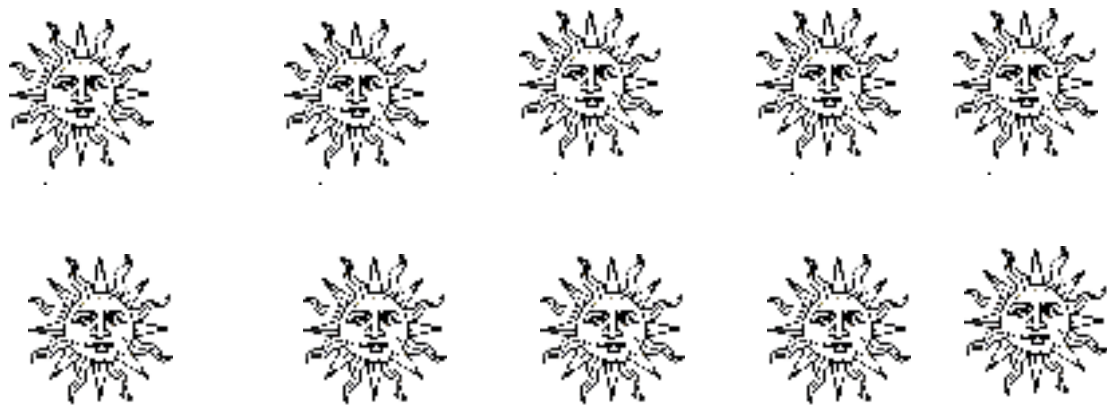


# Yi, the Celestial Archer, and the Ten Suns

*Advanced Vocabulary  
Version*



A Scruffy Plume Tale



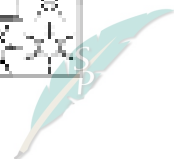
# *Yí, the Celestial Archer, and the Ten Suns*

*An*

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# Yi, the Celestial Archer and the Ten Suns

Advanced Vocabulary Version

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## **Yi and the Ten Suns**

*Retold by C. Rogers*

*Curtain Rises*

*Fusang, a very large tree with wide branches can be seen at the centre back of the stage.  
The King, Queen and 10 sons sit in its branches.*

### **Fusang**

*(Majestically)*

I am the tall and mighty tree known as Fusang.  
Since the universe began, I have been spreading my branches here  
in Tangu on the edge of the Eastern Sea.  
Eons ago my leafy arms were home to the celestial king Di-jun,  
his queen Xihe and their children, the ten Suns.

Each morning when the jade rooster awakened the world with its raucous crowing,  
Queen Xihe would call to one of her glowing children.

### **Queen Xihe**

*(Impatiently)*

Sun One come quickly. The six jade dragons are hitched and ready to take flight.  
They are eager to pull our dazzling chariot across the sky to bring light and heat to the waiting world below.

### **Sun One**

Here I am Mother. Just give me a second to climb in behind you.  
*(sighing as he climbs in)* I'm in and ready for our trip across the sky.

### **Queen Xihe**

*(To the dragons)*

Off to the skies my dancing dragons of jade.

*Chariot flies slowly across the sky from east to west and returns to Fusang.*

### **Fusang**

After a night of rest, the Queen repeats the journey with the next Sun.



**Queen Xihe**

Hurry up Sun Two, the jade dragons are getting restless. Even they know that the world below anxiously awaits our appearance on the horizon.

**Sun Two**

*(Climbing into the chariot)* I'm here, I'm here.

*(To the dragons)* Off to the skies you great green globe-trotting gargoyles!

**Queen Xihe**

*(Admonishing)*

Sun Two you must not speak to the dragons with such disrespect.  
Besides, it's my job to set them to flight.

**Fusang**

And so it went. Each day Queen Xihe took a different child with her on her voyage to bring warmth and light to the people of the Earth.  
But after ten thousand years, the Suns became bored with only having a turn to fly every tenth day.

**Sun Three**

I'm tired of this! Sitting around and cooling my rays for nine days  
in between treks is really getting to be a bore!

**Sun Four**

You're right! And it's even worse at our age to have to go with our mother. The least she could do is let us drive the chariot!

**Sun Five**

It's really starting to get me burned!

**Suns Six, Seven, Eight**

What can we do instead?

**Sun One**

I know. Let's all go up at the same time.  
It'll be a blast to play together in the sky over the world.



**Sun Nine**

Mother will be so steamed!

**Sun Ten**

So what! Let's go ... on three ... 1, 2, 3 .....

*All Suns jump into the sky and stay there playing over the Earth.*

**Fusang**

All ten Suns danced and frolicked together in the air.  
Poor Queen Xihe was so upset.

**Queen Xihe**

Children, come back at once.  
It is dangerous for you all to go at the same time!

**Suns One to Five**

*(In a sassy manner)*

No! We're tired of riding with you.  
It's time we had some fun for ourselves!

**Queen Xihe**

*(Angrily)*

My naughty children, you will ruin the Earth!

**Suns Six to Ten 4**

We don't care. We'll give the world enough light and heat  
to last the next ten thousand years!

**Fusang**

Those wretched children ignored their mother's entreaties.  
As the years passed, the Earth was greatly harmed by their aerial mischief. The searing heat dried up rivers and ignited the crops. Many people died of thirst and hunger or perished when the wild beasts, forced out of the incinerated forests, needed to quench their thirst on blood.

King Di-jun despaired when he saw the havoc wreaked  
by his disobedient sons.



**King Di-jun**

*(Almost weeping ..... then with resolve)*

Oh what an unnatural disaster my sons have caused.

I must find a way to stop the devastation!

*(calling off-stage)* Yi, my celestial archer, come here.

**Yi**

*(running in immediately)*

Yes my king, what would you like?

**King Di-jun**

Yi, my mighty warrior, I want you to save the world by bringing  
my wayward children back to Fusang.

Take this red bow and quiver of magic arrows. They know your reputation and will  
treat you with respect. I'm sure that if you simply threaten them with an arrow,  
they will quietly follow you home like meek little lambs.

**Yi**

I will do as you say.

*(Exits)*

**Fusang**

This seemed like a sensible solution to the problem.

Surely the ten Suns would not challenge the great archer, Yi!

*(Pause)*

Unfortunately, Yi was not prepared for what he found  
when he reached the Earth.

**Yi**

Oh disaster!

What a dreadful catastrophe these Suns have brought upon the world.  
No wonder the people feel such hatred for the once beloved royal Suns.

*(Pointing bow and arrow up towards the sky and calling out)*

Ten Suns, listen to me. Your father, King Di-jun, has sent me to bring you home  
to Fusang. Follow me now or I must shoot.





*Yi, the Celestial Archer, and the Ten Suns*

**Sun One**

*(laughing tauntingly)*

Go ahead and shoot mighty Yi.  
We have no intention of coming home!

**Sun Two**

*(Copying the tone of his brother)*

You could never hit us.  
Your puny little arrow would turn to cinders before it even got close!

**All Suns**

*(Continuing to brazenly taunt the archer)*

Ha! Ha! Ha!  
Shoot! Shoot! Shoot!  
We're not frightened by your cute red bow and pointy arrows.  
Shoot! Shoot! Shoot!

**Yi**

*(Furious)*

You cheeky, disrespectful children are making me so angry with your nasty taunts. I must teach you a lesson with my magic arrow!  
*(Shoots at Sun One)*

**Sun One**

*(Struck by arrow)*

Ahh! I'm falling!  
*(Falls out of the sky)*

**Rest of the Suns**

*(in shocked rage)*

You killed our brother! You will fry for that!

**Fusang**

Enraged, the other nine Suns attacked Yi.  
Diving out of the sky, they spit deadly darts of flame toward him.  
The archer had no choice but to protect himself by shooting his arrows at the angry balls of fire. The people cheered and urged the archer on.  
As each each Sun was extinguished, the Earth cooled a little more.  
Finally realizing the error of their ways, the remaining Suns dashed for home hoping to escape the wrath of the archer.



**Suns Eight, Nine, Ten**

We have been foolish. Let's get out of here. If we run to Fusang, we can hide in the safety of it's branches.

**Fusang**

Yi continued to chase his prey and only one Sun made it back home to take refuge in my limbs. Before that last arrow was released,  
King Di-jun interceded.

**King Di-jun**

Yi, you must stop now!  
Those errant children gave you no choice, but the last must be spared.  
Without his light and heat, the rest of the people of Earth cannot survive.

**Yi**

Yes my king. I will let him live.  
*(Exits)*

**Queen Xihe**

Alas, nine naughty children are gone.  
Come my last child.  
You must now ride quietly behind me for every one  
of the 365 days each year.  
*(Sun gets in and chariot takes off)*

**Fusang**

And so the rains came to water the parched earth and bring new life.  
The people settled back into their routines, happy to see one Sun rise in the east  
each morning and set in the west each night.

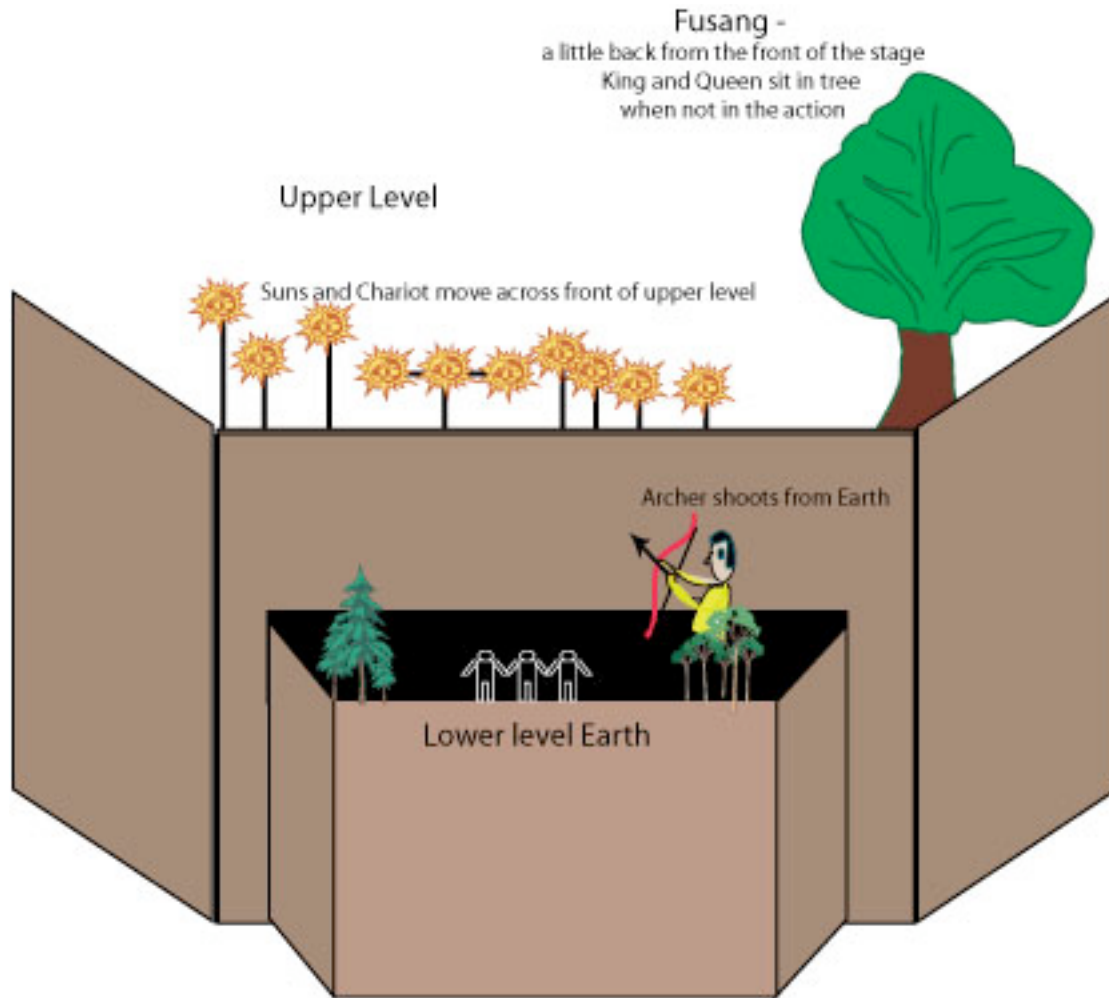
*Curtain*



*Yi, the Celestial Archer, and the Ten Suns*

**Notes**

If this script is performed as a puppet play, it works very well with a two level stage. One possibility uses a large stage made from cardboard boxes.



## **Puppets:**

These characters are very easy for students to create themselves.

- Draw and colour the figures on cardboard.
- Cut them out and attach them to straws or sticks long enough for the puppets to be seen by the audience while the puppeteers remain hidden.  
(This will depend on the size of the puppet theatre.)

### *Hint:*

In order to have fewer puppeteers, the ten suns and the people of Earth can be grouped together on one control stick.



## **Masks**

An interesting performance by live actors simply uses masks for each of the characters. Use construction paper to create "larger than life" sized masks for each character. Actors should dress in black so that the large colourful masks stand out. Even that chariot and jade horses would be live actors, but their "masks" would cover more of their bodies.

## **Mixed Performance**

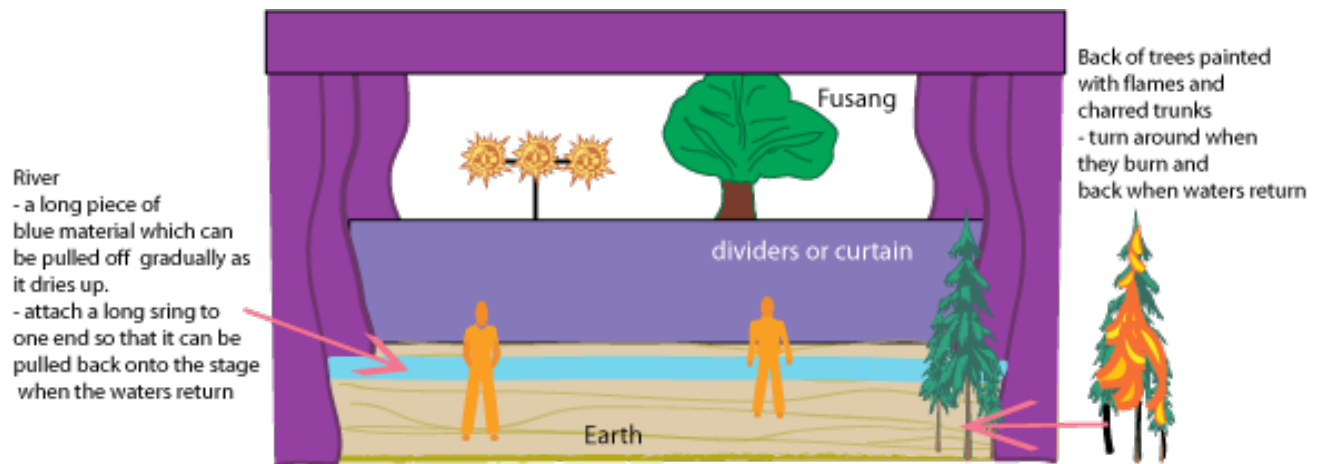
This play also lends itself well to a mixed performance in which some characters are puppets and some are live actors. In this way the celestial characters can be puppets on long poles (to get the effect of the heavens or "upper level") while the earth characters are live actors. Since he must run around on the "Earth", it would probably be best to have the role of the Archer played by a live actor also. He could stand on a step stool or ladder when talking to the King in the "Heavens".



## *Yi, the Celestial Archer, and the Ten Suns*

### *A few ideas for a stage performance:*

- place dividers or hang a 5-6 ft. curtain across the stage about half way back to hide the puppeteers.



## Vocabulary

Find each word in the dictionary and write its meaning. Find how it is used in the script and tell if it is a noun, verb, adjective or adverb.	
admonishing-	jade-
aerial-	parched-
archer-	pleas-
brazenly-	prey-
catastrophe-	puny-
celestial-	quench-
chariot-	quiver-
cheeky-	raucous-
cinders-	reputation-
dazzling-	searing-
despaired-	spared-
devastation-	taunt-
enraged-	tauntingly-
eons-	wayward-
errant-	withered-
extinguished-	wrath-
frolicked-	wreaked-
gargoyles-	wretched-
havoc-	<b>More Words to Know</b>
hitched-	
incinerated-	
intention-	
interceded-	



## Vocabulary Spaghetti

Draw a line to join the word with its meaning or write the number of the correct word beside each meaning.

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. catastrophe  | caused _____                             |
| 2. aerial       | shining brightly _____                   |
| 3. parched      | unpleasantly loud _____                  |
| 4. cheeky       | great anger _____                        |
| 5. jade         | immeasurable period of time _____        |
| 6. celestial    | dried out _____                          |
| 7. puny         | total destruction _____                  |
| 8. raucous      | sassy, bold _____                        |
| 9. cinders      | lost hope _____                          |
| 10. dazzling    | disaster _____                           |
| 11. despaired   | did not harm _____                       |
| 12. wreaked     | heavenly _____                           |
| 13. enraged     | obstinately contrary _____               |
| 14. eons        | in the sky _____                         |
| 15. wayward     | small size _____                         |
| 16. wrath       | material left after a fire _____         |
| 17. frolicked   | burnt _____                              |
| 18. spared      | tease nastily _____                      |
| 19. havoc       | green gemstone _____                     |
| 20. taunt       | straying from the correct behavior _____ |
| 21. incinerated | violent disturbance _____                |
| 22. errant      | light-hearted play _____                 |
| 23. devastation | extremely angry _____                    |
| 24. hitched     | urgent request _____                     |
| 25. entreaty    | attached to a vehicle _____              |



## Retell the Story

Select words from the vocabulary list to fill in the blanks and complete the story.  
Different answers are possible, but the story must make sense. Words may be used only once.

The \_\_\_\_\_ Suns created \_\_\_\_\_  
when they \_\_\_\_\_ went up in the sky together, ignoring their  
mother's \_\_\_\_\_ to stop. While they \_\_\_\_\_  
in their \_\_\_\_\_ playground, the people of the Earth became  
\_\_\_\_\_. The \_\_\_\_\_ heat  
\_\_\_\_\_ the crops and \_\_\_\_\_ the forests,  
driving the \_\_\_\_\_ creatures out in search of blood  
to \_\_\_\_\_ their thirst.

The King's \_\_\_\_\_ archer \_\_\_\_\_ when he  
saw the trees turned to \_\_\_\_\_ by the fiery heat of the  
\_\_\_\_\_ Suns. He had no \_\_\_\_\_ of  
actually killing the Suns, but as they continued to \_\_\_\_\_ him,  
his \_\_\_\_\_ grew. The archer angrily pulled arrows from his  
\_\_\_\_\_ and shot down nine of the \_\_\_\_\_  
balls of fire before the King \_\_\_\_\_ and the tenth Sun was  
\_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ his last son the behave,  
the King ordered him to ride quietly in the \_\_\_\_\_ with his  
mother. Sun Ten has been making the daily journey to gently bring light and heat  
to the Earth for \_\_\_\_\_.

## Challenge

Write your own short story or play script using at least 15 of the words in the vocabulary list.





## Vocabulary Spaghetti

Draw a line to join the word with its meaning or write the number of the correct word beside each meaning.

1. catastrophe	caused __12__
2. aerial	shining brightly __10__
3. parched	unpleasantly loud __8__
4. cheeky	great anger __16__
5. jade	immeasurable period of time __14__
6. celestial	urgent request __25__
7. puny	total destruction __23__
8. raucous	sassy, bold __4__
9. cinders	lost hope __11__
10. dazzling	disaster __1__
11. despaired	did not harm __18__
12. wreaked	heavenly __6__
13. enraged	obstinately contrary __22__
14. eons	in the sky __2__
15. wayward	small size __7__
16. wrath	material left after a fire __9__
17. frolicked	burnt __21__
18. spared	tease nastily __20__
19. havoc	green gemstone __5__
20. taunt	straying from the correct behavior __15__
21. incinerated	violent disturbance __19__
22. errant	played light-heartedly __17__
23. devastation	extremely angry __13__
24. hitched	dried out __3__
25. entreaty	attached to a vehicle __24__



## Retell the Story (Teacher)

Select words from the vocabulary list to fill in the blanks and complete the story.

Different answers are possible, but the story must make sense. Words may be used only once.

(There are some other choices students may make that could be accepted as long as they will sense.)

The \_\_ (cheeky, dazzling, errant, raucous, wayward, wretched) \_\_ Suns created \_\_ (havoc, devastation) \_\_ when they \_\_ (brazenly) \_\_ went up in the sky together, ignoring their mother's \_\_ (entreaties) \_\_ to stop. While they \_\_ (frolicked) \_\_ in their \_\_ (aerial) \_\_ playground, the people of the Earth became \_\_ (enraged) \_\_. The \_\_ (searing) \_\_ heat \_\_ (withered) \_\_ the crops and \_\_ (incinerated) \_\_ the forests, driving the \_\_ (parched) \_\_ creatures out in search of blood to \_\_ (quench) \_\_ their thirst.

The King's \_\_ (celestial) \_\_ archer \_\_ (despaired) \_\_ when he saw the trees turned to \_\_ (cinders) \_\_ by the fiery heat of the \_\_ (cheeky, errant, wayward, wretched) \_\_ Suns. He had no \_\_ (intention) \_\_ of actually killing the Suns, but as they continued to \_\_ (taunt) \_\_ him, his \_\_ (wrath) \_\_ grew. The archer angrily pulled arrows from his \_\_ (quiver) \_\_ and shot down nine of the \_\_ (dazzling, cheeky, errant, wayward, wretched) \_\_ balls of fire before the King \_\_ (interceded) \_\_ and the tenth Sun was \_\_ (spared) \_\_. \_\_ (Admonishing) \_\_ his last son to behave, the King ordered him to ride quietly in the \_\_ (chariot) \_\_ with his mother. Sun Ten has been making the daily journey to gently bring light and heat to the Earth for \_\_ (eons) \_\_.

## Challenge

Write your own short story or play script using at least 15 of the words in the vocabulary list.

