

Once upon a time, a girl named Chandra lived in a small village in India. Chandra's job was to wash the Rajah's elephants. She loved elephants. She also loved numbers. One day, when Chandra was about to enter the palace, the guard stopped her. "You cannot come in. The elephants are all sick." Doctors came, but the elephants got sicker.

One morning, the Rajah saw Chandra at the gate. "What are you doing?" he asked. "I'm worried about the elephants," she said. "I know them very well. Maybe I can help them." The Rajah said, "If you can save them, I'll give you what you want, I mean, anything." Chandra examined the elephants and found a problem with their ears. Chandra cleaned their ears. Soon, all the elephants got well. The Rajah was very happy. "Tell me what you want," said the Rajah. Chandra thought about her hungry villagers. Then, she noticed the chessboard. "All I ask for is rice," she said. "If Your Majesty pleases, place two grains of rice on the first square of this chessboard. Place four grains on the second, eight on the next, and so on, until the last square?" "Do as she wishes," he said to his servants.

Two servants began to place rice on the chessboard. Each row had eight squares. So, when they got to the last square of the first row, they had to place 256 grains. At the first square of the second row, the servants had to count as many as 512 grains of rice, so Chandra showed them an easier way. Chandra explained, "Two hundred and fifty six grains of rice amounts to one spoon of rice. So, why don't you just put two spoons of rice on it?"

In this way, the servants continued. The eighth square on the second row needed 256 spoons of rice, which amounted to a bowl.

On the third row, the servants started to count by bowls. Two bowls for the first square, then four, and so on. The rice for the last square completely filled a large cart. By the middle of the fifth row, all the Rajah's rice was gone. The Rajah said to Chandra, "I am a very rich man, and it took all my rice to fill a little more than one half of the chessboard. How much rice will it take to fill the whole board?" "If you keep doubling the rice to the last square, all of India will be knee-deep in rice," said Chandra.

**Task (Pair work):**

1. Discuss how you could teach (using L2) this story to students?
2. Discuss and design a writing activity to focus on an element of the story?
3. Can you write 1 (45-50 min) lesson plan to show me how you would teach the reading and the writing activity?