

# Phra Aphai Mani พระอภัยมณี

A literary feature: analyse the characters, story and style of a Thai classic.

ISSUE  
05

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## LEARNING GOAL

Analyse how a verse tale uses character, events and style to explore big ideas.

## SUCCESS CRITERIA

- ☐ I can explain what drives each main character.
- ☐ I can link events and themes to evidence.
- ☐ I can explain the effect of the poet's style.

## 1 Meet the poet and the tale

READ

### The prince whose music brings sleep

**SUNTHORN PHU** is one of Thailand's most celebrated poets. In his verse tale, a prince's music holds magical power.

— BY THE CLASS TEACHER

The prince Phra Aphai plays a magical pipe, a kind of flute. Its music can put listeners to sleep.

A sea giantess carries him away to her undersea home. Later, he escapes with the help of a mermaid. As you read, ask what each character wants.

## FACT FILE

|         |                                         |
|---------|-----------------------------------------|
| POET    | Sunthorn Phu<br>สุนทรภู่                |
| LIVED   | 1786 to 1855                            |
| FORM    | A verse tale: a poem that tells a story |
| WE READ | An English translation                  |

## CLASSROOM EDITION

**Teacher:** add the extracts your class studies before copying. **Pupils:** tick each extract when you have read it, and quote from these as your evidence.



EXTRACT A



EXTRACT B

## 2 Characters and motivations

THINK

6 marks

For each character, explain what they want and how you know. Use your extract.

### PHRA APHAI, THE PRINCE

He wants... I know because...

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### THE SEA GIANTESS

She wants... I know because...

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### THE MERMAID

She wants... I know because...

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## Story, themes and you

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### 3 Plot structure

PLAN

6 marks

For each moment, say what happens and why it matters to the story.

#### A Carried away

The giantess takes him to her undersea home.

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#### B Under the sea

What does your extract show of this time?

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#### C The escape

A mermaid helps him to escape.

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THE TURNING POINT IS ... BECAUSE ...

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### 4 Themes

THINK

6 marks

Explain how the tale explores each theme. Name a moment from your extract.

#### LOVE

Who longs for whom, and what does it make them do?

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#### FREEDOM

Who is held, and who helps them go free?

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#### THE POWER OF MUSIC

Is the pipe's music a gift, a weapon or both?

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### 5 Your response

WRITE

4 marks

Which moment in your extract stays with you most? Explain why.

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#### SENTENCE STARTERS

The moment that stays with me is...

This is powerful because...

The poet makes me feel...



## Style, comparison and your verdict

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### 6 Style and form

CHECK

6 marks

Find one example of each feature in your extract. Then explain its effect on the reader.

#### Verse

Rhythm, rhyme or repeated sounds.  
What do they add?

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#### Imagery

A picture in words: the sea, the pipe, a creature.

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#### The fantastic

Magic or impossible beings. Why include them?

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### 7 Compare with a tale you know

THINK

4 marks

A TALE I KNOW \_\_\_\_\_

#### ALIKE

*A character, journey or kind of magic they share.*

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#### DIFFERENT

*Something only one tale does, and its effect.*

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### 8 Pull it together

WRITE

8 marks

Answer in one paragraph: How does Sunthorn Phu present the power of music? Make a point, quote your extract, explain the effect, then link to a theme.

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