

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Reading

A court case in ancient China

Chinese folk culture has many stories about a hero from ancient times called Yu. Early in his career Yu distinguished himself as a judge.

Two noblemen dressed in robes glittering with gold were kneeling before Judge Yu. Each waved a piece of paper, covered with small writing and with large red seals¹ impressed on it. Their prince had left each of them half of a large estate — land, houses and valuables — as specified on the papers they were presenting. Each claimed that the division was unjust, and that the other had received more than his proper share.

Judge Yu looked at the men, showing the whites of his eyes. He angrily shook his head, making the glittering ornaments on his cap dance in the light of the lamps. There was an atmosphere of tension.

Judge Yu rose. He grabbed the documents from the hands of the two plaintiffs, then handed to each the other's paper. He raised his hands signifying that the case had been decided. The two noblemen stared perplexedly² at the documents in their hands.

¹ stamps on a document showing it is genuine

² with confusion



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Reading

Read *A court case in ancient China* on page 3 of the magazine and answer questions 1 to 7.

1 Why did each of the noblemen bring a piece of paper to the court?

- to show that he was an important man
- to show that he could prove his claims
- to attract the attention of the judge
- to fan himself to stay cool

Shade one
bubble.



2 Each nobleman wanted

- the other man to be imprisoned.
- some of the other man's property.
- the whole of the other man's property.
- the judge to explain what was in the papers.

3 The phrase *showing the whites of his eyes* tells us that Judge Yu

- closed his eyes to think.
- closed his eyes in disbelief.
- opened his eyes wide with anger.
- narrowed his eyes with suspicion.

4 Judge Yu shook his head *angrily*. He was angry because he thought that

- both men were greedy.
- both men were wealthy.
- one man was cheating the other.
- both men were not listening to him.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Reading

5 Judge Yu *handed to each the other's paper*. This meant that

- the papers had been mixed up by accident.
- the judge could not reach a decision on the matter.
- both men would now receive nothing from the prince's estate.
- each man now owned what the prince had left to the other man.

Shade one
bubble.



6 Why did the judge raise his hands after swapping the papers?

- to signal to the men that they should leave the court
- to signal to the court he had made a judgement
- to express his dislike of the men
- to express his bewilderment

7 Why did the noblemen stare *perplexedly at the documents in their hands*?

- They had what they asked for but not what they wanted.
- They were waiting for the judge to explain his decision.
- They wanted to read the documents they now held.
- They were shocked by the judge's rudeness.



Literacy Year 9 – Week 3

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Reading

Read the questions and identify which are direct question types and which are sentence completion types. Why are parts of some question stems, in italics?

Focus on questions 2, 3 and 6 as you read the text. Each of these questions represents one of the question types discussed (direct question, sentence completion and a stem that uses italics to represent a quote from the text.)

In the table below write in the name of each question type for each question.

Question	Question type
2	
3	
6	

Whole class discussion on answers to questions 2, 3 and 6.