



Tradition	Humanist
Denomination	n/a
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 link to the core beliefs and practices.
Key teaching points:	Stories can teach about people and about the world. Stories that are good inspire people to do good things, whether the story is true or not.
Prior knowledge:	Understanding of the concept of story; fables, myths and true stories

Core Vocabulary:			
Aesop	Writer of fables from ancient Greece	Geologist	People who study rocks and soils
Scientist	People who study science	Inspire	Encourage to do good

Summary of answers:
<p>The first speaker identifies that there are true stories and made-up stories. She believes that true stories help us to understand the world, while made-up stories can help us to understand each other. She sees each of us as writing our own story and so we can choose what that story should look like. She thinks that the best true story is that of how the world came into being and that scientists who study what they see around them are the best ones to write that story.</p> <p>Because there are no set humanist texts, humanists can choose stories from all over the world and from any period of time to focus on them. She recounts the story of the Lion and the Mouse, one of Aesop's fables and interprets it as teaching that we should be kind to everyone, so then they will be kind in return.</p> <p>The second speaker focuses on the power of story to teach and help people remember. He also sees story as teaching about people and the world, but for him whether a story is true or not is less important than whether it is a story that inspires people to live a good life. He recounts the story of Hans, the Dutch boy who puts his finger in a dike, to stop the land being flooded and explains how that inspired him when he was young.</p> <p>The third speaker refers to the story of the world and how studying the world will help people to make the most of their lives while they can.</p>

Next Steps:
<p>Read Aesop's fable of the Lion and the Mouse and allow the children to consider what they think the story is about. Explore some of Aesop's other fables and see if they think humanists would find them helpful too.</p> <p>Find a version of the story of Hans and explore it.</p> <p>Look at some science books that tell the story of the earth. Do the pupils agree that this is a story?</p> <p>Discuss whether there is a difference between true stories and made up stories.</p> <p>Allow pupils to talk about what they learn from their favourite stories.</p>