|  |
| --- |
| **Title of Story:** One Grain of Rice  **Author:** Demi. (1997).  **Genre:** A Mathematical Folktale  **Characters:** A Raja, Rani, The village people  **Settings:** Famine in India  **Plot:** In an ancient India, a raja orders the people to give him most of their rice.  **Problem/conflict:** When a famine comes, the raja refuses to give up his rice to save the starving people.  **Rising action:** Rani, a girl in the village, devises a clever plan.  **Ending/resolution:** Upon doing a good deed for the raja, he, in return, rewards her with the gift of her choosing. She asks for a grain of rice to be doubled each day for a month. For 30 days she receives a doubling of rice until it grows to more than one billion grains of rice, more than enough to save her village from starvation.  **Theme/message:** In this lesson, students take on the role of a villager in a third-world country trying to feed her village. While listening to you read aloud the book *One Grain of Rice* by Demi, students work collaboratively to come up with a bargaining plan to trick the raja into feeding the village using algebra, exponential growth, and estimation.  **This reminds me of:**  A clever way to demonstrate the surprising power of doubling, one grain of rice grows into more than one billion.  **Opinion:** *One Grain of Rice* opens up a conversation for students to understand wise decisions. Rani teaches the raja a lesson about what it truly means to be wise. |

To support students who experience difficulty with reading comprehension this is a good time to ask students what they think famine and hunger mean and what may cause famine in a country. This is an opener for class discussion of real-life issues about this worldwide problem. Let students discuss in their small groups what their plan would be. Ask them, “if you were Rani, what would you ask the raja for as a reward?” Put the questions on the board. Allow students to practice reading the question. Ask students to keep in mind that Rani is an unselfish girl who is trying to feed her-self and the rest of the village. Discussion of how they could be unselfish.

Other learners that could benefit from this strategy:

Linguistic:  Write a letter to the raja to persuade him to give rice to the people

Musical Listen to music from India and make rice drums to accompany it

Logical- Mathematical. Have the children solve math problems based on the story .For instance, how many grains of rice would Rani have on day 3? Day 5? Day7?

Body/Kinesthetic; Have students act out how they would move the rice (carry in their hands, in a cup, in a jar, in a bucket, in a big basket, with a cart etc.

Interpersonal: How do you think the raja will react when he discovers Rani’s clever plan was a trick? Do you think the raja’s behavior will change as a result of Rani’s plan? (Class debate)