



Religion	Buddhism
Denomination	Soto Zen
Question answered:	What stories are important to you? (KS1 Q2)
Key concepts, questions, and outcomes:	Why do symbols and stories play important roles in religions? Why do some people follow religious leaders and teachings? Retell a range of religious stories and explain how they help believers to live their lives
Key teaching points:	Buddhist stories are often about teaching people how to live and behave.
Prior knowledge:	Some stories in a range of religions

Core Vocabulary:			
Abbot	The leader or head of a religious house or monastery.	Monk	A person who has committed their life to living in a religious community
Monastery	A house of worship where monks live and work		

Summary of answers:
<p>The first speaker tells the story of an abbot who runs a monastery with a big garden. Every day a young deer wanders into the garden and the young monks encourage and feed it. The deer gets used to being in the garden with the monks. When the abbot finds out, he chases the deer away into the forest. He does this every time the deer comes into the garden. The young monks are angry, because they are being kind to the deer. The abbot explains that the deer needs to learn that not all people will be kind to the deer and so it is not good for the deer to think that there will always be kindness and food. She applies this story to her everyday life, thinking about it when she is helping others, whether she is doing what is best for them, or what is best for her.</p> <p>The second speaker tells the story of a farmer and his donkey. The old donkey falls into a well, and the farmer decides that it will be too much trouble to get him out. He tells his workers to fill the well in with soil. They start to throw the soil in to the well, and as each bit lands on the donkey he shakes it off and it lands on the ground. He keeps doing this every time some soil lands on him and so gradually the well fills up with soil and the donkey can get to the top and walk out. He says that this story teaches that we need to shake off the bad things that try to bury us, and instead use them to rise up and be better people.</p>

Next Steps:
<p>Read a range of other stories from Buddhism and think about what they mean. Think of situations in the pupils' own lives where shaking off the bad things can help. Watch a video of the donkey story and discuss it e.g. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DOh5HacfybA</p>