

Stories With Art: **Remix A Story**



Raja Ravi Varma was a renowned Indian painter who is famous for his depictions of mythological stories. His paintings are known for their vivid colors, intricate details, and realistic portrayal of characters. Through his art, he brought the stories of Hindu mythology to life, making them accessible to people of all backgrounds.

Varma's paintings often featured Hindu deities and mythological figures, such as Lord Krishna, Goddess Saraswati, and the characters from the Ramayana and Mahabharata. He was known for his ability to capture the essence of the stories he depicted and convey them through his art.

Varma's paintings were not only visually stunning but also helped to popularise Indian mythology and culture. He was also among the first artists' whose depictions of these stories grew so widely popular that they shaped the imagination of who these gods and goddesses, heroes and heroines were for most people. Let's take a page from his book, and reimagine some of them today!

Here is a painting by Ravi Varma titled *Savirtri*. This is a story from Mahabharata and goes as follows.



Savitri, 1898, Raja Ravi Varma, Chromolithograph, Wellcome Collection, Public Domain Mark

STORY TIME!

Once upon a time, there was a girl named Savitri. Her father was a king. When Savitri grew up, no one wanted to marry her, which made her father sad. So, he told her to go on a trip to find a husband. Savitri went to the forest and met a prince named Satyavan. He was the son of a defeated king and had to live in the forest after they lost the battle. Savitri fell in love with Satyavan and chose him to be her husband.

When she went back to her dad to tell him the good news, a wise guy named Narada said that Satyavan was going to die in a year. Savitri didn't give up on Satyavan and they got married and went to live in the forest. A few days before Satyavan's death, Savitri went on a fast. When Yama, the god of death, came to take Satyavan, Savitri talked, begged and finally tricked him into not taking Satyavan's life. Yama was impressed by Savitri's intelligence and love for Satyavan, so he blessed them to live for a hundred years instead!

_____ The End _____

The painting portrays the scene where Savitri with Satyavan on her lap is trying to convince Yama (the shadowy figure) not to take her husband's life. Now that you know the story behind this painting, it is time for you to remix this story and give it your own twist. You can change the climax of the story, reverse roles, or even add and remove characters.

REMIX TIME!

Here are some prompts to help you create your story.

Choose your point of view:

Decide who will be telling your story - will it be Savitri, Satyavan, Yama, Narada, their family, or someone else altogether? Do you want to tell this story in the first person (I) or in the third person (he/she/they)?

Develop your characters:

Your characters are the heart of your story, so take some time to develop them. Think about their personality traits, their motivations, and their backstory.

Remix the plot!

Change elements from the original story. Could Savitri have met a different prince? Could Satyavan suddenly be bitten by a spider and gain powers to fight Yama himself? Perhaps Yama was bored of collecting souls all day and asked Savitri to take over his job? Feel free to reimagine the story how you'd like.

Write out your story:

1. Write the beginning: Introduce your main character and the setting.
2. Write the middle: This is where your character's problem or goal is introduced and where the story really starts to take shape.
3. Write the end: The end of your story should be where the problem or goal is resolved. This could be a happy ending or a sad one, you choose!

Send us your story when you're done, we can't wait to read it! Or if you'd like to, send us a reading of your story through a voice recording. Happy remixing!



Don't forget to send us your creations. DM it to us on Instagram @mapbangalore. You can also email them to us at education@map-india.org