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2023-1-IT02-KA220-ADULT-000159380



Working on DEMOCRACY



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Working on value: Democracy

Rewriting The Zanj Rebellion to emphasize the values of democracy is important because it highlights how political participation can foster equality and resolve conflict without resorting to violence.

Democracy ensures that all individuals, regardless of their social or economic status, have a voice in decision-making. In the historical context of the Zanj Rebellion, the Zanj were marginalized and lacked political power, which ultimately led to their violent uprising. If the Zanj had been able to participate in a democratic system, with the right to vote and elect representatives, they could have addressed their grievances through peaceful means, such as voting for reforms to improve their conditions. Democracy would have allowed them to advocate for better treatment and more equitable policies, reducing the likelihood of violent resistance.

Rewriting The Zanj Rebellion with implementing the democracy value makes the story more relevant to contemporary discussions about political rights, equality, and justice. By focusing on the importance of democracy, the rewritten story would show how political participation is essential for resolving systemic issues and avoiding uprisings. The rewritten story also could show how things might have changed if the uprising had taken place in a democratic context, by exercising the right to vote, which is very important for our society.

“The Zanj rebellion”

Long before African slaves were brought to North America, they incited a rebellion in the Middle East and clashed with an empire. The uprising began in 869 AD when Zanj slaves - an Arabic term used to describe East Africans - joined forces with an Arab revolutionary named Ali bin Muhammad and rebelled against the Abbasid caliphate. Spurred on by promises of land and freedom, the Zanj began conducting night raids into neighbouring towns to seize supplies and free fellow slaves.

What began as a humble revolt slowly turned into a full-scale revolution that lasted 15 years. Slaves, Bedouins and serfs all joined the rebels, who at their peak supposedly numbered over 500,000. These revolutionaries even amassed a navy and controlled up to six fortified cities in present-day Iraq. The Zanj rebellion would finally come to an end in the early 1880s after the Abbasid army mobilised and captured the rebel capital. Ali bin Muhammad was killed in the battle, but many of the Zanj were spared and were even invited to join the Abbasid army.



Working on value: Democracy

In this story, the value of democracy is highlighted and how it affects the life . On the one hand, there is the devoted wife who loves and respect the husband who becomes sick because he is away from his country but his wife sacrifices her love and happiness for his happiness and well being, accepting this way the differences and other aspects of people. Democracy in this story prevails. This form empowers the people to exercise control and ensure the protection of natural rights and civil liberties.

“The princess who became an almond tree”

Once upon a time there was a princess called Phyllis who once fell in love with a young man from Athens, Demophon, who was the son of the hero Theseus. The two young met when the young Demophon's ship was returning from Troy. They got married but after a while the young Athenian became sick because he was missing his home town. The enamored princess, unable to see him sad, she let him go back believing that if he really loved her he would come back and then he would truly be hers.

So it happened and the enamored Phyllis was left alone to wait for her chosen one for years, until at last she withered and died of her grief. But the gods of Olympus, who knew her story, transformed her into a tree so that she could wait for more years for her lover. So the in love girl did not die but became the tree that was to become a symbol of hope: the Almond tree. After many years, one winter Demophon returned to Thrace and found his beloved and faithful wife, not surrounded by suitors but a dry tree without leaves in the middle of the frozen landscape. Desperate and filled with remorse, Demophon embraced her and then she was showered with flowers in the middle of winter.



Working on value: Democracy

This story could be rewritten to highlight trust, sharing, kindness and equality and democracy. Everyone has unique abilities and roles that contribute to the success of a group. Disrupting these roles without understanding their importance can lead to failure. Envy and dissatisfaction can disturb harmony and cause unnecessary conflict.

Listening to external opinions without critical thought can lead to decisions that harm a well-functioning system. The story emphasizes the value of democracy and equality in teamwork and the mutual respect.

“The mouse, the bird and the sausage”

Once upon a time, a mouse, a bird and a sausage lived together in their house. They all maintained it together, since they were very beloved, and peace and happiness reigned in their little house, since everyone did his job.

The bird's job was to fly to the forest every day and bring home wood. The mouse had to carry water from the well, light the fire and prepare the table. And the sausage had taken over the cooking. But in this world, anyone who has a good time with what they have, doesn't value it and wants to try something different. So one day the little bird happened to meet another bird in the forest, who taunted him about what a nice life he had and mocked him for working hard in the forest while his other two friends were enjoying the warmth of the house.

- You are very silly, to get so tired and carry the wood from the forest. The other two are taking advantage of you because they do easy jobs around the house, she told him.

When the little mouse lighted the fire and drew water from the well, she sat in the living room until the time she had to prepare the table. And the sausage, who was the cooker, only had to stand near the pot to watch the food being cooked. When it was time for them to dine, the sausage would go into the pot, give it a little twirl among the vegetables, and so the food would become delicious and ready for them to enjoy. Then came the little bird from the wood forest. They all sat at the table to eat and then went to their beds where they slept contentedly until the next morning. They lived a truly beautiful life! But the next day, because he believed what his friend told him, the little bird refused to go to the forest to carry wood.

He had become the servant of others for a long time, he said. It's time things to change, for everyone to do a different job for a change.

The mouse and the sausage tried to convince him, but the bird was unconvinced. Being the head of the house, he told them they should at least make an effort. So they cast lots.

The sausage took on the duty of going to the forest for wood, the little mouse to cook and the little bird to draw water from the well, light the fire and set the table.

But what was the result? The sausage started for the forest for wood. The little bird light a fire and the little mouse put the food pot on the fire. Then they both waited for the sausage to come home, with the wood for the next day. But the sausage was taking too long to appear. The other two were worried. They thought something bad was going to happen. That's why the little bird flew into the forest to see what happened to their companion.

A little beyond their little house, he met a dog. The dog had seen the sausage, had grabbed it and was eating the unhappy sausage. The little bird complained to the dog about his behavior, but nothing came of it. The dog claimed it was his right to eat the sausage since he found it on the street and was hungry!

Being sad the little bird gathered his wood alone, loaded it and took it home where he told the mouse everything he saw and heard. They were both very sad, but decided to stay together and do the best they could. And so the little bird prepared the table, while the little mouse began to cook the food.

When it was time for them to eat, the little mouse jumped into the pot, as the sausage used to do, to stir and mix the vegetables. But before he could reach the middle of the boiling juice, he was left hairless and skinless, and at last the unfortunate mouse was burned and died. When the little bird wanted to eat, he could not find the cook, the mouse, anywhere. He left the wood on the floor and looked here and there, but the mouse had disappeared.

Because he had carelessly left the wood on the floor, it caught fire and soon the whole house was on fire. The little bird ran to fetch water from the well to put out the fire. But the bucket slipped from him and fell into the well, pulling the little bird in as well. He tried to get out, but in vain! The little bird drowned in the water of the well.





Working on value: Democracy

This story emphasizes democracy, responsibility, and collaboration to create a more functional society. Democracy, promotes social cohesion, and addresses societal challenges. It empowers individuals to have a voice in shaping their communities and ensures accountability.

“A friend”

Once upon a time, there lived two brothers. Garifalia and Dimitris. These two brothers seemed at a glance to be twins. Unfortunately, they had no friends at all because everyone thought they were crazy because of their imagination. They were 8 years old and I don't know any other kids who weren't so, so adventurous. Well, they liked space very much and decided one day to go on a daring trip. They took the rocket of their uncle who was an astronaut, and started by leaving a letter to their parents. The letter read:

Dear parents,

Don't worry at all if you can't find us. We cannot tell you now where we have been but as soon as we return we will describe everything in detail. See you in a few months.

With love, your children,

Garifalia and Dimitris

As soon as their parents read this letter, they were very sad and very anxious. But they knew that their children would survive because of their imagination and their love of adventure. How could they imagine that their own children were moving away from the vast (for them) land. After a while, the children almost reached space. They were so happy that their uncle showed them how it works.

In fact, they were proud that he trusted them and left them alone to deal with a spaceship! Once they made a very smooth landing, they were surprised to see a huge stone with a rather large hole. They stepped forward and were left speechless at what they saw. Purple, tiny and full of cute little creatures poked their little heads out full of curiosity and a little fear. Garifalia and Dimitris got even closer.

Then, much to their surprise the purple strange creatures spoke! And that's not all, they also spoke Greek! The language of the two children! So they said to them:

- You are very good children, we feel it!
- Thank you very much! They answer those with one mouth.

Then, deep in the thicket, they see another green alien this time, alone. They go discreetly and approach him.

- You little, funny alien! What are you doing here alone? Let's play outside together!
- The other aliens don't want me to play and talk with them. I better stay here.
- But why wouldn't they want you? You are very good.
- I'm green...
- And so?
- I'm different...
- Even better because you will stand out!
- They don't see it that way.
- We are very sorry. Do you want to be our friend?
- Do you really say that?
- Of course, we don't have any friends either.
- Perfect! What is your name?
- Garifalia and Dimitris. You?
- I don't have a name...
- It's okay. From today, you will be called Bobbi!
- Perfect name, thanks!
- Nice Bobbi alien!

So with those words, they explored the planet, took pictures and set off for their home on Earth

After months, the children had gone to their parents, introduced them to Bobbi, and described everything to them in every detail, as they had been promised in the letter. But one day, as soon as they woke up, they didn't find Bobbi in his well-made, green bed. They worried. Then they saw a letter. It was from Bobbi and said the following:

My dear friends, I'm sorry I didn't say goodbye to you. Don't worry, I'll be back in a few days. I have gone into space to see if the rest of the aliens have survived. If you want to meet me I have a machine on your uncle's spaceship. You must press the green button to appear in front of me and the red button to go back home. I have one too.

Your only friend, Bobbi

Once they read it, they were relieved. After telling their parents, they went and found him. Finally, the rest of the aliens had disappeared and Bobbi was very lucky that his friends had taken him from there. They returned to earth and lived forever alone.



Working on value: Democracy

This story emphasizes the value of democracy. It is very important to show the democracy, showing, that animals find a solution to their problems independently and democratically and stand together.

Author: Orally transmitted

“The Town Musicians of Bremen”

Once upon a time, a miller had a donkey that tirelessly carried the sacks. When the donkey grew old and could no longer do the work, the miller wanted to take him away. So the donkey ran away and decided to go to Bremen to earn his living as a town musician. After a short time, he saw a hunting dog on the side of the road, gasping for breath. The donkey asked what was wrong. The dog said that he had become too old for hunting, so his master wanted to beat him to death. He had run away, but didn't know what to do now. The donkey said: "I'm going to Bremen to become a town musician. Come with me, I'll play the lute and you beat the timpani." The dog agreed and went with him.

Soon afterwards, they saw a cat sitting sadly by the road. The cat said she was too old to catch mice, so her wife wanted to drown her. Then she ran away, but didn't know what to do. "Go with us to Bremen," said the donkey, "you know how to play night music, you can become a town musician there." The cat went with them and then they passed a farmyard gate, where a cockerel was sitting and shouting at the top of his voice. When asked what was wrong with him, the rooster said that he should get into the soup, so he was screaming as long as he could. "Better move away with us to Bremen. You'll find something better than death anywhere. You have a good voice, let's make music together," said the donkey. It was still a long way to Bremen, so they decided to spend the night in the forest. As the cockerel flew up a tree, he spotted a light in the distance. The four journeymen went to look and came across a lit house. The donkey looked through the window and saw a lavishly laid table with a gang of robbers sitting round it.

The animals decided to chase the robbers out of the house. To do this, the donkey stood with his front feet on the windowsill, the dog climbed on the donkey's back, the cat on the dog and the rooster on the cat. They all started their music at once: the donkey brayed, the dog barked, the cat meowed and the cockerel crowed. Then they burst through the window into the parlour so that the panes rattled. The robbers jumped at the terrible screaming, thought a ghost was coming in and fled into the forest. Now the four musicians could eat their fill to their hearts' content. Then they switched off the light and went to sleep. The donkey lay down on the dung heap, the dog by the door, the cat by the warm stove and the cockerel on the rooster's beam.

When the robbers saw from a distance that the house was dark, the captain sent one of them to check. The robber found everything quiet and went to the stove to light the fire. He thought the cat's glowing eyes were coals, so he put a match to them. The cat hissed and struck his face with its claws. The robber was frightened and ran out. At the door, the dog bit his leg, and as he ran across the yard past the dung heap, the donkey gave him a kick. The robber ran as fast as he could to his captain and said, "There's a witch in the house, she hissed at me and scratched my face. There's a man at the door with a knife who stabbed me in the leg. In the courtyard, a black monster beat me with a wooden club. And the judge shouted from the roof: 'Bring me the rascal! So I got away.'" From then on, the robbers never dared to come to the house again. But the four musicians liked it so much that they stayed there.



Working on value: Democracy

To work on democracy, this could be the ideal story. Being a well-known children's story, it explores the king and how he thinks he is perceived by the people he trusts and by his subordinates.

Exploring the different characters and the organisation of society, distinguishing the characteristics of a democracy, it can be interesting to explore the choice of leader in a society, how they should behave and what the basis of a dignified, just and democratic society is.

Hans Christian Andersen

“The Emperor’s New Clothes”



Once upon a time, there was an emperor who was obsessed with clothes. He spent all his money on the finest garments, and he always wanted to wear something new and impressive. The emperor’s main concern was to look good, so much so that he didn’t care much about his people or his kingdom.

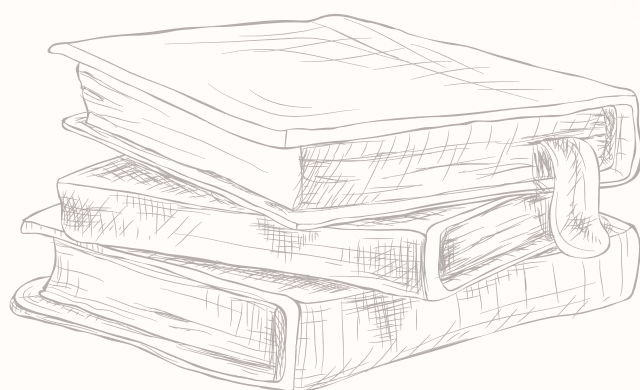
One day, two swindlers came to the emperor’s city. They claimed to be master weavers and said they could make the most beautiful clothes imaginable. But these clothes were special—they were invisible to anyone who was foolish or unfit for their position. The emperor, intrigued by the idea of having such a magical outfit, decided to hire them.

The weavers set up their looms and pretended to work. They asked for the finest silk and gold thread, which they secretly kept for themselves, and continued to “weave” the invisible cloth. The emperor sent his most trusted ministers to check on the progress. When they arrived, the ministers saw nothing at all. But, not wanting to seem foolish or incompetent, they praised the fabric and told the emperor how magnificent it looked.

Soon, the emperor himself went to see the clothes. Like his ministers, he saw nothing, but he didn’t want to admit it. Instead, he exclaimed how wonderful the clothes were. The whole city buzzed with excitement about the emperor’s new outfit, though no one had actually seen it.

Finally, the day came for the emperor to show off his new clothes. The weavers helped him put on his “outfit,” and the emperor marched through the streets in a grand parade, proudly displaying his invisible clothes. The people, not wanting to seem foolish, all pretended to admire his new outfit, cheering and applauding.

But then, a small child in the crowd spoke up. “The emperor isn’t wearing any clothes!” the child exclaimed. Slowly, the crowd began to murmur, and soon everyone realised the truth—the emperor was indeed wearing nothing at all. The emperor, realising he had been tricked, blushed with embarrassment. But he continued the parade, trying to maintain his dignity, even though everyone now knew the truth.





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