did the servants tie up the satyr?
- What did King Midas do to say sorry to the satyr?
- What did King Midas wish for?
- Make a list of all the things that King Midas turned to gold.
- Was King Midas's wish a good idea? Give reasons for your answer.
- How did King Midas reverse the curse?
- What contest did King Midas have to judge?
- Why did King Midas choose Lord Pan as the winner?
- Why did Apollo give King Midas donkey ears?
- What lesson did King Midas learn?


1  
One morning, King Midas

 
put on his dressing gown.

   
He had one for each day of the week.

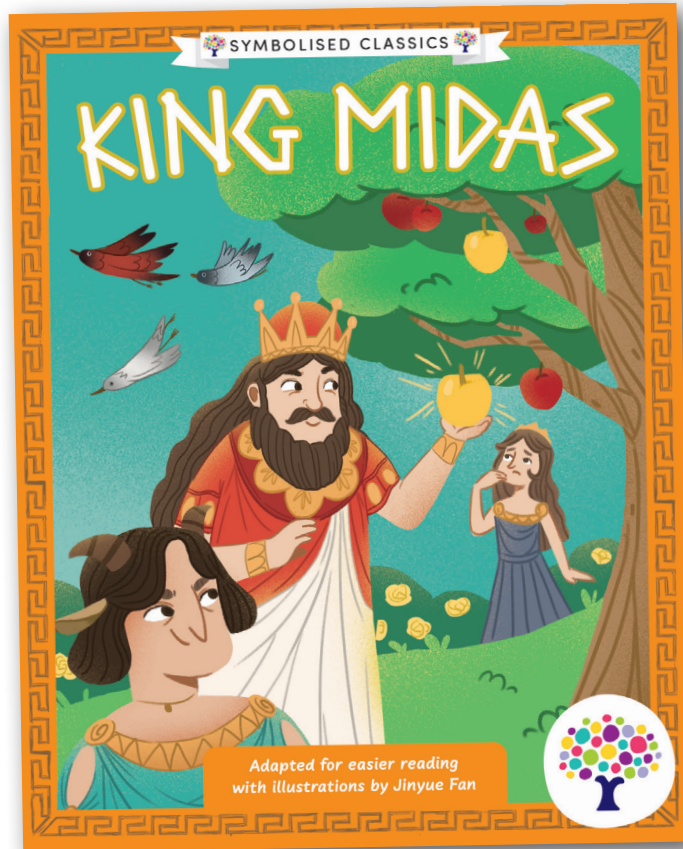
   
He wished he had one for

 
each day of the year.



Activities:

1. Create story map or story mountain for the story. Using your story map or mountain, verbally retell the story to a friend.
2. Design your own book cover for the story.
3. Create a piece of artwork of what you think King Midas's palace looked like.



*This Teaching and Learning Resource has been written by
Katie Corrigan as part of Every Cherry Publishing.*

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<https://www.everycherry.com/resources>*