

LEVEL

6

Intermediate

Compass
Readers

The Crafty Potter

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The Wedding Problem

Babu lived in India and worked as a **potter**. He spent his days using wet clay to shape **jars** and big pots. Babu loved making beautiful **pottery**, but he was not a rich man. Babu was **crafty** because he could make pottery, but his friends said he was also crafty because he was clever.

Babu's son was getting married soon, and his whole family was excited. **Weddings** in India were big parties. The new husband and wife sometimes rode through town on an elephant after the ceremony was over.

Babu wanted his son and new wife to keep that old **tradition**. This was a problem because Babu didn't own an elephant. Elephants were expensive to buy, so Babu decided to see if he could rent one for the party.



Babu's neighbor, Purna, was a rich man who owned many elephants. Purna had never been nice to Babu's family, but maybe this time he would be different.

Babu knocked on Purna's door.

"May I please rent one of your elephants on the day of my son's wedding?" Babu asked as soon as Purna opened the door.

"How can a poor potter like yourself hope to have enough money to rent one of my elephants?" Purna asked. "My elephants are special."



A Runaway

“I have saved money for many months to pay for my son’s wedding,” Babu said. “I’ll give you half of the money in this bag to rent one of your elephants.”

“No,” said Purna. “I’ll take the whole bag.” He took the bag from Babu. “You’re lucky I don’t want more money for my special elephant. Come and get the animal the morning of the wedding.”

Babu kept his eyes down until his rich neighbor went into his house. Then he smiled. He had expected that Purna would want more money, so he had left part of his savings at home. Now the wedding would be perfect.

