

TALKING ABOUT THE THEME

Look at the picture on page 1. Read the title

1. Who is the man in the picture?
2. What two tricks has he performed?
3. Why do people like to see magic tricks?
4. What other types of tricks have you seen?
5. How do you think the selections in this unit will be alike?

Other Books About Tricks

Eyes and Seeing by B. R. Ward. Franklin Watts, 1981.
Colored illustrations accompany the text that describes the structure of the eyes and how we see.

Bet You Can't! Science Impossibilities to Fool You by Vicki Cobb and Kathy Darling. Avon, 1983. Readers take a look at more than sixty tricks based on scientific principles.

They've Discovered a Head in the Box for the Bread and Other Laughable Limericks edited by John E. Brewton and Lorraine A. Blackburn. T. Y. Crowell, 1978. More than two hundred limericks are arranged by topics such as animals, love, and music.

The Wizard of Op by Ed Emberley. Little, Brown, 1975.
A young prince who was turned into a frog tries to be transformed back. Various methods are unsuccessful until the prince goes to the Wizard of Op.

Focusing on "Two of Everything"

Think and Read

- ▶ Quickly write down a list of all the things you value. Talk about what makes these things valuable to you. Ask questions about what your classmates value.
- ▶ Read the title. Look at the pictures on pages 4–13. Think about what the characters might value.
 - What appears most often in the pictures? Why might this be so?
 - What is odd about the last picture?
 - What do you think will happen to these characters?
- ▶ Get ready to read a folk tale about Mr. and Mrs. Hak-Tak and their magic pot. As you read, think about why Mr. and Mrs. Hak-Tak put things into the pot. Think about what you would add to this chart.

What the Hak-Taks Put into the Pot

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|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

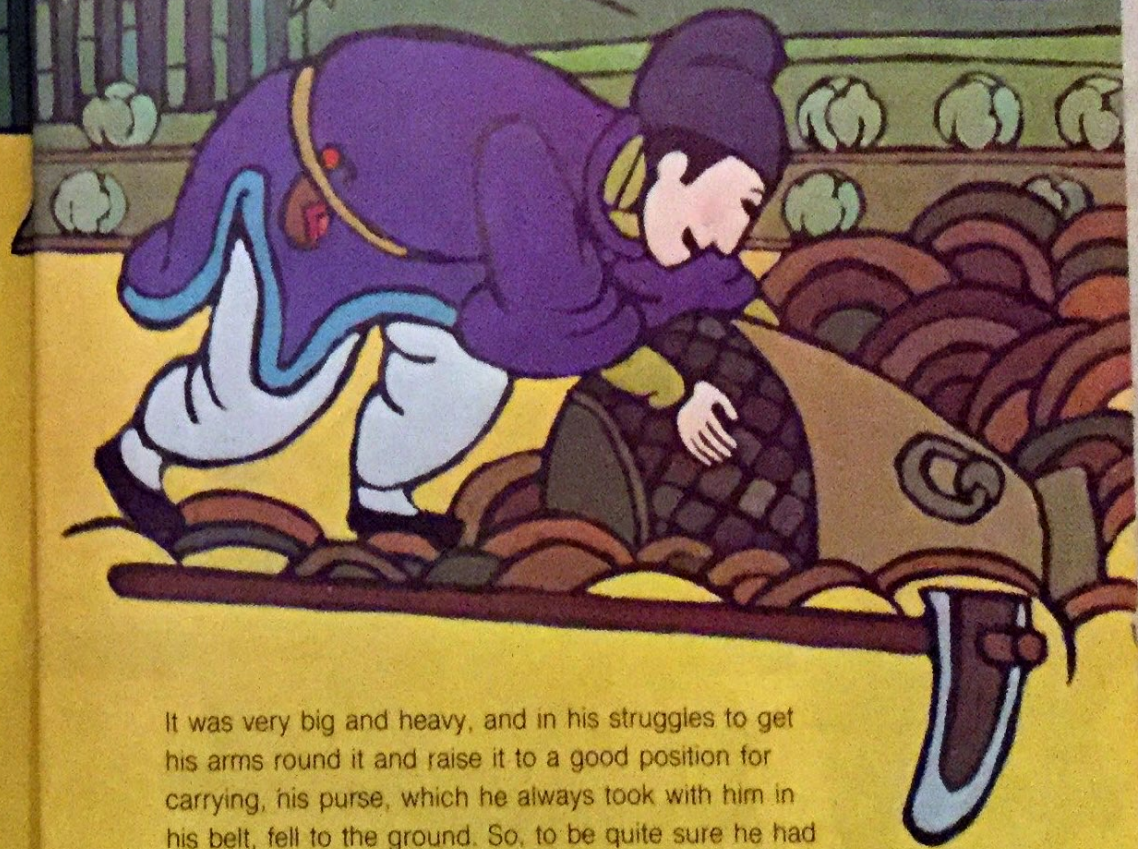
Now turn the page and read "Two of Everything."
Then you will discuss what is valuable to you.

TWO OF EVERYTHING

A Chinese tale told by LI Po
Illustrated by Jane Teiko Oka

Mr. and Mrs. Hak-Tak were rather old and rather poor. They had a small house in a village among the mountains and a tiny patch of green land on the mountain side. Here they grew the vegetables which were all they had to live on. When it was a good season and they did not need to eat up everything as soon as it was grown, Mr. Hak-Tak took what vegetables they could spare in a basket to the next village. There, he sold them for as much as he could get and bought some oil for their lamp, and fresh seeds. Every now and then, but not often, he bought a piece of cotton stuff to make new coats and trousers for himself and his wife. You can imagine they did not often get the chance to eat meat.

Now, one day it happened that when Mr. Hak-Tak was digging in his precious patch, he unearthed a big brass pot. He thought it strange that it should have been there for so long without his having come across it before, and he was disappointed to find that it was empty. Still, he thought they would find some use for the pot, so when he was ready to go back to the house in the evening he decided to take it with him.



It was very big and heavy, and in his struggles to get his arms round it and raise it to a good position for carrying, his purse, which he always took with him in his belt, fell to the ground. So, to be quite sure he had the purse safe, he put it inside the pot and staggered home with his load.

As soon as he got into the house Mrs. Hak-Tak hurried from the inner room to meet him.

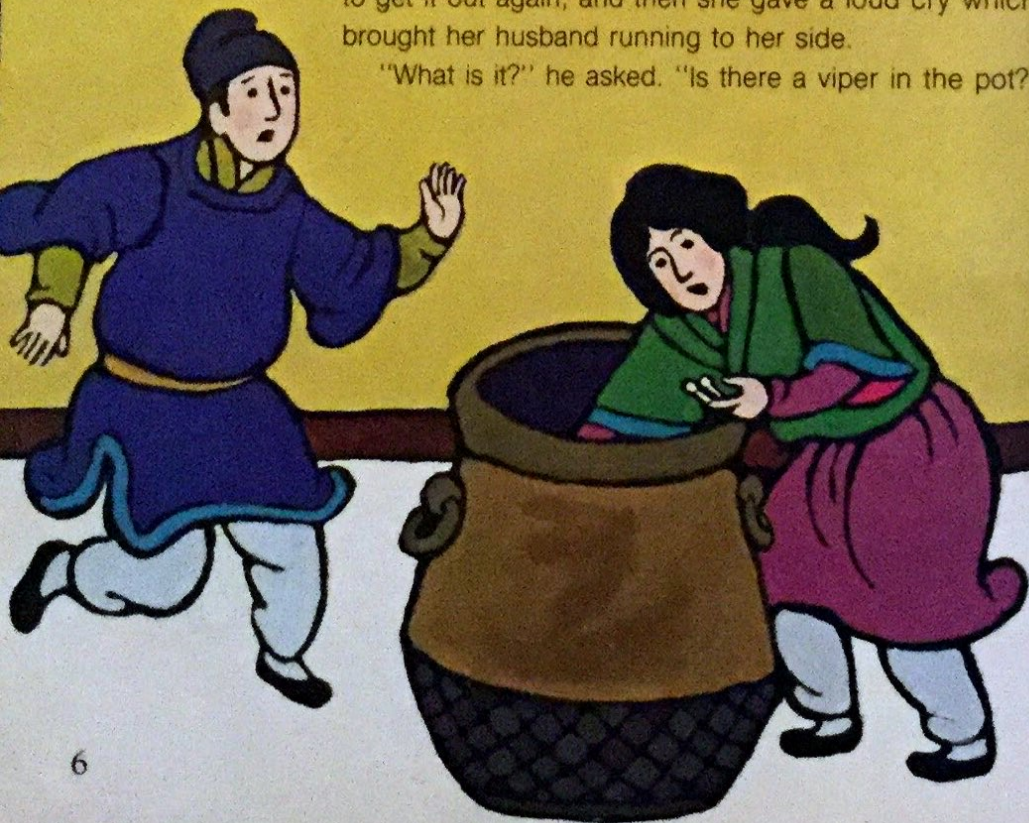
"My dear husband," she said, "whatever have you got there?"

"For a cooking pot it is too big; for a bath a little too small," said Mr. Hak-Tak. "I found it buried in our vegetable patch and so far it has been useful in carrying my purse home for me."

"Alas," said Mrs. Hak-Tak. "Something smaller would have done as well to hold any money we have or are likely to have," and she stooped over the pot and looked into its dark inside.

As she stooped, her hairpin—for poor Mrs. Hak-Tak had only one hairpin for all her hair and it was made of carved bone—fell into the pot. She put in her hand to get it out again, and then she gave a loud cry which brought her husband running to her side.

"What is it?" he asked. "Is there a viper in the pot?"



"Oh, my dear husband," she cried. "What can be the meaning of this? I put my hand into the pot to fetch out my hairpin and your purse, and look, I have brought out two hairpins and two purses, both exactly alike."

"Open the purse. Open both purses," said Mr. Hak-Tak. "One of them will certainly be empty."

But not a bit of it. The new purse contained exactly the same number of coins as the old one—for that matter, no one could have said which was the new and which the old—and it meant, of course, that the Hak-Taks had exactly twice as much money in the evening as they had had in the morning.

"And two hairpins instead of one!" cried Mrs. Hak-Tak, forgetting in her excitement to do up her hair which was streaming over her shoulders. "There is something quite unusual about this pot."

"Let us put in the sack of lentils and see what happens," said Mr. Hak-Tak, also becoming excited.

They heaved in the bag of lentils and when they pulled it out again—it was so big it almost filled the pot—they saw another bag of exactly the same size waiting to be pulled out in its turn. So now they had two bags of lentils instead of one.

"Put in the blanket," said Mr. Hak-Tak. "We need another blanket for the cold weather." And, sure enough, when the blanket came out, there lay another behind it.

"Put my wadded coat in," said Mr. Hak-Tak, "and then when the cold weather comes there will be one for you as well as for me. Let us put in everything we have in turn. What a pity we have no meat, for it seems that the pot cannot make anything without a pattern."



Then Mrs. Hak-Tak, who was a woman of great intelligence, said, "My dear husband, let us put the purse in again and again and again. If we take two purses out each time we put one in, we shall have enough money by tomorrow evening to buy everything we lack."

"I am afraid we may lose it this time," said Mr. Hak-Tak, but in the end he agreed, and they dropped in the purse and pulled out two, then they added the new money to the old and dropped it in again and pulled out the larger amount twice over. After a while the floor was covered with old leather purses and they decided to throw the money in by itself. It worked quite as well and saved trouble. Every time, twice as much money came out as went in, and every time they added the new coins to the old and threw them all in together. It took them some hours to tire of this game, but at last Mrs. Hak-Tak said, "My dear husband, there is no need for us to work so hard. We shall see to it that the pot does not run away, and we can always make more money as we want it. Let us tie up what we have."

It made a huge bundle in the extra blanket and the Hak-Taks lay and looked at it for a long time before they slept, and talked of all the things they would buy and the improvements they would make in the cottage.

The next morning they rose early and Mr. Hak-Tak filled a wallet with money from the bundle and set off for the big village to buy more things in one morning than he had bought in a whole fifty years.

Mrs. Hak-Tak saw him off and then she tidied up the cottage and put the rice on to boil and had another look at the bundle of money, and made herself a whole set of new hairpins from the pot, and about

twenty candles instead of the one which was all they had possessed up to now. After that she slept for a while, having been up so late the night before, but just before the time when her husband should be back, she awoke and went over to the pot. She dropped in a cabbage leaf to make sure it was still working properly, and when she took two leaves out she sat down on the floor and put her arms around it.

"I do not know how you came to us, my dear pot," she said, "but you are the best friend we ever had."



Then she knelt up to look inside it, and at that moment her husband came to the door, and, turning quickly to see all the wonderful things he had bought, she lost her balance and fell into the pot.

Mr. Hak-Tak put down his bundles and ran across and caught her by the ankles and pulled her out. But, oh, mercy, no sooner had he set her carefully on the floor than he saw the kicking legs of another Mrs. Hak-Tak in the pot! What was he to do? Well, he could not leave her there, so he caught her ankles and pulled, and another Mrs. Hak-Tak so exactly like the first that no one would have told one from the other, stood beside them.



"Here's an extraordinary thing," said Mr. Hak-Tak, looking helplessly from one to the other.

"I will not have a second Mrs. Hak-Tak in the house!" screamed the first Mrs. Hak-Tak.

All was confusion. The first Mrs. Hak-Tak shouted and wrung her hands and wept, Mr. Hak-Tak was scarcely calmer, and the second Mrs. Hak-Tak sat down on the floor as if she knew no more than they did what was to happen next.

"One wife is all I want," said Mr. Hak-Tak, "but how could I have left her in the pot?"

"Put her back in it again!" cried Mrs. Hak-Tak.

"What? And draw out two more?" said her husband. "If two wives are too many for me, what should I do with three? No! No!" He stepped back quickly as if he was stepping away from the three wives and, missing his footing, lo and behold, he fell into the pot!

Both Mrs. Hak-Taks ran and each caught an ankle and pulled him out and set him on the floor, and there, oh, mercy, was another pair of kicking legs in the pot! Again each caught hold of an ankle and pulled, and soon another Mr. Hak-Tak, so exactly like the first that no one could have told one from the other, stood beside them.

Now the first Mr. Hak-Tak liked the idea of his double no more than Mrs. Hak-Tak had liked the idea of hers. He stormed and raged and scolded his wife for pulling him out of the pot, while the second Mr. Hak-Tak sat down on the floor beside the second Mrs. Hak-Tak and looked as if, like her, he did not know what was going to happen next.

Then the first Mrs. Hak-Tak had a very good idea. "Listen, my dear husband," she said. "Now, do stop scolding and listen, for it is really a good thing that



there is a new one of you as well as a new one of me. It means that you and I can go on in our usual way, and these new people, who are ourselves and yet not ourselves, can set up house together next door to us."

And that is what they did. The first Hak-Taks built themselves a fine new house with money from the pot. Then they built one just like it next door for the new couple, and they lived together in the greatest friendliness, because, as Mrs. Hak-Tak said, "The new Mrs. Hak-Tak is really more than a sister to me, and

the new Mr. Hak-Tak is really more than a brother to you."

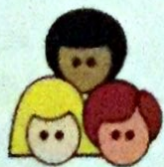
The neighbors were very much surprised, both at the sudden wealth of the Hak-Taks and at the new couple who resembled them so strongly that they must, they thought, be very close relations of whom they had never heard before. The neighbors said: "It looks as though the Hak-Taks, when they so unexpectedly became rich, decided to have two of everything, even of themselves, in order to enjoy their money more."



Think and Discuss

Think about the folk tale. Finish the chart on page 3. Fill in what Mr. and Mrs. Hak-Tak put into the pot. Then answer the questions.

1. What happens each time something is put into the magic pot?
2. How does the folk tale "Two of Everything" fit into a unit about trickery?
3. Use your chart. What do you think was the most valuable thing that Mr. and Mrs. Hak-Tak put into the pot? Why do you think so?
4. Use your chart. What things do the Hak-Taks double that are really necessities? Tell how you know that they are necessities.
5. What thing do the Hak-Taks double that is not really a necessity? Tell how you know it is not.
6. What accident makes the pot seem less wonderful to the Hak-Taks? What does this say about the idea that "more is better"?
7. If you discovered a magic pot, how might you want the pot to be different from the one the Hak-Taks found?



WORK IN A GROUP

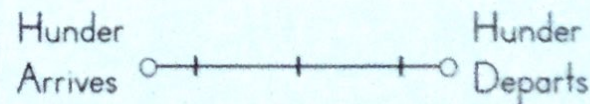
Talk about things of yours that you would not want to double. Discuss how having two of something could make it less valuable. Ask questions about what your classmates say. Talk about the answers.

Focusing on "The Great Quillow"

Think and Read

- ▶ Discuss what you know about giants. Include those from stories and legends as well as real-life "giants." Ask your classmates what they know.
- ▶ Look at the title and the picture on page 16. Think about what you know about giants.
 - What word in the title suggests a play about a giant?
 - What in the picture suggests that the giant may not be the main character?
 - What might happen in this play?
- ▶ Get ready to read a play about a town's efforts to get rid of a mean giant. As you read, think about what happens. This time line may help you keep track of events. Think about what you would add to the time line.

What Hunder Does



Now turn the page and read "The Great Quillow." Then you will talk about what happened in the play.