

Advanced - Story 27

Class Objective- I am able to read and understand a story, learn new vocabulary and answer related questions.

Concept A: Story 1 - The Story of the Aged Mother

The Story of the Aged Mother”, by Matsuo Basho is a story in which a son and his mother’s pain in their battle against the decree of putting aged people to death is portrayed.

Long, long ago in the town shining, there lived at the foot of the mountain a poor farmer and his aged, widowed mother. They owned a bit of land which supplied them with food, and they were humble, peaceful, and happy. The town was governed by a despotic and tyrannical leader. One fine day, the entire province was given strict orders to immediately put to death all aged people by his ruler. The king thought that they were useless. He felt that the unhealthy and old people would drain away the wealth, doing nothing for the development of his country.

When the poor farmer heard the decree, he felt sorrow in his heart for his aged mother. Just as his labour ended, he prepared food from a portion of unwhitened rice, covered it in a square cloth and knotted it in his neck along with a gourd filled with cool, sweet water. He then carried his mother on his back and started walking towards the summit of Obatsayuma, the mountain of the “abandoning of age”. The road was long and steep. It was narrow too.

On their way to the top, the helpless mother noticed the perilous path and thought that her son didn’t know the paths and might pass through danger. So she reached for twigs, snapped them to pieces and quietly dropped them until they reached the summit. The poor farmer freed his mother and made a comfortable cushion with pine needles and bid farewell.

Before he left her, she told him about the trail she made with the piles of twigs. His mother’s words clearly portrayed the unconditional love that the mother had for her son, an unselfish love that thumped the heart of the poor child and made him cry.

Now, the farmer realized that they need to face the verdict together. So, he again carried his mother on his back and started to walk back to their humble hut in the valley. Filled with dread, he hid his mother on a walled closet used for food beneath the kitchen. Time passed and they both felt secure and safe until one day the despotic leader demanded the people of the valley to present him with a rope of ashes.

1. **Introduction**

2. **Background**

3. **Method**

- 1. **Study Design**
- 2. **Participants**
- 3. **Intervention**

4. **Results**

- 1. **Primary Outcome**
- 2. **Secondary Outcome**
- 3. **Subgroup Analysis**

5. **Conclusion**

- 1. **Summary**

6. **Discussion**

7. **Conclusion**

8. **References**

9. **Appendix**

- 1. **Table 1**
- 2. **Table 2**
- 3. **Table 3**

10. **References**

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1. **Introduction**

This document describes the structure and content of the course.

2. **Objectives**

- 1. Understand the basic concepts of the course.
- 2. Apply the concepts to solve problems.
- 3. Develop the ability to work in a team.

3. **Structure**

- 1. The course is divided into three main parts: theory, practice, and assessment.
- 2. The theory part covers the basic concepts and principles of the course.
- 3. The practice part involves solving problems and working in a team.
- 4. The assessment part consists of a final exam and a project.

4. **Assessment**

- 1. The final exam will be held at the end of the course.

5. **Conclusion**

This document provides a summary of the course.

The course is designed to provide students with a solid foundation in the subject.

6. **References**

- 1. [Reference 1]
- 2. [Reference 2]
- 3. [Reference 3]

7. **Appendix**