



# Little Leo and the Moon Rabbit

## About the story

This story comes from Tibet. There are many stories in which the Buddha is represented as a rabbit or hare – possibly reflecting an earlier reincarnation. In one story it is said that the dark shadows on the moon are actually the shape of the hare or Buddha. Explain that a ‘sentinel’ dog is one that keeps watch.

## Getting to know the story well

After sharing the story, use the following activities to embed the story in the children’s minds.

### Drama

- Try retelling what happened from Painted Dragon and Yak’s viewpoint. Role-play Brother Lhakpa telling other monks what has happened.

### Art

- Produce a class story frieze showing the various characters.

### Research

- Find out where Tibet is located and about monasteries there.
- Find images of Tibet, dragons and sentinel dogs (a breed of dog called Lhasa Apsos).

### Discuss

- Talk about what everyone says about Moon Rabbit. How did the dragonfly suggest Leo’s idea? How does Moon Rabbit try to trick Leo, and why? What did Moon Rabbit really want? What does the story teach us about friendship?

## Retelling the story aloud

- The children should not attempt to memorise this complex story, but should rather extract the pattern and then retell it in their own words. It would be best to work in threes, taking a chunk each – this will lessen the burden on the memory!

## From telling to writing

- Once the children are fluently retelling their part of the story, encourage them to start writing. Challenge each group of three to create a chapter for a book.