

# The Willow Pattern Story: The Tale of the Two Doves

Many years ago, in ancient China, there was an intelligent girl named Koong-se. She lived in her wealthy father's palace and would spend her days telling stories to the local children. In the evenings, she would sneak away to meet the love of her life, Chang. Unfortunately, because Koong-se's father unfairly thought that Chang was unimportant, they were not allowed to be together and they had to meet in secret.



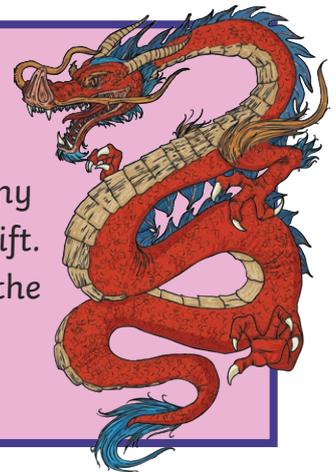
One day, Koong-se felt a hand on her shoulder. It was Jian: her father's guard. Immediately, she was taken to her room and the door was locked behind her. Koong-se's father had secretly followed her the previous night and had seen her with Chang. He had fired Chang and ordered that Koong-se be kept locked in her room. Then, he paid for large fences to be built all around the palace.

Koong-se was so upset; because her father was angry, she would never see Chang again. She felt very lonely while locked in her room with nobody to talk to. Then, one day, a note came through her door:

My lovely Koong-se,

I do not like arguing with you. I wish for you to be happy. Because of this, I have arranged for you to marry a wealthy duke. He will look after you and has sent you a small gift. You will become married when the first blossom falls from the willow tree.

Your loving father



Alongside the note was a beautiful brooch in the shape of a dragon. Feeling as though she had no other choice, Koong-se realised that this may be her only chance to gain her freedom. Because of this, she reluctantly agreed to the marriage.

Meanwhile, Chang had hatched a plan to rescue Koong-se. On the day of the wedding, he disguised himself as a servant and went into the palace. He slipped past the guards and made his way to Koong-se's room.

## The Willow Pattern Story: The Tale of the Two Doves



Koong-se was so happy to see Chang and she immediately agreed to his plan. In an instant, they ran as fast as they could until they were through the palace gates. They carried on running until they made their way to the beach where they found an empty ship. Chang, who knew how to sail, began to steer them away from land.

For several weeks, the pair sailed the sea and ate from the ship's cargo. One day, they saw a beautiful island ahead of them. It was covered in fruit-bearing trees and it had a small river running through it. The island was so perfect that the couple decided to spend the rest of their lives there.

Back at the palace, the duke was furious. He sent everyone under his command to search for his bride and the rule breaker, Chang. When nobody could find them, he began to offer large rewards of gold and jewels. Sailors and explorers spent years searching the seas but they always came back with nothing. Finally, an explorer called Donghai came back with the news that he had discovered a couple living on a small, remote island. Immediately, the duke sent his entire army to the island and the young couple were captured.



Luckily for Koong-se and Chang, the gods had been watching them. The gods knew that Koong-se and Chang were good people and did not wish to see them harmed. Moments after being captured, the couple were magically transformed into two beautiful doves. Flapping their new wings, they flew high into the air and away from the guards until they were safe. They spent the rest of their lives in safety and living happily together as a pair of doves.



# Questions

1. What did the duke give Koong-se as a gift? Tick one.

- a bag of jewels
- a brooch
- a pet dove
- a ship

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- Koong-se and Chang are transformed into doves.
- Koong-se and Chang are discovered meeting in secret.
- Koong-se and Chang are captured by the duke's army.
- Koong-se and Chang are forbidden from meeting again.

3. Name **two** different things that Koong-se and Chang could see on the island.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Look at the paragraph beginning **Inside the note was...**

Find and copy one word which shows that Koong-se didn't want to agree to the marriage.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Fill in the missing words.

Koong-se was due to be \_\_\_\_\_ on the day that the first  
\_\_\_\_\_ fell from the willow tree.

6. How do you think the duke felt after Koong-se and Chang escaped as doves? Explain your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## The Willow Pattern Story: The Tale of the Two Doves

7. Describe how the story would change if Koong-se's father had allowed her to see Chang.

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8. Do you think that the duke is a good person? Explain your answer.

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# Answers

1. What did the duke give Koong-se as a gift? Tick one.

- a bag of jewels
- a brooch**
- a pet dove
- a ship

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- 4** Koong-se and Chang are transformed into doves.
- 1** Koong-se and Chang are discovered meeting in secret.
- 3** Koong-se and Chang are captured by the duke's army.
- 2** Koong-se and Chang are forbidden from meeting again.

3. Name **two** different things that Koong-se and Chang could see on the island.

- 1. **trees**
- 2. **a river**

4. Look at the paragraph beginning **Inside the note was...**

Find and copy one word which shows that Koong-se didn't want to agree to the marriage  
**reluctant**

5. Fill in the missing words.

Koong-se was due to be **married** on the day that the first **blossom** fell from the willow tree.

6. How do you think the duke felt after Koong-se and Chang escaped as doves?

Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the duke felt angry and upset because he had spent years trying to find his bride and now he was never going to see her again.**

7. Describe how the story would change if Koong-se's father had allowed her to see Chang.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the story would be a lot happier because Koong-se wouldn't be locked away and they wouldn't have had to escape. Also, the couple would probably not have been transformed into doves.**

8. Do you think that the duke is a good person? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I do not think that the duke is a good person because he tries to stop Koong-se and Chang from being together. He also spends lots of money trying to find them instead of allowing them to be happy.**

# The Willow Pattern Story: The Tale of the Two Doves

Many years ago, in ancient China, there was an intelligent girl named Koong-se. She lived in her wealthy father's palace and would spend her days embellishing tales of her family's history for the local children. In the evenings, Koong-se would sneak down to the counting house where she would secretly meet the love of her life: he was an assistant named Chang. Unfortunately, as Koong-se's father unfairly viewed Chang's job as unimportant, a relationship between the two was forbidden. This meant that Koong-se and Chang had to meet in secret.



One day, while Koong-se was telling a group of children about one of her family's mighty battles, she felt a hand on her shoulder. It was Jian: her father's guard. Immediately, Koong-se was taken to her room and the door was locked behind her. What Koong-se hadn't realised was that her father had secretly followed her the previous night and had discovered that she was with Chang. He had fired the assistant and demanded that Koong-se be kept locked in her room. Her father then ordered that high fences should be built around the palace to prevent Koong-se from leaving and Chang from returning.

Koong-se was devastated. She had let her father down and now she would never see Chang again. She spent many lonely days and nights staring at the four walls of her room, wishing that there was a way that she could leave. Then, one day, a note came through her door:

My dearest Koong-se,

I am sorry that we are arguing like this. My only wish in this world is for you to be happy. Because of this, I have arranged for you to marry a wealthy duke. He will look after you. He has sent a small token of his affection along with this note. When the first blossom falls from the willow tree, the two of you shall be married.

Your loving father

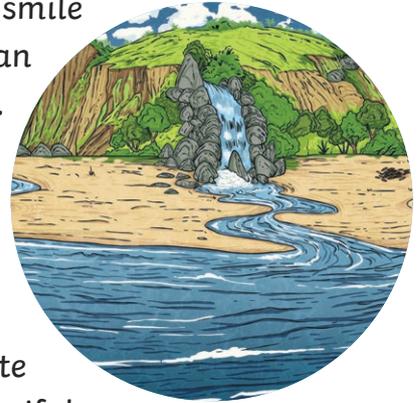


As she read the note, a beautiful, jewel-encrusted brooch in the shape of a dragon fell to the floor. Feeling as though she had no other choice, Koong-se looked at the brooch and realised that this was her chance to be free. Reluctantly, she agreed to the marriage and the wedding preparations began.

## The Willow Pattern Story: The Tale of the Two Doves

Meanwhile, Chang, who was distraught at the news, hatched a plan to rescue Koong-se. On the day of the wedding, he disguised himself as a servant and made his way into the palace. Pretending that he was delivering flowers to the bride, he made his way to Koong-se's chambers and opened the door.

Immediately, Koong-se leapt at Chang with a wide smile and threw her arms around him. In an instant, they ran down the palace corridors and then through the gates. They continued to run until they made their way to the beach, where the duke's ship had been left empty. Chang, who knew how to steer a ship, cast off and began to move them away from land.



For several weeks, the pair sailed the open waters and ate from the duke's supplies. One day, they spotted a beautiful island ahead of them. With luscious, fruit-bearing trees and a small stream running through it, the island was perfect and the couple vowed to live there for the rest of their lives.

Back at the palace, the duke was furious. He sent everyone under his command to search for his bride and the devilish accountant. With no sign of them, he began to offer large rewards of gold and jewels to anyone able to locate the couple. Sailors and explorers spent years searching the seas and looking for traces of them but they always came back with nothing. Finally, an explorer by the name of Donghai returned with the news that he had discovered a couple living on a small, remote island. Immediately, the duke sent his entire army to the island and, within days, the young couple had been captured.

High in the heavens, the gods had been watching Koong-se and Chang. The gods knew that Koong-se and Chang were good people and did not wish to see any harm come to them. Moments after being captured, the couple were magically transformed into beautiful doves. They easily escaped the guards and flew onwards to safety. They spent the rest of their lives happily in one another's company.



# Questions

1. Draw four lines to match each person to their actions.

the duke	sailed Koong-se to an island
Donghai	sent Koong-se a brooch
Koong-se's father	forbade Koong-se from seeing Chang
Chang	discovered the couple on the island

2. What did Koong-se's father do to prevent Chang from coming back into the palace?  
Tick one.

- ordered that tall fences be built
- hired more guards to watch the palace
- locked Koong-se away
- asked a duke to protect them

3. Look at the first paragraph. Find and copy **two** different words which show that Koong-se didn't want anyone to know she was meeting Chang.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

4. What did the duke begin to offer after nobody could find the couple?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Name one thing that Chang did to get back into the palace.

\_\_\_\_\_

## The Willow Pattern Story: The Tale of the Two Doves

6. Compare Koong-se and Chang's relationship at the beginning of the story to their relationship at the end of the story.

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7. Do you think that this story has a happy ending? Fully explain your answer.

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8. What do you think happened next to the duke? Fully explain your answer.

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9. Look at the paragraph beginning **Back at the palace, the duke was furious.** How does the author show that the duke is desperate to find the couple?

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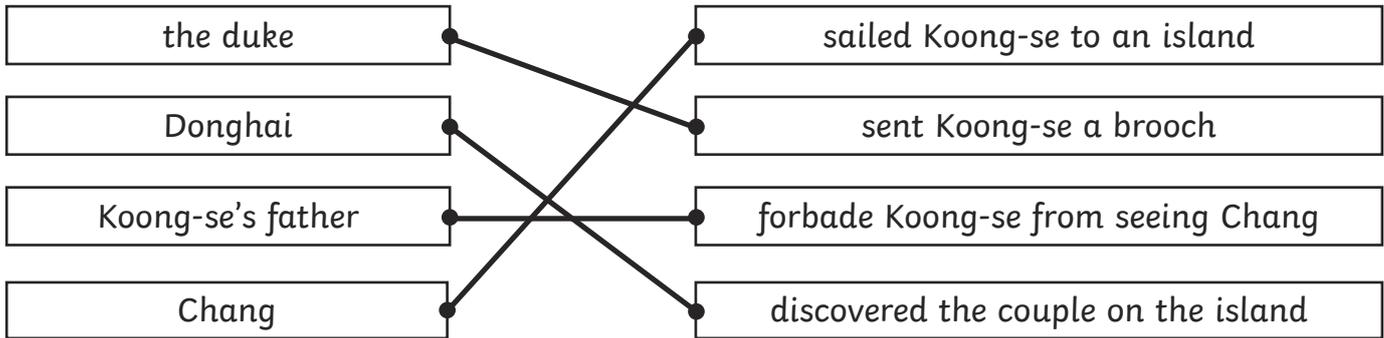
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# Answers

1. Draw four lines to match each person to their actions.



2. What did Koong-se's father do to prevent Chang from coming back into the palace?  
Tick one.

- ordered that tall fences be built**
- hired more guards to watch the palace
- locked Koong-se away
- asked a duke to protect them

3. Look at the first paragraph. Find and copy **two** different words which show that Koong-se didn't want anyone to know she was meeting Chang.

1. **sneak**      2. **secret(ly)**

4. What did the duke begin to offer after nobody could find the couple?  
**The duke began to offer large rewards of gold and jewels.**

5. Name one thing that Chang did to get back into the palace.

**Accept one of the following: disguised himself as a servant; pretended that he was delivering flowers to the bride.**

6. Compare Koong-se and Chang's relationship at the beginning of the story to their relationship at the end of the story.

**Pupils' own responses provided that a valid comparison is made, such as: At the beginning of the story, Koong-se and Chang are having to meet in secret and nobody knows about them. At the end of the story, they have been turned into doves so they no longer have to meet in secret and they can spend all of their time together. Do you think that this story has a happy ending? Fully explain your answer.**

## The Willow Pattern Story: The Tale of the Two Doves

7. Do you think that this story has a happy ending? Fully explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the story does have a happy ending because Chang and Koong-se manage to escape from the duke and can spend the rest of their lives together without having to worry about getting caught.**

8. What do you think happened next to the duke? Fully explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the duke felt really angry because the couple had managed to escape. However, he knows that he will never be able to catch them now so I think that he will stop looking for them and start to look for a new partner.**

9. Look at the paragraph beginning **Back at the palace, the duke was furious.**

How does the author show that the duke is desperate to find the couple?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The author describes the duke as sending everyone in his command to search for the couple. When that doesn't work, the author says that he began to offer large rewards. The author also describes the search as lasting for years which shows that the duke is unwilling to give up.**

# The Willow Pattern Story: The Tale of the Two Doves

Many years ago, in ancient China, there lived a beautiful, intelligent girl named Koong-se. Koong-se lived in her wealthy father's palace and would spend her days weaving intricate tales of her family's illustrious history for the local children. In the evenings, Koong-se would wander down to the palace's counting house where she would secretly meet the love of her life: an assistant accountant named Chang. Unfortunately, given Chang's status as an assistant, Koong-se's father forbade a relationship between the two.



One day, during an elaborate retelling of her family's mighty battles, Koong-se felt a hand on her shoulder. It was Jian: her father's bodyguard. Immediately, Koong-se was hauled upwards and taken to her room where the door was locked behind her. What Koong-se hadn't known was that her father had secretly followed her to the counting house the previous night and had discovered that she was meeting Chang. He had fired Chang and demanded that Koong-se be kept locked in her room. In addition, her father requested that high fences should be built all around the palace to prevent any unwanted people from leaving or entering.

Koong-se was distraught; not only had she let her father down but now she would never see Chang again. She spent many lonely days and nights staring at the four walls of her room, hopelessly wondering whether she would ever be able to leave. One day, a note came through her door:

My dearest Koong-se,

I am sorry that this rift has come between us. I wish nothing in this world but for you to be happy. Because of this, I have arranged for you to marry a wealthy duke. He will look after you well. Enclosed is a small token of his affection. The two of you shall marry when the first blossom falls from the willow tree.

Your loving father



As she read the note, a beautiful, jewel-encrusted brooch in the shape of a dragon fell to the floor. Feeling trapped and alone, Koong-se retrieved it and absent-

## The Willow Pattern Story: The Tale of the Two Doves

mindedly turned the brooch around in her fingers. She came to the conclusion that this might be her only chance to be free. Reluctantly, she sent a message to her father and she agreed to the marriage. Soon, the wedding preparations were in full swing.

Meanwhile, a devastated Chang had heard the news and subsequently hatched a plan to rescue Koong-se. On the day that the first blossom fell from the willow tree, he disguised himself as a servant and made his way into the palace. Pretending that he was delivering flowers to the bride, he made his way to Koong-se's chambers and opened the door.

Immediately, Koong-se beamed with joy at the sight of Chang. She threw her arms around him and they began to run down the palace corridors and then through the gates. They continued to run until they made their way to the beach, where the duke's ship had been moored. Chang, who had been taught how to sail by his mother, cast off and began to steer the ship away from land.



For several weeks, the pair sailed the open waters – living from the duke's plentiful supplies – until they reached a deserted island. Thick with luscious, fruit-bearing trees and with a small stream running through the centre, the newly-discovered island was so perfect that the couple vowed to live there for eternity.

However, back at the palace, the duke was furious. He sent every man, woman and child under his command to search for his bride and the treacherous accountant. After several months of fruitless searches, he began to offer large rewards to anyone able to locate the couple. For years, sailors and explorers would scour the seas looking for traces of them but to no avail. Finally, an explorer by the name of Donghai came back with news; he had discovered a couple living on a small, secluded island. Immediately, crews were dispatched and, within days, the young couple had been captured.



## The Willow Pattern Story: The Tale of the Two Doves

Fortunately, high in the heavens, the gods had been watching Koong-se and Chang and had grown to love them. The gods knew that Koong-se and Chang were good people and did not wish to see any harm come to them so they decided to intervene. Moments after being captured, the couple were miraculously transformed into beautiful doves; they flew away to safety and they happily spent the rest of their lives together.



# The Willow Pattern Story: The Tale of the Two Doves

## Questions

1. How did Koong-se feel when she accepted the duke's marriage proposal? Tick one.

- delighted and excited
- hopeful that it was Chang
- like it was her only choice
- confused about who the duke was

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- Koong-se receives a dragon-shaped brooch.
- Donghai discovers the missing couple.
- The father stops Chang from entering the palace.
- Chang steers the duke's ship.

3. Look at the paragraph beginning **However, back at the palace...**

Find and copy one word which means 'unsuccessful'.

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4. When were Koong-se and the duke due to get married?

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5. While at sea, where did the couple get their food and drink from?

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6. Argue that Koong-se's father did the **right** thing by locking her away.

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7. Compare the duke's character when he sends the brooch to Koong-se with his character at the end of the story.

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8. Write down what you think Koong-se is thinking as she reads the letter from her father.

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9. Look at the paragraph beginning **Koong-se was distraught**. Explain how the author makes you feel sorry for Koong-se.

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10. Do you think that this story has a happy ending for all of the characters? Tick one.

Yes       No

Fully explain your answer.

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# Answers

1. How did Koong-se feel when she accepted the duke's marriage proposal? Tick one.

- delighted and excited
- hopeful that it was Chang
- like it was her only choice**
- confused about who the duke was

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- 2** Koong-se receives a dragon-shaped brooch.
- 4** Donghai discovers the missing couple.
- 1** The father stops Chang from entering the palace.
- 3** Chang steers the duke's ship.

3. Look at the paragraph beginning **However, back at the palace...**

Find and copy one word which means 'unsuccessful'.

**fruitless**

4. When were Koong-se and the duke due to get married?

**Koong-se and the duke were due to get married when the first blossom fell from the willow tree.**

5. While at sea, where did the couple get their food and drink from?

**While at sea, Koong-se and Chang got their food and drink from the duke's plentiful supplies.**

6. Argue that Koong-se's father did the **right** thing by locking her away.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Koong-se's father did the right thing by locking her away because it kept her away from Chang and she was not supposed to be with him. If she hadn't escaped with Chang, she would never have been turned into a dove and would still be living with her family at the palace.**

7. Compare the duke's character when he sends the brooch to Koong-se with his character at the end of the story.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: When the duke sends Koong-se a brooch, he wants to make her happy. In contrast, at the end of the story, the duke chasing after her and trying to keep her from what would make her happy.**

## The Willow Pattern Story: The Tale of the Two Doves

8. Write down what you think Koong-se is thinking as she reads the letter from her father.  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Koong-se is thinking, 'I don't want to marry this person that I have never met before. However, if I say no, then I may never be allowed to leave this room and I will definitely never see Chang again. This is so horrible; I don't want to say yes but I see no other way to be free.'**
9. Look at the paragraph beginning **Koong-se was distraught**.  
Explain how the author makes you feel sorry for Koong-se.  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: The author makes you feel sorry for Koong-se by using words such as 'distraught' and 'hopelessly'. The author also mentions that Koong-se is 'staring at the four walls of her room' which makes you feel as though she is trapped.**
10. Do you think that this story has a happy ending for all of the characters? Tick one.  
Fully explain your answer.  
**Accept either 'yes' or 'no' provided that a full explanation is also given, such as: No, I do not think that it was a happy ending for all of the characters. While Koong-se and Chang were turned into doves and escaped happily, the duke never got what he wanted and is now probably feeling very angry. Similarly, Koong-se's father must be really worried about her because he is unlikely to ever see his daughter again and that might make him feel sad.**