

Holi

The Legend of Prahlad and Holika



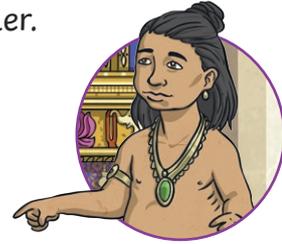
A long time ago, there was a demon king. He thought that he was more powerful than any god. He had taken over the whole world and he wanted everyone to worship him. They were not allowed to worship any other god.

The demon king had a son called Prahlad. Prahlad worshipped a god called Vishnu. Prahlad said that he would never worship his father.

One day, the demon king asked Prahlad a question.

“Am I the greatest or is God the greatest?”

“God is the greatest,” said Prahlad. “You are only a king.”



Prahlad’s answer made the demon king very cross and he wanted to kill his son. The demon king made lots of different plans to hurt Prahlad. He threw him over a cliff, made an elephant stand on him and made snakes bite him. But every time that Prahlad was in danger, the good Vishnu stopped him from getting hurt.

The demon king was getting tired of waiting so he asked his sister Holika to kill Prahlad. Holika had a magic cloak. She could not get hurt by fire if she was wearing it. Knowing this, the demon king asked Holika to sit on a bonfire and hold Prahlad in her lap. Prahlad would be killed but Holika would not be hurt because she was wearing her magic cloak.



The gods were not happy when they heard about Holika’s plan. As the fire was lit, Vishnu made something magical happen. The cloak flew from Holika’s back and wrapped itself around Prahlad. The fire burned Holika but Prahlad was safe. The gods also decided to punish the demon king for his evil plan. They took him away and he was never seen again.



Prahlad was happy because his wicked father and aunt were gone forever. He became the king of his land and was always fair to his people. This story shows that good will always find a way to win and evil will always be beaten.



Questions

1. What was the demon king's son called? Tick one.

- Holika
- Vishnu
- Prahlad

2. What was the name of the demon king's sister? Tick one.

- Prahlad
- Holika
- Vishnu

3. Who did Prahlad think was the greatest? Tick one.

- The demon king
- God
- Holika

4. Who stopped Prahlad from getting hurt? Tick one.

- Vishnu
- Holika
- The demon king

5. What magical item did Holika have?

6. Name two ways that the demon king tried to hurt Prahlad.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

7. How did good win over evil in this story?

Answers

1. What was the demon king's son called? Tick one.

- Holika
- Vishnu
- Prahlad**

2. What was the name of the demon king's sister? Tick one.

- Prahlad
- Holika**
- Vishnu

3. Who did Prahlad think was the greatest? Tick one.

- The demon king
- God**
- Holika

4. Who stopped Prahlad from getting hurt? Tick one.

- Vishnu**
- Holika
- The demon king

5. What magical item did Holika have?

Accept the answer 'a (magic) cloak' only.

6. Name two ways that the demon king tried to hurt Prahlad.

Accept any two of the following:

- **He threw him off a cliff.**
- **He made an elephant stand on him.**
- **He made snakes bite him.**
- **He asked his sister to put him on a bonfire.**

7. How did good win over evil in this story?

Accept any answer which explains that good won over evil because the good Prahlad was not hurt but the evil people (the demon king and Holika) who plotted against him ended up hurt at the end.

Holi

The Legend of Prahlad and Holika



Many years ago, there lived a demon king named Hiranyakashyap. He believed that he was more powerful than any god. He had taken over the whole of Earth and he demanded that everyone must worship him, making it forbidden to worship anyone or anything else.

However, annoyingly for Hiranyakashyap, he found out that his only son, Prahlad, worshipped Vishnu – a real god. Prahlad knew that he would never worship his father.

One day, Hiranyakashyap asked his son a question, “Who is the greatest, God or I?”

“God is,” answered Prahlad. “You are only a king.”



Prahlad’s answer made Hiranyakashyap very angry and he wanted to kill his son. Hiranyakashyap made many different plans and tried lots of different ways to harm Prahlad. He was thrown over a cliff, trampled by an elephant, bitten by snakes and attacked by soldiers but, each time, the god Vishnu saved Prahlad from harm.

Finally, Hiranyakashyap asked his sister Holika to kill Prahlad. Holika was a demon and she owned a special cloak which protected her from being harmed by fire. Holika agreed to use this power to kill Prahlad once and for all.

Hiranyakashyap asked his sister Holika to wear her protective cloak and sit on a bonfire. She tricked Prahlad into sitting on her knee in the middle of the bonfire, thinking that he would be killed by the flames whilst she was safe inside her cloak.

However, the gods did not like her evil plan. As the fire roared to life, the magical cloak flew from Holika’s back and wrapped itself around Prahlad. Holika was burned away but Prahlad was not harmed at all. Knowing where the plan had come from, the god Vishnu also decided to punish Hiranyakashyap for his evil plot and took him away, never to be seen again.

With his wicked father and aunt gone forever, Prahlad was free to live happily. He became the king of his land and was always fair to his people. The moral of this story is that good will always find a way to triumph over evil.



Questions

1. Draw a line to match the character's name to their role in the story.

Hiranyakashyap

Prahlaad

Holika

The demon king's sister

The demon king

The demon king's son

2. Which of these statements is true? Tick one.

- Prahlaad thought that Hiranyakashyap was greater than God.
- Prahlaad thought that God was greater than Hiranyakashyap.
- Prahlaad thought that both Hiranyakashyap and Vishnu were equal.

3. Why was Hiranyakashyap angry? Tick one.

- because Prahlaad had called for Holika to come
- because Prahlaad had taken over the whole of the Earth
- because Prahlaad said that God was greater than him

4. Which of these did Hiranyakashyap order to happen to Prahlaad? Tick two answers.

- to be trampled by an elephant
- to be bitten by snakes
- to be given a special cloak

5. Which words from the first paragraph tell you that this story happened a long time ago?

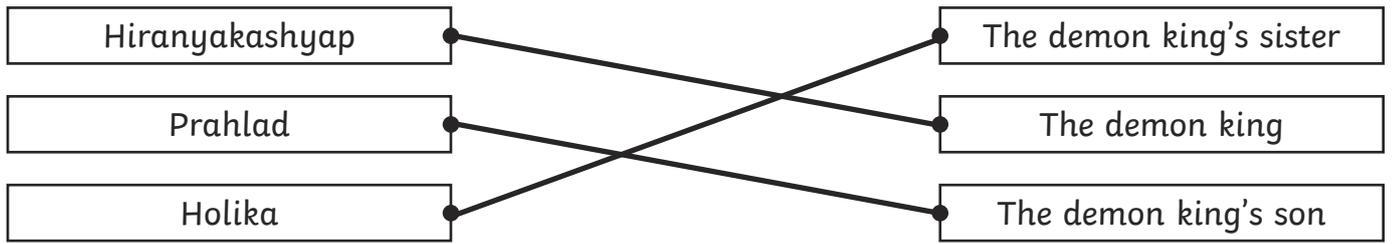
6. What magical power did Holika's cloak have?

7. Why do you think that Holika agreed to hurt Prahlaad?

8. Explain how you know that good triumphed over evil in this story.

Answers

1. Draw a line to match the character's name to their role in the story.



2. Which of these statements is true? Tick one.

- Prahlad thought that Hiranyakashyap was greater than God.
- Prahlad thought that God was greater than Hiranyakashyap.**
- Prahlad thought that both Hiranyakashyap and Vishnu were equal.

3. Why was Hiranyakashyap angry? Tick one.

- because Prahlad had called for Holika to come
- because Prahlad had taken over the whole of the Earth
- because Prahlad said that God was greater than him**

4. Which of these did Hiranyakashyap order to happen to Prahlad? Tick two answers.

- to be trampled by an elephant**
- to be bitten by snakes**
- to be given a special cloak

5. Which words from the first paragraph tell you that this story happened a long time ago?

Accept the answer 'many years ago' only.

6. What magical power did Holika's cloak have?

Accept any answer which states that Holika's cloak protected her from being harmed by fire.

7. Why do you think that Holika agreed to hurt Prahlad?

Accept any answer which relates to one of the following themes:

- **Because she was a demon and demons are evil.**
- **Because she did not like that Prahlad did not worship her brother.**
- **Because she was sticking up for her brother.**

8. Explain how you know that good triumphed over evil in this story.

Accept any explanation that shows understanding that good triumphed over evil because the good Prahlad was not hurt but the evil people (the demon king and Holika) who plotted against him ended up hurt at the end.

Holi

The Legend of Prahlad and Holika

Long ago, there lived a demon king named Hiranyakashyap, who believed that he was more powerful than any god. With his immense strength and control, he had taken over the whole of Earth and he demanded that everyone must worship him, making it forbidden to worship anyone or anything else.

However, to Hiranyakashyap's great annoyance and disappointment, he found out that his only son, Prahlad, was a devoted worshipper of Vishnu – a real god – and that Prahlad would never agree to worship his father.

One day, Hiranyakashyap asked his son a question, "Who is the greatest, God or I?" "God is," replied Prahlad. "You are only a mere king."

Prahlad's answer made Hiranyakashyap so angry that he decided that his only option would be to kill his son. Hiranyakashyap planned, plotted and schemed. He tried many different methods to bring Prahlad to harm. Prahlad was thrown over a cliff, thrown into a well, trampled by an elephant, bitten by venomous snakes and attacked by soldiers but, each time, the god Vishnu stepped in and saved Prahlad from harm.

Finally, in desperation, Hiranyakashyap asked his sister Holika to kill Prahlad. Holika was a demon and she owned a special cloak which, when she wore it, would prevent her from being harmed by fire. Holika decided to use this power to kill Prahlad once and for all.

Hiranyakashyap asked his sister Holika to sit on a bonfire, knowing that it would cause her no harm whilst she was wrapped in her special cloak. She tricked Prahlad and lured him to sit on her knee in the middle of the bonfire, thinking that Prahlad would be killed by the flames whilst she remained safe inside her cloak.

However, the gods, including Vishnu, did not like her evil intentions. As the fire roared to life, the magical cloak flew from Holika's back and wrapped itself around Prahlad. The wicked demon Holika was burned away, whilst Prahlad survived unharmed. Knowing where the plan had come from, the god Vishnu also decided to punish Hiranyakashyap for his evil plot and took him away, never to be seen again.

With his wicked father and aunt gone forever, Prahlad was free to live in happiness and became king of his land, ruling fairly and wisely for the rest of his days, showing that good will always triumph over evil.



Questions

1. 'With his immense strength and control...'

What do you think the word immense means in this sentence? Tick one.

- large or great
- weak or feeble
- small and hard to see.

2. Draw a line to match the character's name to their role in the story.

What was the name of the demon king?	Vishnu
Who did Prahlad worship?	Holika
Who helped Hiranyakashyap to hurt his son?	Hiranyakashyap

3. Name three things that Hiranyakashyap did to try and kill his son.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

4. Insert the words below into the gaps in this sentence:

evil	good	triumph
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This story shows that _____ will always _____ over _____.

5. Find and copy two adverbs from the final paragraph which show how Prahlad ruled.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

6. Why do you think that Prahlad would never agree to worship his father?

7. Find and copy a phrase from the text which shows that Prahlad was unaware of Holika's plan.

8. Give an example of another story you know where good triumphs over evil.

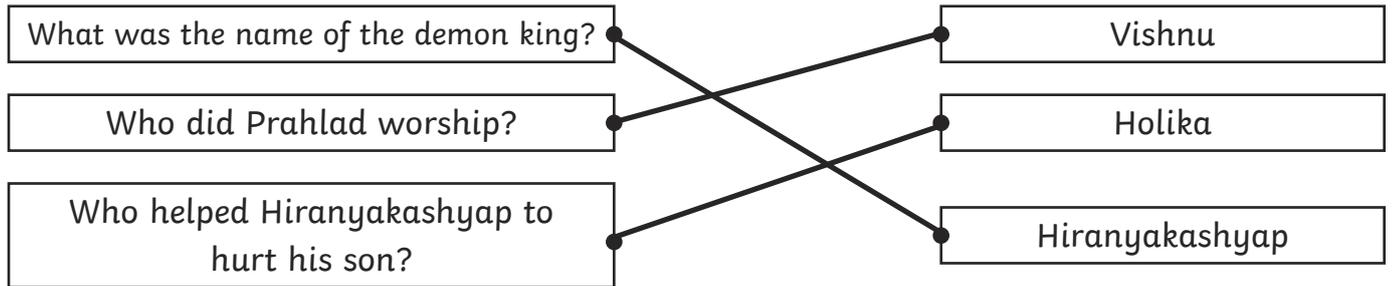
Answers

1. 'With his immense strength and control...'

What do you think the word immense means in this sentence? Tick one.

- large or great**
- weak or feeble
- small and hard to see.

2. Draw a line to match the character's name to their role in the story.



3. Name three things that Hiranyakashyap did to try and kill his son.

Accept any three of the following answers:

- **He threw him over a cliff.**
- **He threw him into a well.**
- **He made an elephant trample on him.**
- **He made snakes bite him.**
- **He made soldier attack him.**
- **He asked Holika to hold him on a bonfire.**

4. Insert the words below into the gaps in this sentence:

evil	good	triumph
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This story shows that **good** will always **triumph** over **evil**.

5. Find and copy two adverbs from the final paragraph which show how Prahlad ruled.

Accept the answers 'fairly' and 'wisely' only, in either order.

6. Why do you think that Prahlad would never agree to worship his father?

- **Prahlad knew that his father was not a god, only a king, and so would not worship him.**
- **Prahlad disliked what his father had done and refused to agree with it.**
- **Prahlad knew that Vishnu was a real god and so chose to worship him instead.**

7. Find and copy a phrase from the text which shows that Prahlad was unaware of Holika's plan.

Accept the answer 'She tricked Prahlad (and lured him)' only.

8. Give an example of another story you know where good triumphs over evil.

Accept any answer which gives an example of a story where good triumphs over evil, for example:

- **The Three Billy Goats Gruff because the three goats get to live in the field but the troll is never seen again.**
- **The Lion King because Scar is a bad guy but he is beaten by Simba.**
- **Cinderella because she gets to marry the prince but the ugly sisters don't.**