

Burma/Myanmar

WORD FOR THE DAY: UPRISING: an act of rebellion (usually violent) against those in power.

1. Point out to the students that Burma today has been renamed Myanmar, but many people still call it Burma. Back in 1948, when this story takes place, the country was known as Burma.
2. You might tell the students that as of 2016 the largest refugee group that entered the US came from Burma. The same problems that were going on during the 1948 story continue in the country. While this story is a sad one, it will educate the students on the reasons why the US had to help these people from Burma.
3. You might explain that Buddhism is based on the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama, who would become known as Buddha ("enlightened one"). He lived in Nepal during the 6th to 4th century B.C. According to his followers, after experimenting with different teachings for years, and finding none of them acceptable, Gautama spent a night in deep meditation. During his meditation, all of the answers he had been seeking became clear, and he achieved full awareness, thereby becoming Buddha. He then took his new ideas and taught them widely. Note that Theravada is pronounced Terra VAH dah.
4. The story of the two sisters starting a Mon school is actually true, as is the part of the villages and school being burned to the ground by the Burmans.
5. This might be a good story to begin a discussion about ethnic tolerance.

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