

# Film activate:

## A progressive king

1



### The King and I



In the early 1860s, the King of Siam (King Mongkut) hires an English school teacher to provide a Western education for his children. The teacher and the King develop a deep affection for one another despite the great differences in their cultures. Although the king in this film is a fictional character, King Mongkut did exist in Ancient Siam and was a much different character than the one portrayed in the movie.

How is Anna Leonowens - the English school teacher - different from the other women in the film, for example, Tuptim, the Burmese slave girl brought against her will to the palace of the King of Siam? How are they both different to you or any female relative?

Write or draw your answer below.



Anna



Tuptim

2

There is a saying that goes "A coward dies a thousand deaths, a hero dies but one." How does this relate to Anna's technique of whistling away her fear? Do you also whistle a happy tune to fool others and yourself when you feel afraid?

#### I whistle a happy tune

Whenever I feel afraid,  
I hold my head erect  
And whistle a happy tune,  
So no-one will suspect  
I'm afraid.  
While shiverin' in my shoes,  
I strike a careless pose  
And whistle a happy tune,  
So no-one ever knows  
I'm afraid.  
The result of this deception  
Is very strange to tell,  
For when I fool the people I fear,  
I fool myself as well!

Write the lyrics to your own "I whistle a happy tune" in the notebook.



**3** Just as Christianity is a theology that has many different denominations, so does Buddhism. Ancient Siam is the modern country of Thailand. In Thailand, the majority of the population practices a form of Buddhism from the Theravāda school (meaning “The Teaching of the Elders”), which is considered to be one of the oldest forms of Buddhism. Other popular forms of Buddhism practiced around the world include Zen Buddhism and Tibetan Buddhism. In general, the sitting poses are very similar, as are the hands and hair decorations. Color the Buddha below with your favorite colors.

