

## Interdisciplinary Ideas

### SOCIAL STUDIES

1. Using the book's illustrations, try to determine the occupations of the people from this Russian region at the time the story was told. Discuss present-day changes in this area of the world.
2. Research to discover present-day occupations for this area.

### LANGUAGE

1. Create a tale telling how the King came to have horns.
2. Write an article for a weekly news magazine on the barber's last wish, and the resulting change of events.
3. Try to find a similar story from another culture. Compare.

### ART

1. Look at the variety of hats worn by the characters in the story. Make individual hats and hold a hat parade.
2. Imagine that the King was proud of his horns. Make a flag or a banner for his kingdom that would indicate this.

## Our King Has Horns!

*Richard Pevear*  
1987  
New York: Macmillan

**HONESTY**  
Georgian Republic  
Reading Time: 6 minutes

### CONCEPTS

Honesty  
Truth  
Loyalty  
Respect

### SUMMARY

**This humorous retelling of an old Georgian folktale comes alive with the bright illustrations of Robert Rayevsky. The story explores the difficulties encountered by a young barber who hides the truth about the king's horns in order to save his own life.**

### OBJECTIVE

The student will be able to define and discuss honesty, truth, respect and loyalty as they apply to this story.

# After the Story

## Our King Has Horns!

### DISCUSSION

1. Think about the King. Can truth be hidden? Is pretending that something is not as it is the same as telling a lie? (Omission/deception)
2. Why was it important for the barber to keep his thoughts about the king's horns to himself? Talk about why many people are less than honest when asked "What do you think?"
3. Would the story have been different if the King had accepted himself as he was? Explain.
4. Compare and contrast the physical changes of the young barber with those experienced by Pinocchio. What needed to happen to return each character back to normal? Why do you think the author included the physical changes in the story?
5. How did the king feel after the truth was told? Think about a time when you might have felt this way. Discuss.

### ACTIVITIES

1. Locate the Georgian Republic on the world map and place story pin.
2. A friend asks you what you think of his/her new outfit. You really do not like it. Brainstorm a list or role-play possible responses. Identify which are honest and which are not. Consider kindness and feelings.
3. Read a version of Hans Christian Andersen's *The Emperor's New Clothes*. Produce your own talk show; interview the Emperor from *The Emperor's New Clothes* and the King from *Our King Has Horns!*
4. Invite a local attorney to discuss the value of honesty in dealing with clients and witnesses.

### WRAP-UP

1. Survey students in different classrooms for their definitions of honesty. Compile survey comments in a booklet.
2. It sometimes is hard to be honest with yourself. Close your eyes, look at yourself, and in your journal write three good things about yourself. Are there any things that you would like to change?

### EXTENSION

1. Hold a family meeting to share one truthful compliment with each family member. Encourage your family to join you in this activity. Talk about how it feels to say something nice.
2. Discuss with your family their attitudes on keeping secrets and telling "little white lies."

### VOCABULARY

tradesmen  
apprentices  
prosperity  
insolent