



# Saving the Moon

A brave princess *defeats* a giant crab

A Filipino folktale retold by Dr. Mike Lockett, *The Normal Storyteller*; edited by Linda Ludwig  
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Long ago, a giant crab lived in a deep hole at the bottom of the sea. Twice a day, it would **crawl** out to search for food. When it left its home, the hole would fill up with water.

Since the crab was so large, it took all of the water along the shore to fill the hole. When the crab finished eating, it crawled back into his hole. The water was forced back out, causing it to push high up on the shore. Some people call these times of the day high **tide** and low tide.

One evening, a princess was walking along the seashore looking at the ocean. Suddenly, she saw an island rise up out of the sea and start walking toward shore. It was not an island; it was the giant crab!

The crab was taller than the island's tallest tree or mountain. Then the princess saw the crab's giant **pinchers** and eyes. The crab was looking at the moon as it rose.

The princess watched the crab open its pinchers and try to **pinch** and bite the moon. Its red eyes followed the moon as it climbed higher. Then the crab reached out and tried to **grab** it.

## 10 Usage Tip

*It was not an **island**; it was the giant crab!* (p. 12, line 14)

英文的分號是用來分開意義緊密、地位相等或並列的兩個句子。此時不需要用連接詞 and, but, yet ... 等。此句亦可分為兩個簡單句呈現。

• I expected the package to come last week; it came today.

Your turn

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2

“**Snap!** Snap!” The crab snapped its pinchers. They sounded like thunder.

If the crab caught the moon and ate it, the night sky would be dark forever. The princess knew her people were at a **feast**. People were dancing and having fun. No one would see the crab until it was too late. She needed help to stop the crab from eating the moon. Suddenly the princess had an idea. She found an empty **conch shell**, put it to her lips and blew. A loud noise came out. “Barrooooo!!!”

The princess watched the crab’s giant pinchers get closer and closer to the moon. “Snap! Snap! Snap!” She blew in the shell again and again. The crab’s **claws** got closer and closer to the moon!

The princess blew one more time with the loudest breath yet. As the sound died out, the drums stopped beating. The princess looked toward the village and saw a line of torches coming toward her. The waving line of torches looked like a giant snake coming down the mountain side on the way to the beach. She blew the **shell** one more time and then ran towards her people.

### Usage Tip

“**Snap! Snap!**” The crab snapped its pinchers. They sounded like thunder. (p. 13, line 1)

此處的 snap 為擬聲字，該字的發音模擬螃蟹猛然開闔蟹螯時發出的聲音。

- The fire crackled in the fireplace.

Your turn

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3

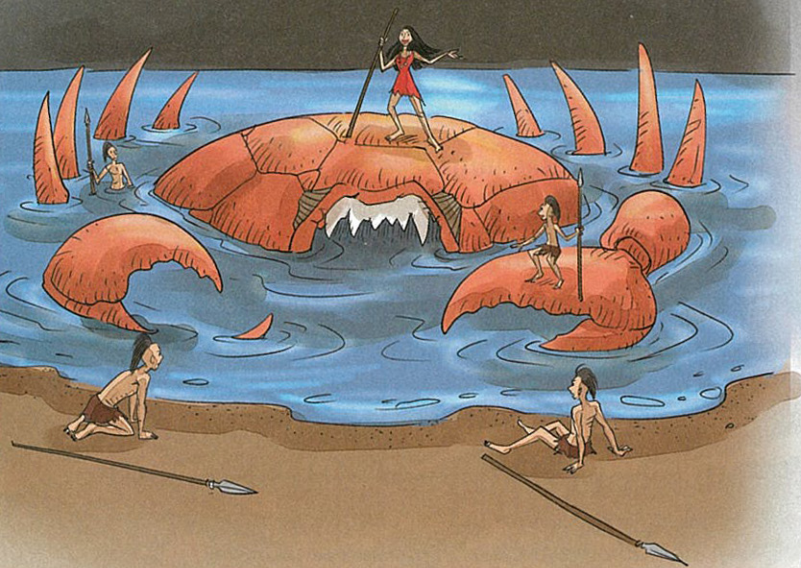
Warriors armed with **swords**, knives and **spears** appeared. Their eyes showed fear as they looked at the largest crab they had ever seen. It grabbed at the moon. One pincher reached higher than before and almost caught the moon. But the moon slipped from the crab’s grip, and the crab fell on its back.

### Talk About It

- What are some stories in your culture about the moon?  
- A story about the moon in my culture is ...
- What is the most famous story about beaches and tides that you know?  
- The most famous story about tides and beaches that I know is ...
- Why do you think the crab tried to grab the moon?  
- Because the crab ...







The princess grabbed a spear and ran to where the crab was trying to get up. She ran up the side of the crab. She aimed her spear at the crab's soft belly and **stabbed** him. Every warrior did the same while **dodging** the pinchers.

One warrior cut off one of the claws. Then the other claw was cut off. Soon the crab was dead, and the moon was safe.

The **bravery** of the princess saved the moon. The night skies are still lit by the moon. Ships can sail by the light of the moon. The waters of the oceans still go from high tide to low tide and back again. People say it is the pull of the moon that causes these tides. But, islanders say it is the waters still flowing in and out of the crab's home at the bottom of the sea. 🐞

### Usage Tip

**It grabbed at the moon.** (p. 13, line 4)

片語 grab at something 表達試圖抓取某樣東西。

- Harry grabbed at the rope but missed it and fell to the ground.

Your turn

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### Word Bank

**defeat** (v) [dɪ'fi:t] 擊敗·戰勝

We **defeated** the other team when we played baseball today.

**crawl** (v) [krɔ:l] 爬行；匍匐前進

The little boys **crawled** under the building to look for their lost kitten.

**tide** (n) [taɪd] 潮；潮水

The **tide** began to come in when we were at the beach, so we left.

**grab** (v) [græb] 抓住；攫取

The little girl tried to **grab** the candy out of her mother's hand.

**snap** (v) [snæp] 發出喀嚓聲；猛地咬住

The dog **snapped** his teeth down over the bone and ran away with it.

**feast** (n) [fi:st] 盛宴；宴會

There was a lot of food at the wedding **feast**.

**claw** (n) [klɔ:] (某些昆蟲、海洋動物的) 螯

Keep your fingers away from the **claws** when you pick up live crabs.

**shell** (n) [ʃɛl] 殼；貝殼

Susan's favorite activity is to walk on the beach and look for **shells**.

**sword** (n) [sɔ:rd] 劍

5 People used to fight with **swords** before guns were invented.

**spear** (n) [sprɪ] 矛；鏢槍

I got a real **spear** when I was traveling in Africa!

**stab** (v) [stæb] 刺·戳

The man got **stabbed** during a fight and was taken to the hospital.

**dodge** (v) [dɒdʒ] 閃躲·避開

10 Jon had to **dodge** falling rocks as he came down the mountain.

**bravery** (n) ['brɛvəri] 英勇(行為)；勇敢

The policeman's **bravery** saved many lives.

### More Information

**pincher** (n) ['pɪntʃə] 螯

**pinch** (v) [pɪntʃ] 夾；掐

**conch shell** (n) [kɔ:ŋk/kantʃ][ʃɛl] 海螺殼

**warrior** (n) ['wɔ:riə] 勇士·(舊時)武士

**grip** (n) [grɪp] 緊握；緊抓

**islander** (n) ['aɪləndə] 島民

### Word Bank Focus

**stabbing** (n) ['stæbrɪŋ] 持刀傷人(事件)

There were four **stabbing**s in the city last night.

**stab someone in the back** (idiom) [stæb][ˈsʌm.wʌn][ɪn][ðə][bæk] 在背後捅(某人)一刀；暗算陷害

I thought Ray and I were friends until I realized he had been **stabbing me in the back**.

**stab** (n) [stæb] 嘗試

The question is very difficult, but I want to take a **stab** at answering it.





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