

Story Guide

THE WATER OF LIFE BY Motoko

Watch the video of storyteller Motoko [here](#).

Run time is 19:10 - 36:10

Now, enjoy exploring the story with the activities outlined below.



explore it

- Because of the pandemic, storytellers often record their stories at home without an audience. Do you think it is harder or easier to tell a story without someone to listen? Give reasons to support your answer.
- Motoko begins the session with a song about the pandemic. Make a list of things from this song that you can do to help get through the pandemic and keep each other safe.
- How do you like Motoko's use of a sing-a-long song during her story? How does she let you know when to start and stop singing?



think it

- How long have Masa and Yoshi been married?
- Describe the personality of the couple's landlord.
- What does Masa find when he goes up the mountain to collect firewood?
- How does the fox heal from her wound?
- Why does Yoshi think a stranger is entering her house when Masa comes home? What convinces Yoshi that Masa is her husband?
- What do Masa and Yoshi do to help Kechi after he drinks from the spring?



create it

- Motoko is a Japanese teller. The Japanese language uses a different alphabet than English. Use this [link](#) to find the Japanese translation of your name. Practice saying it and writing it in Japanese. Learn to pronounce and write the name of this story, The Water of Life, in Japanese.
- Draw a picture of the couple and their landlord, Kechi, before and after they drink from the magic spring. Contrast what happens to the couple and Kechi after they drink from the magic spring. Why do you think this difference happens?



tell it

- Motoko uses water as a magical element in this story. Write a story using a magical element like wind, air, sun, shade, a sunflower, etc. Tell your story to a friend or family member.
- Kechi is the greedy landlord in this story. He has no friends or family. Journal about the negative consequences that being lonely might cause. Do you think Kechi would act differently if he felt loved and accepted by someone?