

## Activities for “A Drum”

*A folktale from India*

### **Language Arts**

Vocabulary: *chulha* – small clay stove that burns different kinds of fuel, such as dried cow-dung patties or wood.

Discussion questions to introduce the story:

- Have you ever asked for something for your birthday and instead you got something else that you didn't know what to do with? What did you do with that object?

Discussion questions to follow the story:

- How would you describe the boy?
- What kinds of things did he notice in this story?
- If you were the boy in the story would you have kept any of the gifts you were given? Which one?
- What was the first gift in the story? (The stick? Or the mother's invitation to dream: “What can I bring you from the market?”)
- What do you think would have happened if the boy met someone on his way home who needed a drum?

### **Dramatic Arts**

After sitting quietly for a minute following the story, invite the children to remember a particular moment in the folktale that they could represent with an expression or a gesture in a frozen tableau. They can take turns coming up to show the scene, while the others guess what is happening in the story. This could also be done in pairs.

### **Cultural Explorations**

India is a huge country with over four hundred different languages. As in many other countries in Asia, there are many health problems in India that result from cooking over open fires in an enclosed space. This short video describes a project in Laos to bring easily constructed stoves designed by Philips (Philanthropy by Design) to families who previously cooked on open fires:

<http://www.chulha.org/chulha-project-introduction/>

More about Philips:

[http://www.design.philips.com/philips/sites/philipsdesign/about/design/designportfolio/philanthropy\\_by\\_design/chulha.page](http://www.design.philips.com/philips/sites/philipsdesign/about/design/designportfolio/philanthropy_by_design/chulha.page)

Folklore:

- 1) Nanji, Shinaaz. *Indian Tales: A Barefoot Collection*. Cambridge, Mass: Barefoot Books, 2007.
- 2) Bash, Barbara. *In the heart of the village: the world of the Indian Banyan tree*. San Francisco : Sierra Club Books, c1996.
- 3) Young, Ed. *Seven blind mice*. New York: Philomel Books, c1992.

For more discussion ideas and other stories, see *Seeds of Generosity: Storytelling in the Classroom* by Margo McLoughlin. Available through Amazon.com, and directly from [margostoryteller.net](http://margostoryteller.net).