



A traditional story

Read this **story** from India about a tree, and answer the questions in complete sentences. The writer explains that, as a child, she often heard this story told on a special day in March – the Day for Brothers – when “all sisters in India pray that no harm comes to their brothers.”

The Mango Tree (Part One)



In a small town, there was a small house in which lived a young man, his wife, and the young man’s sister. This small house had a small garden at the back in which grew a small mango tree. One day the young man’s wife came to him and said, “Look here, I’m fed up with our situation. Your sister ...”

“Have you come here to complain about my sister again?”

“What can I do? I know it’s quite useless ... My complaints fall on deaf ears, anyway ... I’m just ... so angry with your sister. I get up early in the morning, draw water from the well, light the fire in the kitchen, cook breakfast, wash and scrub pots ...”

“Don’t go on,” said the brother. “I’ve heard it all before.”

“And what does your lazy sister do all day? Nothing ... nothing ... she lolls about in the garden, watering her mango tree, talking to it, clearing away dead leaves, and feeding it manure and mulch ...”

“That isn’t all she does. She comes in and talks to me. Just an hour ago, she was playing chess with me.”

“Just because she adores you, doesn’t mean you should ignore her faults. You must tell her to leave that ... silly mango tree alone, and come and help me with the housework. I really think we should marry her off. That might teach her to be more responsible.”

Since the sister was of marriageable age, the brother could not really object. He knew though, that he would miss her very, very much.

A marriage was arranged.

Why did the young man’s wife complain to him?

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What does the writer mean when she writes that the marriage was arranged?

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A traditional story (continued)

Read part three of the **story**, then answer the questions.



The Mango Tree (Part Three)

The mango tree only had one brown leaf on it now, and the brother was so sick that the doctors had said that he could not live. So the sister-in-law wrote back, "Your tree is fine, but the doctors have given up all hopes for your brother."



