

LANGUAGE ARTS: HANDOUT A2

Cloze handout for *The Magical Monkey King: Mischief in Heaven* retold by Ji-Li Jiang

Year after year, Magnificent Monkey King and his monkey clan enjoyed carefree lives in the Cave of the Water Curtain. They spent their days in perfect happiness, _____ from vines and trees, eating fruits, and playing all sorts of monkey games. It now seemed that they would be _____ forever in their new home.

But one day, something _____. It was during a birthday party for the king. All the monkeys had brought him _____ flowers and _____ fruits—especially _____, his favorite. Sitting on his _____ throne, surrounded by his beloved monkeys, Monkey should have had the happiest day of his life. _____, in the middle of the celebration, he burst into _____.

The monkeys were _____. They had never seen their king _____ before. And now he was crying!

It was the _____ monkey who stood up and said, “What is wrong?”

Monkey wiped away his _____. “Dear monkeys, we are happy today, but with each birthday we grow older and older. I just _____ that one day we shall all die, and our _____ shall end.” He cried even harder.

The monkeys thought about what he had said. They _____ their heads and started to cry, too.

Grandmother Monkey stood up. “Magnificent King,” she said, “if that is what is making you _____, I have an idea. I learned from my grandmother, who learned from her _____, that there are three types of beings who never die. Why don’t you go and learn _____ secrets?”

Monkey jumped up on his throne. “Who are these three types of _____?”

“First are the _____. They are the wise teachers. They study the secret of life and learn to stay young forever. Second are the _____, like Jade Emperor, who know the secret of life and so can live forever. Finally there are the Buddhas, such as the great Buddha and Goddess Guanyin. Since they have achieved complete _____, they *live* the secret of life.”

Monkey was so excited that he did a _____ in the air. "What a brilliant idea, Grandmother," he said. "I will seek out a _____ and learn the secret of living forever. Then I'll come back and _____ it to all of you so we can enjoy our lives together _____."

Monkey was so enthusiastic that he said his goodbyes _____. Before an hour had passed, he started off in search of a sage who could teach him the secret of _____ life.

Monkey traveled hundreds of leagues to countless far-off lands. He met with people of all sorts. He even learned to dress and speak like them, but in all of his travels he _____ that most people were more interested in money and fame than in the _____ of life. Even after nine years of searching, not a single worthy _____ did he find. He was beginning to think he would never find one.

Then, one day, he was walking in a deep, dark forest far from the Mountain of Flowers and Fruits. Here the leaves were so _____ that no sunlight came through. A peaceful silence filled the air.

In the middle of this forest he heard a man singing:

I chase no glory, I pursue no coin.
Fame and wealth are passing clouds to me.
A simple life prolongs my days.
And those I meet upon my way
Are sages one and all,
Are sages one and all.

"At last!" cried Monkey. "I have found a _____!" He ran toward the sound of the voice.

A man was cutting branches from the _____.

"Reverend sage," Monkey cried, bowing deeply. "Consider me your student."

At these words the woodcutter looked up, _____, and dropped his axe. "But I am not a _____, sir," he said. "I'm just a humble woodcutter. You mustn't bow to me.

"If you are not a sage, why did you sing that song?" _____ Monkey.

The _____ looked alarmed. "I – I didn't intend to mislead anyone," he _____ . "That song was taught to me by a great sage who lives over the hills from here."

"What is his name?"

“Master Subhodi.”

Monkey _____. “Well, well. Then you must show me where this sage lives.” The woodcutter, who was a little frightened of Monkey, led the way along a path in the woods. It grew darker and darker. When it grew too dark to see, the _____ stopped. “I can go no _____,” he said. “Follow this path over nine hills and nine streams, and you will come to Master Subhodi’s cave.”

The forest was _____-black, but Monkey was _____. His bright eyes lit the way for him. Monkey followed the path up the hills and across the streams, just as the woodcutter told him. After a day of _____, the forest grew a little less dark, and by the second day it was lighter still. At last Monkey came to a cave with huge stone doors. He tried them, but they were _____.

As Monkey King stood there, a _____ sensation came over him. He felt that something _____ was about to happen. Nervously, he jumped into a tree. The whole world grew still. The only sound Monkey heard was the beating of his own _____.

Then he heard a _____. Crreeeaak! Slowly, very _____, the great stone _____ began to swing open.

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