



Pattan's Pumpkin: A Traditional Flood Story from Southern India

by Chitra Soundar; illustrated by Frané Lessac

After lavishing care on a withering plant, Pattan has a pumpkin large enough to be a rescue vessel, saving more plants and animals when flood waters rise.

Candlewick Press, 2017. Artwork used with permission. candlewick.com

Engaging Readers

As part of an oral tradition of storytelling, folktales entertain as they pass on the beliefs and history of a culture and can help students understand and value cultural knowledge and differences. Review the elements of folklore and the importance of oral tradition in passing on traditions and stories. *Pattan's Pumpkin* is a previously unwritten flood story from the Irular tribe that live in the valleys of the Western Ghats. Have students research this region of India and discuss how where a storyteller lives influences the stories he or she tells.

Community Connection

Create community with a **Read Across America storytelling night**. Start with inviting experienced storytellers to your classroom to generate enthusiasm for storytelling and then build on student interest to have students learn, practice, and tell stories of their own. When student storytellers are ready, host an evening for family and friends to hear student stories or take the show on the road and have students perform their stories for audiences at libraries, retirement homes, or community centers.

Ready Resources

Ensure that schools continue to improve their ability to successfully educate all children with support from the **Inclusive Schools Network (ISN)**. Take advantage of their tools and resources to adopt more inclusive teaching practices and help provide a supportive, quality education to students who are marginalized due to disability, gender, socioeconomic status, cultural heritage, language preference, and other factors.

inclusiveschools.org

OCTOBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Teen Read Week begins	9 Indigenous People's Day	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Read for the Record	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Halloween				