



Jingwei Fills the Sea

Legend tells us that in ancient times the Sun God had a young daughter. She was a lovely girl who spent her days playing along the shores of the sea. This girl loved the water and spent many happy hours giggling and chasing the waves. She was known to be a good swimmer, and she had no fear of the sea. Sadly, these days ended when one day a giant wave came ashore, overpowered the girl, carried her out to sea. It was in this way that the brave child drowned. Of course, her family was devastated and our story should end here.

However, a strange thing happened. While the girl was being pulled out to sea, her spirit left her body, and transformed into a bird! This bird, with its white beak, pink claws and shiny black feathers, was quite pretty. It flew up to a mountain that overlooked the sea, and there the bird made its home.

Everyday the bird flew over the sea crying, “jingwei, jingwei.” The cries of the bird sounded angry, and people got used to watching this bird fly from the mountain down to the sea.

Over time, people began to call this bird the Jingwei bird. “Why does the Jingwei bird make such a sound?” they wondered. They did not know that Jingwei had a reason to be angry with the sea.

Jingwei felt angry that the sea could drown people. It hated the sea for taking away its life as a happy, carefree girl. Jingwei screamed to the sea, “One day you will disappear from the earth. I will do everything I can to stop you from taking other human lives. I will make your water disappear! I will turn you into an empty desert of sand!”, it vowed.

The little bird came up with a plan. It began carrying twigs and pebbles from the mountain and dropping them in the sea. Every day it did this over and over again. As it flew, it called, “jingwei, jingwei”.

Finally, the sea decided to show its strength. It said, “Little bird, your twigs and pebbles will never succeed in filling me in. I am too vast!”

With defiance, Jingwei replied, “Even if it takes me thousands of years, I will succeed in filling you in.” And so, even today, the bird continues to fly over the sea, dropping in twigs and pebbles. Its determination is an inspiration to all, and it has brought us the proverb: Jingwei fills the sea.

This story reassures us that if we keep working at something every day, we will, with determination and dedication, have success. You can do anything that you put your mind to.

Vocabulary review:

Giggle - to laugh in a silly way, a little laugh that continues for a while

Ashore - the land next to a lake, sea, ocean

Devastated - deep unhappiness usually from a shock or terrible situation

Vast - very large, to seem to be without end

Twigs - little branches from a tree or bush

Pebbles - tiny stones or rocks

Determination - not letting anything stop you from what you plan on doing

Reassure - to give hope about something

Reflections on the story

Jingwei is **determined**. What is she determined about?

What adjectives (describing words) are used to describe Jingwei as a young girl?

The jingwei bird is a symbol for working hard and never giving up your goals.

Is this a good life lesson?

Is it sometimes necessary to give up your goals or dreams?

Determination

