

## The Sun, the Wind and the Moon – A story from India retold by Rina Singh

*Moon is the youngest of Star Mother's three children. Her older brothers, Sun and Wind, are unkind to her. When Thunder and Lightning decide to have a feast to celebrate their wedding, all three of Star Mother's children are invited. Sun and Wind tease Moon about it and she doesn't want to go, but Star Mother insists.*

When the feast was over, Sun, Wind and Moon went home. Star Mother, who had spent her time waiting for her children, looked at Sun and asked eagerly if he had brought back anything for her. Sun rebuked his mother for being so childish.

"I went to enjoy myself, Mother, not to bring back things for you. I did bring back some food but it's for me," said Sun and, turning his back, he continued to feast on the leftovers he had brought with him.

Star Mother then looked at Wind.

"What about you, Wind? Did you remember your mother?"

"Oh, Mother," said Wind impatiently. "You not only behave like a child but you are so unreasonable too. Why don't you just go to sleep?" Saying no more, he turned his back on her too.

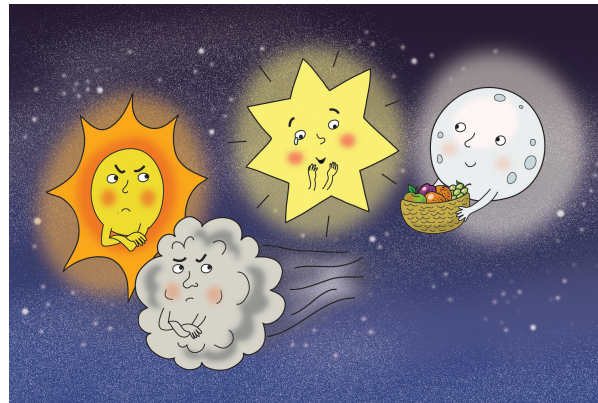
Disappointed, Star Mother looked at her Moon. Before she could even say anything, Moon smiled and unfurled some of the berries and fruits she had brought back with her. Star Mother had tears in her eyes.

She looked at Sun and said, "Because you thought only of yourself and you turned your back on me, people on earth will turn their backs on you. In summer, you will burn in your own heat and people will wish you would go away."

And to Wind she said, "For being so rude to me, your very breath in the hot days of summer will shrivel things up and in winter people will shut their doors on your face.

And to her little daughter she said, "My little Moon, you thought of your mother amidst your pleasure. For that your rays will fall softly on earth and people will sing praises to you. You and your beauty will forever remain a mystery to the world."

And so it has been to this day. The people in India stay away from the sun and wind, but the moon is loved by all.



Name:	Class:	Date:
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1 Look at the paragraph *beginning* “*When the feast was over*”.  
 What suggests that Star Mother was looking forward to seeing what her children had brought back from the feast for her?  
 Give **one** thing.

2d  
  
 1 mark

2 Look at the paragraph *beginning* “*When the feast was over*”.  
**Find and copy one** word that means the same as *told off*.

2a  
  
 1 mark

3 Why did Star Mother have tears in her eyes when Moon gave her fruit and berries

2d  
  
 1 mark

4 Choose which of the following are **true** and which are **false**.

	T	F
Moon ate the food she had planned to give to her mother.		
Wind treated his mother like a child		
Star Mother said that Sun only thought of himself		
Star Mother said that Wind was unkind to her		

2b  
  
 2 marks

5 What key idea does this myth present?  
 Choose **one**.

- why you should always think about your mother
- why Indian people like the moon, but not the sun and the wind
- why the moon is a mystery to people
- why it is better to think of others than just be selfish

2c  
  
 1 mark

6 What impression do we get about the character of Moon in this story?  
 Give **two** things, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

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2d  
  
 3 marks