

CONDENSED FAMILY EDITION

# I-Ching Parables

*64 Illustrated Stories About Change, Courage, Patience, and Growing Up*

A story-led family companion to the I-Ching, with one hexagram spread for every parable: story, symbolism, picture walk, and simple activities.

I-CHING ORACLE · DIGITAL PDF EDITION

Sample · ichingoracle.space



64 hexagrams, each explained through story, image, trigrams, and six lines.

# How to Read Each Spread

You do not need to master every symbol at once. Read the story first, then let the symbols explain a little more of what the story is showing.

## Read Page One

Start with the parable, then read **What This Story Teaches** and **Symbolic Connection** to name the lesson in plain language.

## Use the Trigram Cards

The **upper / outer** trigram shows the larger weather around the story. The **lower / inner** trigram shows what is stirring underneath it.

## Use The Six Lines

The line cards are shown on the page from the **Sixth (Top) Line** down to the **First (Bottom) Line** so they read like a small ladder. If you want the traditional order, start at the **First (Bottom) Line** and read upward to the **Sixth (Top) Line**.

## Turn to Page Two

Use the numbered picture walk for read-aloud conversation, then choose one **Try It** action and one **Talk About It** question.

# Story First, Explanation Second

This edition is meant for thoughtful children, families, teachers, and reflective adults. It is story-led on purpose: children can enter the I-Ching through images and action before learning technical language.

## Read with the Child

Ask what the child notices before explaining what you think it means. The first job is attention, not agreement.

One useful rhythm is simple: read page 1 aloud, let the child describe page 2, then choose one question or one practice for the day.

## Hold the Hard Themes Well

Some stories include conflict, fear, grief, pride, loneliness, or wrong choices. They are here because the I-Ching teaches how to meet difficulty with patience, honesty, courage, humility, and care.

Use the stories as conversation starters, not as tests. The point is to notice patterns and talk about wise action.

## Use It in a Family Rhythm

- One parable each evening for two months.
- One hexagram each weekend with a family discussion.
- Return to the same story later and ask what changed.

## Use It in a Classroom Rhythm

- One hexagram spread each week.
- Read page 1 together, then use page 2 in pairs.
- Let children compare the same trigram across different stories.

# All 64 Parables

Each parable uses one two-page spread. The page number listed here is the first page of that spread.

01 The Creative	↑ Heaven ↓ Heaven <b>5</b>	33 Retreat	↑ Heaven ↓ Mountain <b>69</b>
02 The Receptive	↑ Earth ↓ Earth <b>7</b>	34 Great Power	↑ Thunder ↓ Heaven <b>71</b>
03 Difficulty at the Beginning	↑ Water ↓ Thunder <b>9</b>	35 Progress	↑ Fire ↓ Earth <b>73</b>
04 Youthful Folly	↑ Mountain ↓ Water <b>11</b>	36 Darkening of the Light	↑ Earth ↓ Fire <b>75</b>
05 Waiting	↑ Water ↓ Heaven <b>13</b>	37 The Family	↑ Wind ↓ Fire <b>77</b>
06 Conflict	↑ Heaven ↓ Water <b>15</b>	38 Opposition	↑ Fire ↓ Lake <b>79</b>
07 The Army	↑ Earth ↓ Water <b>17</b>	39 Obstruction	↑ Water ↓ Mountain <b>81</b>
08 Holding Together	↑ Water ↓ Earth <b>19</b>	40 Deliverance	↑ Thunder ↓ Water <b>83</b>
09 Small Taming	↑ Wind ↓ Heaven <b>21</b>	41 Decrease	↑ Mountain ↓ Lake <b>85</b>
10 Treading	↑ Heaven ↓ Lake <b>23</b>	42 Increase	↑ Wind ↓ Thunder <b>87</b>
11 Peace	↑ Earth ↓ Heaven <b>25</b>	43 Breakthrough	↑ Lake ↓ Heaven <b>89</b>
12 Standstill	↑ Heaven ↓ Earth <b>27</b>	44 Coming to Meet	↑ Heaven ↓ Wind <b>91</b>
13 Fellowship with People	↑ Heaven ↓ Fire <b>29</b>	45 Gathering Together	↑ Lake ↓ Earth <b>93</b>
14 Great Possession	↑ Fire ↓ Heaven <b>31</b>	46 Pushing Upward	↑ Earth ↓ Wind <b>95</b>
15 Modesty	↑ Earth ↓ Mountain <b>33</b>	47 Oppression	↑ Lake ↓ Water <b>97</b>
16 Enthusiasm	↑ Thunder ↓ Earth <b>35</b>	48 The Well	↑ Water ↓ Wind <b>99</b>
17 Following	↑ Lake ↓ Thunder <b>37</b>	49 Revolution	↑ Lake ↓ Fire <b>101</b>
18 Work on the Decayed	↑ Mountain ↓ Wind <b>39</b>	50 The Cauldron	↑ Fire ↓ Wind <b>103</b>
19 Approach	↑ Earth ↓ Lake <b>41</b>	51 The Arousing	↑ Thunder ↓ Thunder <b>105</b>
20 Contemplation	↑ Wind ↓ Earth <b>43</b>	52 Keeping Still	↑ Mountain ↓ Mountain <b>107</b>
21 Biting Through	↑ Fire ↓ Thunder <b>45</b>	53 Development	↑ Wind ↓ Mountain <b>109</b>
22 Grace	↑ Mountain ↓ Fire <b>47</b>	54 The Marrying Maiden	↑ Thunder ↓ Lake <b>111</b>
23 Splitting Apart	↑ Mountain ↓ Earth <b>49</b>	55 Abundance	↑ Thunder ↓ Fire <b>113</b>
24 Return	↑ Earth ↓ Thunder <b>51</b>	56 The Wanderer	↑ Fire ↓ Mountain <b>115</b>
25 Innocence	↑ Heaven ↓ Thunder <b>53</b>	57 The Gentle	↑ Wind ↓ Wind <b>117</b>
26 Great Taming	↑ Mountain ↓ Heaven <b>55</b>	58 The Joyous	↑ Lake ↓ Lake <b>119</b>
27 Nourishment	↑ Mountain ↓ Thunder <b>57</b>	59 Dispersion	↑ Wind ↓ Water <b>121</b>
28 Preponderance of the Great	↑ Lake ↓ Wind <b>59</b>	60 Limitation	↑ Water ↓ Lake <b>123</b>
29 The Abysmal	↑ Water ↓ Water <b>61</b>	61 Inner Truth	↑ Wind ↓ Lake <b>125</b>
30 The Clinging	↑ Fire ↓ Fire <b>63</b>	62 Preponderance of the Small	↑ Thunder ↓ Mountain <b>127</b>
31 Influence	↑ Lake ↓ Mountain <b>65</b>	63 After Completion	↑ Water ↓ Fire <b>129</b>
32 Duration	↑ Thunder ↓ Wind <b>67</b>	64 Before Completion	↑ Fire ↓ Water <b>131</b>

# 01 The Creative 乾

Qián · Heaven



Heaven above, Heaven below  
Creative power, Initiative, Heaven.



**WHAT THIS STORY TEACHES:** Strong creative energy is wonderful, but it needs rhythm. Even a dragon must know when to rise, when to rest, and when to return.

**SYMBOLIC CONNECTION:** In this story, the dragon stands for creative strength. Heaven above and below means the same rising power is growing inside him and opening above him in the sky.

## Hexagram Image

OUTER / HIGHER TRIGRAM

☰ Heaven 乾 Qián

**The Creative, Strong, Active**

Heaven above becomes the open sky and the full scope of rising power.

INNER / LOWER TRIGRAM

☰ Heaven 乾 Qián

**The Creative, Strong, Active**

Heaven below becomes the same creative force ripening unseen in the pool.

**STORY LINK:** The dragon rises truly only after hidden strength matures and remembers how to return.

## The Six Lines

Six small voices show how the lesson changes from the first beginning to the final outcome.

☰ **Sixth (Top) Line** Yang ○  
Pride at the top leads to regret.

☰ **Fifth Line** Yang ○  
Full strength shines best when used wisely.

☰ **Fourth Line** Yang ○  
Near the leap, choose the moment carefully.

☰ **Third Line** Yang ○  
Work hard all day, but stay watchful.

☰ **Second Line** Yang ○  
Strength appears openly and finds the right guide.

☰ **First (Bottom) Line** Yang ○  
Hidden strength grows quietly before its right time.

## The Parable

A young dragon, born in a pool beneath a mountain, slept through many winters. In spring he stirred, but the elders said, "Stay hidden."

He grew under the water without complaint. When at last he rose, his long body arced across the valley and the clouds parted for him.

But at the height of the sky, he felt the wind thin and his breath shorten. He remembered the pool.

Descending in a slow spiral, he understood: the creative force is not the ascent but the rhythm of rising and returning. Those who forget to come down break on the stones.

# 01 The Creative 乾



1. BEGINNING **Hidden Dragon**  
A young dragon sleeps in the mountain pool through many winters.



2. FIRST SIGN **Stirring In Spring**  
Spring reaches the water, and the dragon stirs without rising yet.



3. HARD PART **Growing Unseen**  
He grows strong below the surface, hidden even from impatient eyes.



4. WISE CHOICE **Rising Too High**  
High above the valley, he feels the sky grow thin.



5. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT **Remembering The Pool**  
He turns downward, remembering the pool that first held him.



6. LESSON PICTURE **Rhythm Of Return**  
Dawn finds him resting by the water, powerful enough to return.

## Try It

Begin one brave thing today, then choose one clear stopping point before you get tired or careless.

6

## Talk About It

- Which picture shows the turning point most clearly?
- What does the main character finally understand?
- What tells the dragon that strength also needs timing?