

The Very Wiggly Tooth

A Guide for Teachers and Parents



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THEMES

Environment & Conservation

STEAM

Social & Emotional Wellbeing

SUB-THEMES

Sibling relationships

Growing up

Imagination and folklore

Story Discussion Guide

- Understand how different cultures celebrate childhood milestones like losing baby teeth.
- Reflect on the emotional experience of change and growing up
- . Appreciate the role of stories and traditions in helping children feel confident.
- Build empathy by comparing Bunu's tradition with their own.

Lesson plan

This story helps students reflect on caring for others—humans and animals—and the importance of empathy, healing, and resilience in tough situations. It introduces the refugee experience in an ageappropriate, humanizing way.

Learning Outcome

Before Reading:

- Have you ever had a wiggly tooth? What did you do?
- Do you know of any traditions about what to do with a baby tooth when it falls out?

During Reading :

- What do you think of Bunu's different attempts to pull the tooth out?
- How do Bunu's family members respond to her?
- What feelings do you think Bunu is having at different points in the story?

After Reading:

- What do you think the story of Musa the mouse teaches Bunu?
- What would you do with your tooth if you were Bunu?
- Do you think stories like this one can help with fears? Why?

Activities:

Tooth Traditions Around the World: Nepal/India: Toss tooth on roof for a mouse to replace it with a strong one. US/UK: Tooth Fairy leaves money under the pillow. Spain/Latin America: El Ratón Pérez, a tooth mouse, visits. Japan: Upper teeth go under house, lower ones on roof to grow straight. Create Your Own Tooth Legend: Students write or draw their own tooth fairy or custom ritual. Role-play: Act out Bunu's efforts or Musa's dream visit. Craft Activity: Make a 'Tooth Box' or paper mouse for storytelling fun.

Expected Outcomes

Students will feel more comfortable talking about emotional milestones like losing a tooth and will begin to appreciate the richness of global traditions. They'll also reflect on how oral storytelling can be both comforting and culturally enriching. Above all, they will understand that childhood transitions are shared across cultures—and that they are not alone in their experiences.

Applicable SDGs

- SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being
- SDG 4: Quality Education
- SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

SDG Explanation

- SDG 3: The story gently touches on dental care and the emotional aspects of a child's first experience with body change.
- SDG 4: Bunu learns from oral traditions, gaining both courage and cultural knowledge through storytelling.
- SDG 10: Recognizing diverse traditions around the world fosters inclusion and respect for cultural differences.

ABOUT ZAMASAMA

Zamasama is a nonprofit initiative that curates children's stories from diverse cultures and lived experiences around the world. It gives children a window into other communities—and a mirror that affirms their own, helping children recognize the shared humanity that connects us across differences. Through narratives that gently challenge biases and broaden worldviews, Zamasama helps children see difference not as a barrier but as a bridge. Through the power of stories, we sow the seeds of pluralism that can grow into a more harmonious world for all.