



The Papaya that Spoke

About the story

The Papaya that Spoke is well known in different parts of Africa, though usually it is a yam that speaks. Sometimes a cow speaks or a tree, a fish trap or a weaver's cloth. However, in essence, the story is about someone who keeps hearing things speak. In that sense it is a sort of ghost story!

Getting to know the story well

Start off by showing the children some pictures of papayas (from books or the internet). Once everyone has had a chance to look at the fruit, watch or tell the story to the class.



Watch it

Watch the video of Pie Corbett telling *The Papaya that Spoke* on the CD-Rom.

Drama

- Interview all the characters involved - including the animals, as they can speak!
- Work in groups to prepare a simple re-enactment of the story, using a narrator. Perform the story for a younger class.

Writing in role

- Write a diary entry for any of the characters.

Art

- Present the story as a beautifully illustrated map. Decorate with designs taken from the tale (such as yams, foot or paw prints).

Dance

- Prepare a mime of the story so that it is told using gesture and movement with no words.

Music

- Use a simple drumbeat to add to the 'run' (the repeated pattern, 'he ran and he ran and he ran') and dramatic moments.

Research

- As this is a tale told in Africa it would fit in well to any topic work on that part of the world.

Story beyond the story

- Tell the story of either the farmer or the fisherman - what happened next to them? What happened to the King?

