

A Look at Riddles

{ Global Folklore

- ⌘ A riddle is a mystifying, misleading, or puzzling question posed as a problem to be solved or guessed

- ⌘ Riddles often play with language to try and trick or confuse you

- ⌘ An example or two:
 - ⌘ When is a door not a door?
 - ⌘ When it is ajar.
 - ⌘ Once in a minute, twice in a moment, but never in a thousand years. What am I?
 - ⌘ The letter M

What is a riddle?

- ⌘ For the most part, riddles are just games—told for fun and to pass the time
- ⌘ In ancient societies, they were also seen as great tests of intelligence and cleverness. They are sometimes used this way today.
- ⌘ When it comes to children:
 - ⌘ Riddles support problem solving, logical, and critical thinking skills
 - ⌘ Riddles are shown to improve children's comprehension and creativity
 - ⌘ Likely to learn new words/new ways to use words they already know

Why riddles are important

“What goes on four feet in the morning, two feet in midday, and three feet in the evening?”

Our Riddle

- ⌘ You have heard me give a reading of The Sphinx's Riddle
 - ⌘ Question Time...

- ⌘ What is the answer? Can you explain it?
- ⌘ Where did this riddle come from?
 - ⌘ In Sophocles' play Oedipus the King (429 B.C.), a monster called the Sphinx was killing travelers on the road to Thebes who could not answer its riddle. Finally, the hero of the play, Oedipus, came along and correctly solved the riddle. In doing so, Oedipus gave us one of our earliest maps of the human life cycle.

After Listening