



PARTICIPATORY STORIES

For a little bit of spilt milk (5 – 6 age group)

Learning objectives

This story is made up of 3 sheets that get more complex narratively as the children progress. Going from one level (sheet) to the next and working in small groups, the children will enrich the story of “For a little bit of spilt milk” with adjectives, verbs and finally creating their own ending to the story.

The teacher can create coloured cards (matching the colours of each level’s writing topic) with the various suggestions for enriching the text below, to be handed out to the children to help them.

STORY BASE

Read the simple version of the story to children (the story base). Remember to read expressively and emphasise key words and main characters (such as **strength, prodigious, immortal, suck, milk, Milky Way, Zeus, Heracles, Hera** etc.). Then have the pupils work in groups to enrich the story base (starting from Level 1).

Heracles, the son of Queen Alcmena and the god Zeus, is born with superhuman strength. Despite being a baby, he breaks everything with his hands.

The queen takes him to a meadow, where Zeus and the god Hermes walk every day. As soon as the two see him, they think that this prodigious child must become immortal like them.

They decide to trick Zeus' wife Hera into breastfeeding the baby. They find her sleeping under a tree.

The two gods sneak up to Hera and place the baby in the arms of the goddess. They instruct Heracles to suck her milk.

Instead, Heracles bites the goddess! She wakes up frightened and throws the child far away.

As Zeus catches the baby in his arms, a stream of milk comes from Hera's breast and pours into the sky. The drops turn into stars, creating the Milky Way. A few drops fall to the ground and turn into flowers. Everyone admires that wonder.

LEVEL 1: WHAT ARE THEY LIKE? (ADJECTIVES)

Working in groups, pupils should enrich the story base with adjectives (feelings, character, appearance). The words in **blue** are suggestions – depending on the proficiency level of your pupils, decide on the number of adjectives that you would like to add before each of the targeted nouns. We recommend children choose at least 1 adjective. You can prompt your pupils to suggest adjectives by asking: What is Heracles like? What is Alcmena like? Etc.

Heracles, the son of Queen Alcmena and the god Zeus, is born with superhuman **amazing/unusual/dangerous** strength. Despite being a **small/fragile/soft** baby, he breaks everything with his hands.

The **worried/shocked/scared** queen takes him to a meadow, where **mighty/powerful/intelligent** Zeus and the **wicked/funny/helpful** god Hermes walk every day. As soon as the two see him, they think that this prodigious child must become immortal like them.

They decide to trick Zeus' **jealous/beautiful/suspicious** wife Hera into breastfeeding the baby. They find her sleeping under a **willow/oak/tall** tree. The two gods sneak up to Hera and place the baby in the arms of the goddess. They instruct Heracles to suck her **nourishing/delicious/powerful** milk.

Instead, Heracles bites the goddess! She wakes up frightened and throws the child far away.

As Zeus catches the baby in his arms, a stream of milk comes from Hera's breast and pours into the **night/starry/enormous** sky. The drops turn into stars, creating the Milky Way. A few drops fall to the ground and turn into **spring/sweet/lily** flowers.

Everyone admires that **amazing/unbelievable/strange** wonder.

LEVEL 2: WHAT ARE THEY DOING? (VERBS)

Working in their group, pupils should now enrich the text with verbs. Help them write and read them along with the adjectives that they already wrote for the Level 1 sheet. The words in **yellow** are suggestions – depending on the proficiency level of your pupils, we recommend children choose at least 1 verb.

Heracles, the son of Queen Alcmena and the god Zeus, is born with superhuman **amazing/unusual/dangerous** strength. Despite being a **small/fragile/soft** baby, he breaks **and rips/kills/smashes** everything with his hands.

The **worried/shocked/scared** queen takes him to a meadow, where **mighty/powerful/intelligent** Zeus and the **wicked/funny/helpful** god Hermes walk **and discuss/play chess/fish** every day. As soon as the two see him, they think that this prodigious child must become immortal like them.

They decide to trick Zeus' **jealous/beautiful/suspicious** wife Hera into breastfeeding the baby. They find her sleeping **and dreaming/snoring/smiling** under a **willow/oak/tall** tree. The two gods sneak up to

Hera and place the baby in the arms of the goddess. They instruct Heracles to suck her **nourishing/delicious/powerful** milk.

Instead, Heracles bites the goddess **and screams/cries/sneezes!** She wakes up frightened and throws the child far away.

As Zeus catches the baby in his arms, a stream of milk comes from Hera's breast and pours into the **night/starry/enormous** sky. The drops turn into stars **and spread/shine/get bigger**, creating the Milky Way. A few drops fall to the ground and turn into **spring/sweet/lily** flowers.

Everyone admires that **amazing/unbelievable/strange** wonder **and laughs/watches/cheers**.

LEVEL 3: HOW DOES IT END? (YOUR OWN ENDING)

Working in their group, pupils should now enrich the text by expanding on the ending. Help them write and read the ending sentence(s) along with the adjectives and verbs that you already wrote for the Level 1 and Level 2 sheets. The sentences in **purple** are suggestions – depending on the proficiency level of your pupils, we recommend children write at least 1 sentence to enrich the ending.

Heracles, the son of Queen Alcmena and the god Zeus, is born with superhuman **amazing/unusual/dangerous** strength. Despite being a **small/fragile/soft** baby, he breaks **and rips/kills/smashes** everything with his hands.

The **worried/shocked/scared** queen takes him to a meadow, where **mighty/powerful/intelligent** Zeus and the **wicked/funny/helpful** god Hermes walk **and discuss/play chess/fish** every day. As soon as the two see him, they think that this prodigious child must become immortal like them.

They decide to trick Zeus' **jealous/beautiful/suspicious** wife Hera into breastfeeding the baby. They find her sleeping **and dreaming/snoring/smiling** under a **willow/oak/tall** tree. The two gods sneak up to

Hera and place the baby in the arms of the goddess. They instruct Heracles to suck her **nourishing/delicious/powerful** milk.

Instead, Heracles bites the goddess **and screams/cries/sneezes!** She wakes up frightened and throws the child far away.

As Zeus catches the baby in his arms, a stream of milk comes from Hera's breast and pours into the **night/starry/enormous** sky. The drops turn into stars **and spread/shine/get bigger**, creating the Milky Way. A few drops fall to the ground and turn into **spring/sweet/lily** flowers.

Everyone admires that **amazing/unbelievable/strange** wonder **and laughs/watches/cheers**.

Heracles, still hungry, leaps up to the Milky Way to continue sucking all the milk.

The end!