


Confucius





WHERESOEVER
YOU GO,
GO WITH ALL
YOUR HEART.

-CONFUCIUS-



Chinese Fairy Tales, Peter Pauper Press.

Read Aloud: pages 58-60 The Good Robber

What does this story tell us about Chinese values?

“To put the world in order, we must first put the nation in order; to put the nation in order, we must put the family in order; to put the family in order, we must cultivate our personal life; and to cultivate our personal life, we must first set our hearts right”

Confucius



Confucius

- **Confucius was China's most famous Philosopher.**
- Confucius was a government official, and during his lifetime (he lived from 551 to 479 B.C.) he saw growing disorder and chaos in the system.
- Perhaps due to the turmoil and injustices he saw, he set himself to develop a new moral code based on **respect, honesty, education, kindness and strong family bonds.**
- His teachings later became the basis for religious and moral life throughout China.

Confucius's beliefs on family values:

- Confucius believed that **strong family values and relationships** were key to a stable society.
- **Mutual respect and family loyalty** were central to Confucius teachings. This extended to the living as well as the deceased. Paying **respect to the ancestors** has become an important Chinese tradition.
- This respect for parents is called **filial piety**.
- He also stressed the importance of **seniority**: The old educate the young, and the young respect the old.
- *“Let the prince be a prince, the minister a minister, the father a father, and the son a son”*

Confucius's beliefs on learning

- Confucius was a member of the upper class, but he believed **education and knowledge belonged to anyone who had the desire to learn**. He opened a school in his home, and legend has it, some of his poorer students lived with him.
- He insisted on honesty, hard work, and teaching by example. He taught through conversation, by asking questions and expecting his pupils to find their own answers.
- He wanted to prepare his students for public service, to develop compassion and respect for others.
- *"Real knowledge is to know the extent of one's ignorance"*


“The strength of a nation derives from the integrity of the home.”
-Confucius



Confucius's Sayings:

What can we infer about Confucius's values? Use evidence from the text to support your inference.

- *"It does not matter how slowly you go so long as you do not stop"*
- *"Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in getting up every time we do"*
- *"Learning without thought is labor lost; thought without learning is perilous"*
- *"What a superior man seeks is in himself; what the small man seeks is in others"*
- *"Everything has its beauty but not everyone sees it"*
- *"He who will not economize will have to agonize"*
- *"He who learns but does not think, is lost. He who thinks but does not learn is in great danger"*
- *"Knowledge: when you know a thing, to hold that you know it; and when you do not know a thing, to allow that you do not know it"*
- *"Ignorance is the night of the mind, but a night without moon and star"*
- *"When anger rises, think of the consequences"*
- *"Respect yourself and others will respect you"*
- *"A man who has committed a mistake and doesn't correct it, is committing another mistake"*
- *"The superior man acts before he speaks, and afterwards speaks according to his action"*



What can we infer about Confucius's values? Use evidence from the text to support your inference.

- As a class, we will read examples of Confucius's quotes of wisdom.
- In small groups, students will come up with a central idea behind Confucius's values.
- Each group will write one claim about Confucius's values and list at least four details as evidence to support their claim.

Confucius's Sayings

Choose one of Confucius's sayings. Explain what you think the saying means in our life today by writing a story giving an example of how we can learn from the saying that you picked.

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What can we infer about Confucius's values?





Cause and Effect

What are some effects of Confucius's teachings?