

Suggested Teaching Themes, Middle and High School Level, by Episode:  
How A Folk Story Lays Out The World

Episode Name	Core Social Concept	Modern Issue	Core Value	India-Specific Details
01 <b>In the Beginning</b>	<b>A Social Community</b> A set of brothers and their wives A king and his dependents A social contract between groups	<b>MIGRATION</b>	Community definitions of political allegiance and the differentiation of occupational groups	The King's Palace The Gods role in creation & peace keeping, and also in stitching together the moral fabric of community life in general
02 <b>A Young Orphan</b>	<b>Nuclear Family Bonds</b> Constructing a Family Unit	<b>BIRTH AND DEATH</b>	The value placed on children and care-giving (lack of as tragic)	How the naming ceremony creates "the person" through celebrating a ritual event
03 <b>A Long Exile</b>	<b>The Individual Person</b> A sense of self & self confidence	<b>ORPHANED CHILDREN</b>	Respect for orphans (plus lack of as tragic)	The types of jobs available to young boys in this medieval story period
04 <b>A Love Match</b>	<b>Social Norms</b> The wider implications of a marriage commitment	<b>MARRIAGE TO AN OUTSIDER</b>	The right of marital choice and the importance of status matching	The village and thr forest as two separate kinds of space
05 <b>A Magical Marriage</b>	<b>Ritual Status</b> How ceremonies redefine social position	<b>SOCIAL EXPULSION</b>	Breaking the brother/sister bond	Tradition of arranged marriage
06 <b>Roasted Seeds</b>	<b>Caring For The Land</b> Cooperation versus competition	<b>DISHONESTY</b>	Jealousy between (equal) lineage mates	Severe male cousin to male cousin rivalries over land inheritance
07 <b>A Thousand Beggars</b>	<b>Caring For The Poor</b> The variety of types of charitable actions	<b>INEQUALITY</b>	Expecting charity from the wealthy and help from the powerful	The cultural expectation, even requirement, that one should give to beggars
08 <b>A Cruel Curse</b>	<b>Caring for Siblings</b> The brother-sister bond and its related responsibilities	<b>INFERTILITY</b>	Curses, stereotypes and malicious forces	The concept of a "curse"
09 <b>The Counter Curse</b>	<b>Reciprocity</b> Action, reaction and the destructive power of anger	<b>EXTREME ANGER</b>	Pent-up emotions and the righteous anger of a female	The special place given to female rage generated by challenging a woman's chastity or by denying her her gender rights
10 <b>Pillar of Destruction</b>	<b>Defining Personal Goals</b> The power of redefining one's goals and purpose in life	<b>SUICIDE PREVENTION</b>	Rejection, depression and the power of a stranger/helper	The unique symbolism of a woman sitting on a pillar (three examples in this story), also of pillars in Hindu mythology and sculpture generally
11 <b>A Pilgrim's Journey</b>	<b>Defining Community Goals</b> Shaping society by defining what constitutes a charitable act	<b>BEING A GOOD CITIZEN</b>	Being concerned for the welfare of others	The Hindu concept of dhama and of the moral obligations each beng has vis-s-vis others
12 <b>The Gates of Heaven</b>	<b>Defining A Heroine</b> Facing challenges and overcoming hurdles	<b>COURAGE</b>	The importance of a travel quest or pilgrimage	The important role of pilgrimage in Hindu myths and in Indian religious traditions generally

13	<b>The Book of Fate</b>	<b>Surpassing Limits Through Courage and Confidence</b> The rewards that come from perseverance	<b>CHALLENGING BOUNDARIES VRS SUBMITTING</b>	Starting over, new life through death of the old	The complex but also pervasive concept of fate in Hindu culture
14	<b>The Temple Secret</b>	<b>Babes Raised With Magical Help</b> Symbolic foods and training routines	<b>CARING FOR OTHER'S CHILDREN</b>	The goddess and her role in feeding and sheltering the heroes	Themes of child rescue from abandonment, common in Hindu mythology
15	<b>The Truth Unveiled</b>	<b>Discovering The Truth About One's Parentage</b> Not being afraid to ask questions	<b>ADOPTION / JOINING A NEW FAMILY</b>	How bonds between family members can be symbolized	The role of "invisible" family bonds, well-known to Hindu story tradition
16	<b>The Home-coming</b>	<b>Transitioning From Kid To Teenager</b> The experience of growing up	<b>BECOMING AN ADULT</b>	Markers of life's progression	Concepts of transitioning to adulthood, its timing and its ritual celebration in Hindu culture generally
17	<b>Chastity Forever</b>	<b>Renouncing Family Life for a Higher Cause</b> Finding a focus: Why some people choose not to marry	<b>MONKS VRS. HOUSEHOLDERS</b>	How self denial is understood to convert into personal strength	How important chastity and sexual self restraint is in Hindu culture generally
18	<b>An Overlord Angered</b>	<b>Challenging Political Power</b> Building ties of alliegance versus challenging rivals	<b>WHEN IS TAXATION JUST?</b>	How a politician keeps his allies	Indian traditions of political power and the pervasive traditional overlap between the concept of strong ruler and of divine lordship
19	<b>Independence Won</b>	<b>When A Struggle For Independence is Justified</b> Honorable and dishonorable means of exercising power	<b>REASONS TO OVERTHROW A RULER-KING</b>	What is expected of a good leader	Indian examples of popular rebellion, both peaceable and violent.
20	<b>Two Swords Blessed</b>	<b>The Female Power Behind A Male Warrior</b> Taking womens' support and advice into account when planning for battle	<b>SUPPORTING OTHERS' WARS</b>	The meaning of a sister's blessings	The somewhat concealed, but very powerful position of women in Indian tradition, generally
21	<b>A Kidnapping Spree</b>	<b>When Women Become Pawns</b> Using females as objects	<b>KIDNAPPING</b>	Male rivalries expressed vis-a-vis their control of females	Very well-known examples of women who are kidnapped in Indian stories, especially the role of Sita in India's epic <i>Ramayana</i> tradition
22	<b>A New Challenger</b>	<b>Judging a Stranger's Intentions</b> Doing one's research: The limits of trust	<b>WELCOMING AN OUTSIDER</b>	Expected ettiquette vis-a-vis guests	The key role/requirement of being hospitable to guests in Indian tradition
23	<b>The Enemy Confronted</b>	<b>Symbolic Beasts and their Physical Agression</b> The role of a beast and the message(s) it might represent	<b>DEALING WITH TERRORISM</b>	The impact of a rampage or a tantrum	Rage, terror and chaos as key themes in the gods' repeated battles with evil in Indian mythology. Egotism can be called one of the key markers of the evil opponent in Hindu stories.

24	<b>A Curse Revealed</b>	<b>The Powers of The Small and Presumed Helpless</b> A (female) David versus a very male Goliath	<b>RESPECTING THE UNDERDOG</b>	Cleverness and magical powers are tools of choice for the disenfranchized	The ancient and very popular roe of “the clever little guy” in Indian stories, especialy well-known stories from the <i>Panchatantra</i> .
25	<b>The Great Sacrifice</b>	<b>Conquering A Wild Beast</b> The many possible meanings of an animal sacrifice and the subsequent division of spoils	<b>THE CAUSES OF WAR</b>	Finding the line between events one can control and events one can not	The pervasive overlap in Indian ritual and myth between sacrificial animals and evil, aggesive or self-agrandizing human beings.
26	<b>An Epoch Ends</b>	<b>The Handing Over of Authority</b> What happens when the loss of a kingdom’s ruler leaves a vacuum?	<b>WHEN A CIVILIZATION FALLS, or FAILS</b>	How endings always contain new beginnings	The core idea of rebirth and renewal that lies at the heart of much Hindu mythology and ritual activity alike.