

# Readers' Theater

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## A Grain of Rice



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Each reader's part is highlighted in color.

### List of Characters

(in order of appearance)

- Group 1: Green
- Group 2: Blue
- King: Light Blue
- Group 3: Orange
- Farmers: Light Green
- Girl: Purple
- Wise Men: Red



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**King:** You are little, yet you are very smart. What will you do with all this rice?

**Girl:** I will give the rice to the hungry people in the kingdom. I will give you a basket of rice, too, if you make me a promise.

**King:** What do I have to promise?

**Girl:** From now on, you must only take as much rice as you need from the people.

**Group 1:** For the rest of the king's life, he took only the rice he needed.

**Wise Men:** Everyone in the kingdom lived happily ever after.



# A Grain of Rice

**Group 1:** Once upon a time, a very greedy king ruled a kingdom.

**Group 2:** The king made the people in his kingdom give him most of the rice they grew.

**King:** I am the king. The rice grows on my land. So the rice belongs to me!



**Group 3:** The people did not agree.

**Farmers:** We are the ones who work in the rice fields. Why should the king get most of the rice? It isn't fair!

**Group 1:** But the people were afraid of their king. So they didn't say anything to him.



**Group 1:** By the end of the month, the king was worried. There was no more rice in his castle.

**King:** How many grains of rice have we sent the little girl?

**Wise Men:** Millions and millions,  
Your Highness.

**Group 2:** The king was surprised. Now he started to understand the meaning of the little girl's wish.

**Group 3:** The king went to visit the little girl and her family.

**Group 1:** On the 20th day, the king's men had to use a horse to carry all the bags of rice.

**Group 2:** Four days later, it took many horses to carry all the bags of rice of rice!

**Group 3:** There was no room in the girl's house for the rice. So the men piled the bags of rice outside.



**Group 2:** One day each year, the king called his people together.

**King:** I will grant one wish to anyone in my kingdom.

**Group 3:** But because the people were afraid, no one ever made a wish.

**Group 1:** Then one year, something changed.



**Group 2:** A brave little girl stepped forward.

**Girl:** I have a wish, Your Highness!

**Group 3:** They wondered how someone so small could ask the king for anything.

**King:** Yes, little girl? Tell me your wish, and I will grant it.



**Group 1:** Every day, the girl and her parents stood outside their home to wait for the rice.

**Group 2:** On the 15th day, the king sent a little bag of rice.

**Group 3:** The girl and her parents were happy to have rice to cook and eat for dinner.

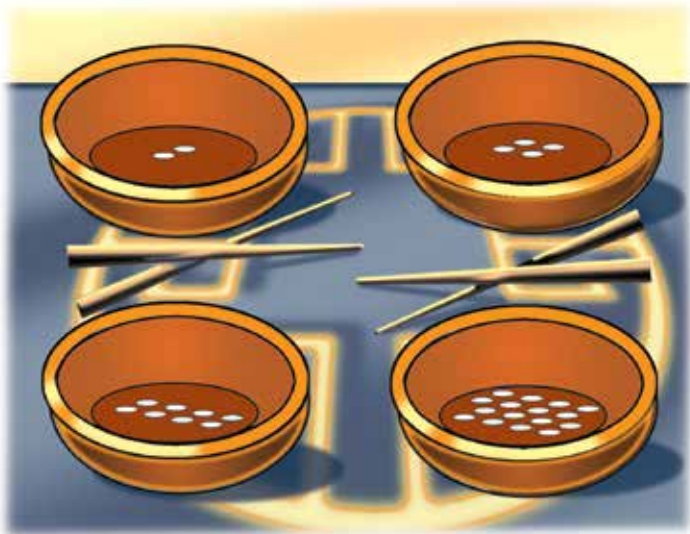


**Group 3:** The king did what he said. Every day, he doubled the number of grains of rice he sent to the girl.

**Group 1:** The first day, he gave the girl one grain. The second day, he sent two grains to her home.

**Group 2:** The third day, he sent four grains. The fourth day, he sent eight grains.

**Group 3:** The fifth day, the king sent 16 grains. On the sixth day, he sent 32 grains.



**Girl:** All I want is a grain of rice, Your Highness.

**Group 1:** Everyone laughed. The king laughed loudest of all.

**King:** Just one grain of rice? Are you sure you don't want more?

**Girl:** Please, Your Highness, I want one grain of rice today. Tomorrow, I want two grains. Each day for one month, I want double the amount you gave me the day before.



**Group 2:** The king asked his wise men what they thought about the girl's wish.

**Wise Men:** A few grains of rice do not seem like very much to us, Your Highness.

**King:** Very well, little girl. I grant your wish. Today, I will give you one grain of rice. Tomorrow, I will send two grains to your home. And each day for one month, I will send you double the amount I sent the day before.

**Girl:** Thank you, Your Highness.

