



# TALES OF ANCIENT EGYPT NARRATIVE

**Learning Objective:**  
**To infer and explore characters' motives,  
thoughts and feelings throughout a story.**

**Today we will be reading the  
story of 'The Egyptian  
Cinderella' by Shirley Climo.**



**What do you think the story  
might be about?  
What might happen?**

**B  
A  
C  
K**

**N  
E  
X  
T**

**Who do you think the main characters will be?**  
**What will be the key events in the story?**



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NEXT





There's a question on the next slide when you've read up to '...only a slave.'

Let's read!



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**What is the difference  
between a servant and a  
slave?**

**Why do you think  
Rhodopis is described as  
'...only a slave'?**

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**A slave is a possession that belongs to their owner. They can be bought and sold and have very few rights. They have no say in what they do day-to-day and they are not paid for their work beyond basic food and shelter from their owner.**

**People could become slaves as a punishment for a crime, being captured during a war, to pay back a debt or even born into slavery.**

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A servant is paid to do work for another person. They might be paid a wage, or be paid in something else of value. Servants could resign from their job, unlike slaves who could only leave if they were freed by their owner.



The servant girls in the story thought they were better than Rhodopis because she was 'only a slave'. Rhodopis couldn't have retaliated to their taunts as she had very little power, and would probably be punished if she didn't do as she was told.

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There's a question on the next slide when you've read up to 'She bowed her head and felt a great rush of air on the back of her neck.'

Let's read!



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**Why do you think Rhodopis bowed her head to the falcon?**

**It may help you to read the last paragraph again.**

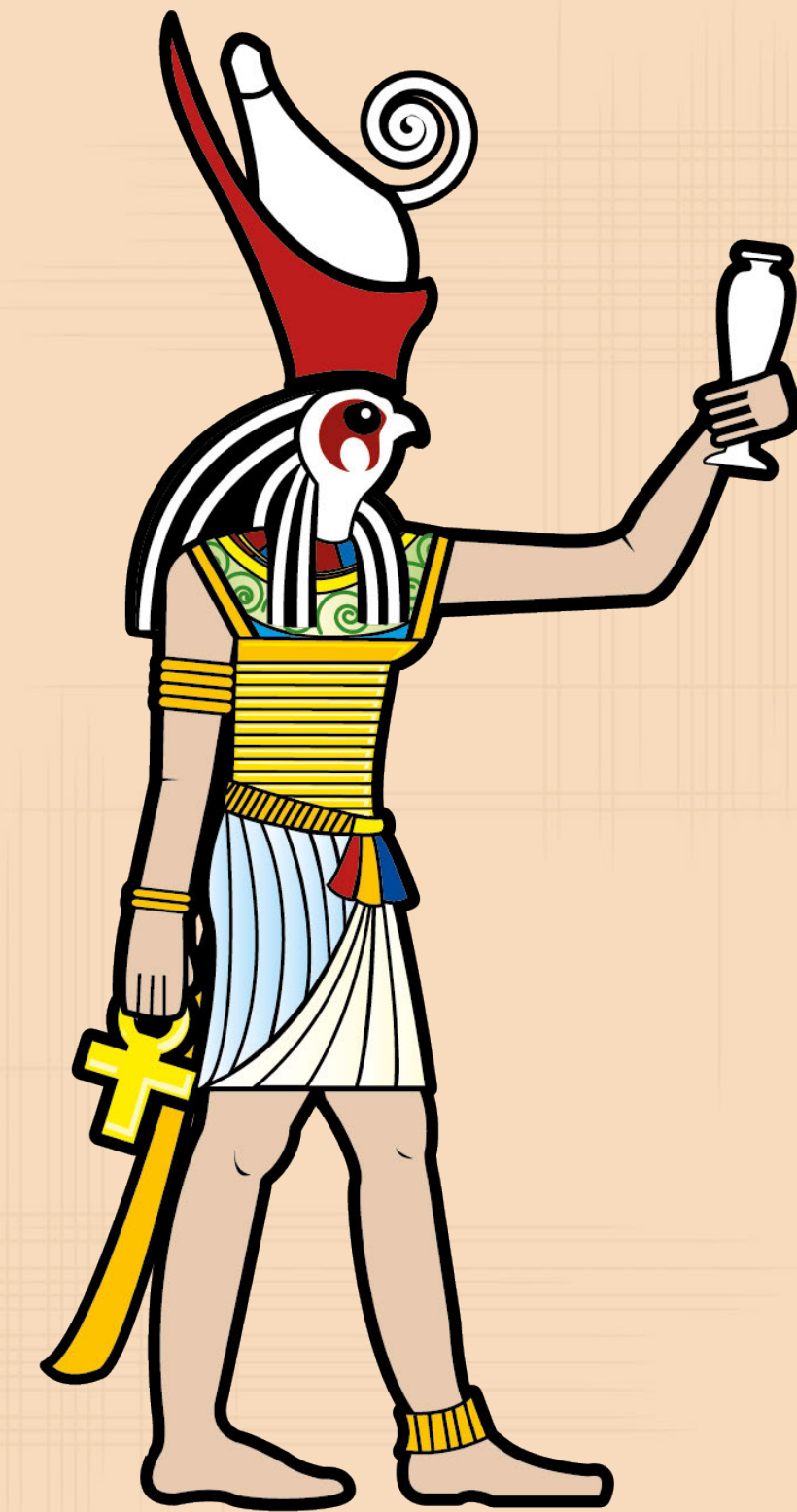
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**Rhodopis bowed her head to the falcon  
as a sign of respect because she  
believed the falcon to be the  
representation of the Egyptian god Horus.**

**Horus was represented a man  
with the head of a falcon. He  
was god of the sky and it was  
a common belief that the  
Pharaoh was descended from  
Horus or was a manifestation  
of Horus on Earth. Can you see  
the double crown of the two  
Egyptys on his head?**



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There's a question on the next slide when you've read up to '...salting the river with her tears.'

Let's read!



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**What do you think might happen  
next?  
Which characters will be involved?  
Can you explain your prediction?**

**How likely do you think your predictions  
are?  
Are they definitely going to happen?**



**B  
A  
C  
K**

**N  
E  
X  
T**



As you share your predictions, where would you place your ideas on this scale?

Not  
likely to  
happen

Very  
likely to  
happen

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There's a question on the next slide when you've read up to 'The servant girls ran to the edge of the water.'

Let's read!



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A cartoon illustration of the Great Sphinx of Giza. The Sphinx is depicted with a human face, wearing a yellow and blue striped nemes (headdress) adorned with a cobra (uraeus) and a lotus flower. It has a long, straight nose and is holding two crook-and-flail symbols in its hands. The background shows a desert landscape with sand dunes, a pyramid, and a large, bright sun in a blue sky with light clouds.

**The servant girls knew something special was happening when they saw the barge on the Nile.**

**How do you think they knew it was the royal barge?**

**B  
A  
C  
K**

**N  
E  
X  
T**



The servant girls knew something special was happening when they saw the barge on the Nile.

*'The barge was hung with sails of silk. Trumpets blared and oarsmen rowed to the beat of gongs.'*

The barge looked and sounded special. No other barges on the Nile will have looked like this.

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There's a question on the next slide when you've read up to 'Then Rhodopis pulled its mate from the folds of her tunic.'

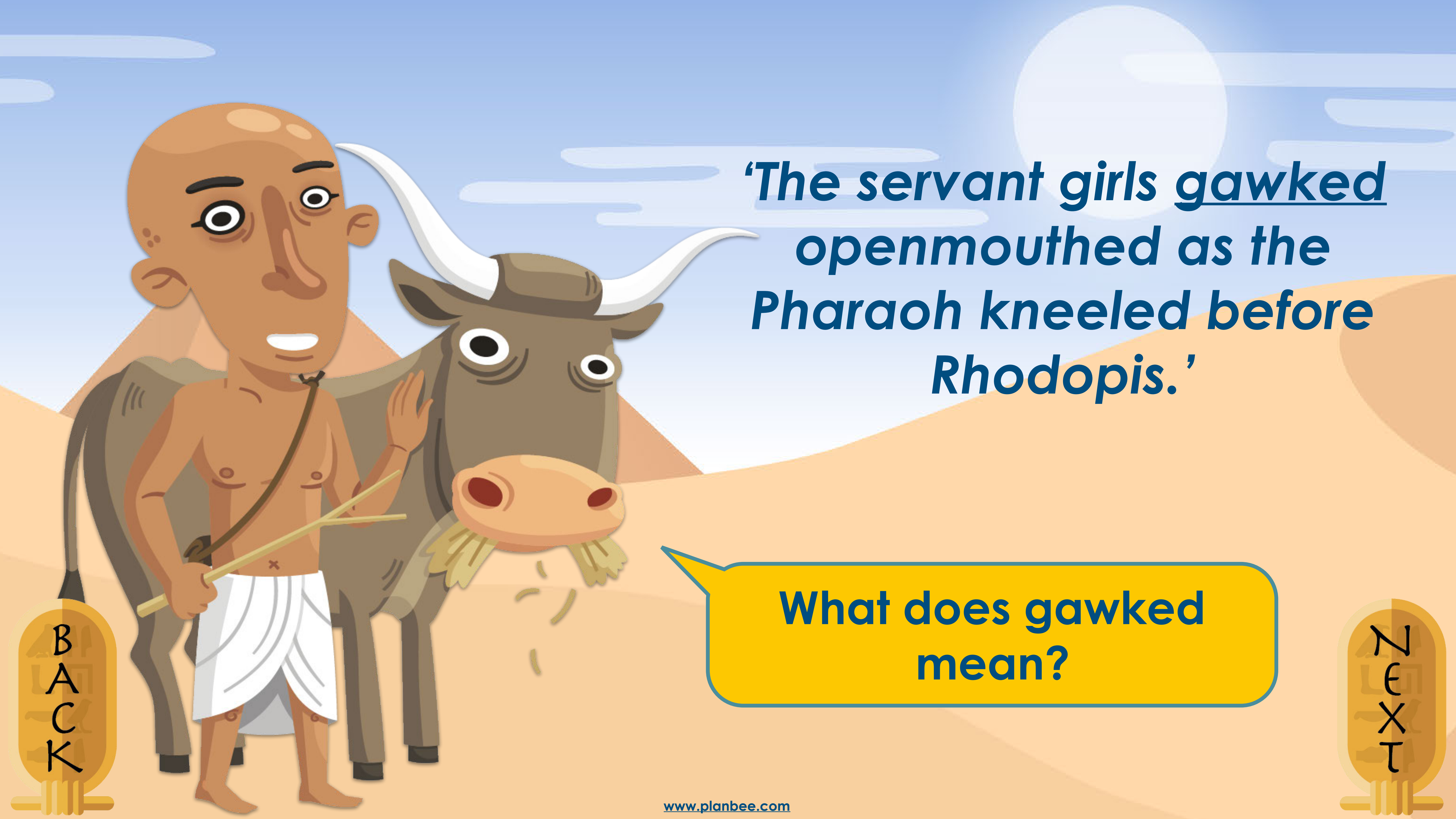
Let's read!



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An illustration of a man with a large nose and a white cloth around his waist, holding a wooden staff, standing next to a brown bull with long white horns. They are in a desert landscape with sand dunes and a large white sun in a blue sky with light clouds. The man has a surprised expression, and the bull also looks surprised with its mouth open.

***‘The servant girls gawked openmouthed as the Pharaoh kneeled before Rhodopis.’***

**What does gawked mean?**

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***‘The servant girls gawked  
openmouthed as the  
Pharaoh kneeled before  
Rhodopis.’***

**When you are gawking at  
someone or something,  
you are staring openly and  
speechlessly at them.  
The servant girls couldn’t  
believe what was  
happening in front of them.**

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NEXT





**There's a question on the next slide when you've finished the story.**

**Let's read!**



**BACK**

**NEXT**



**What  
three things  
made Rhodopis  
'the most  
Egyptian of  
all'?**



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NEXT

***‘For her eyes are as green  
as the Nile,  
her hair as feathery as  
papyrus,  
and her skin the pink of a  
lotus flower.’***



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What do you think of Amasis the Pharaoh?



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What do you think of Rhodopis? How would you describe her?



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NEXT



**What do you think of the servant girls? How would you describe them?**



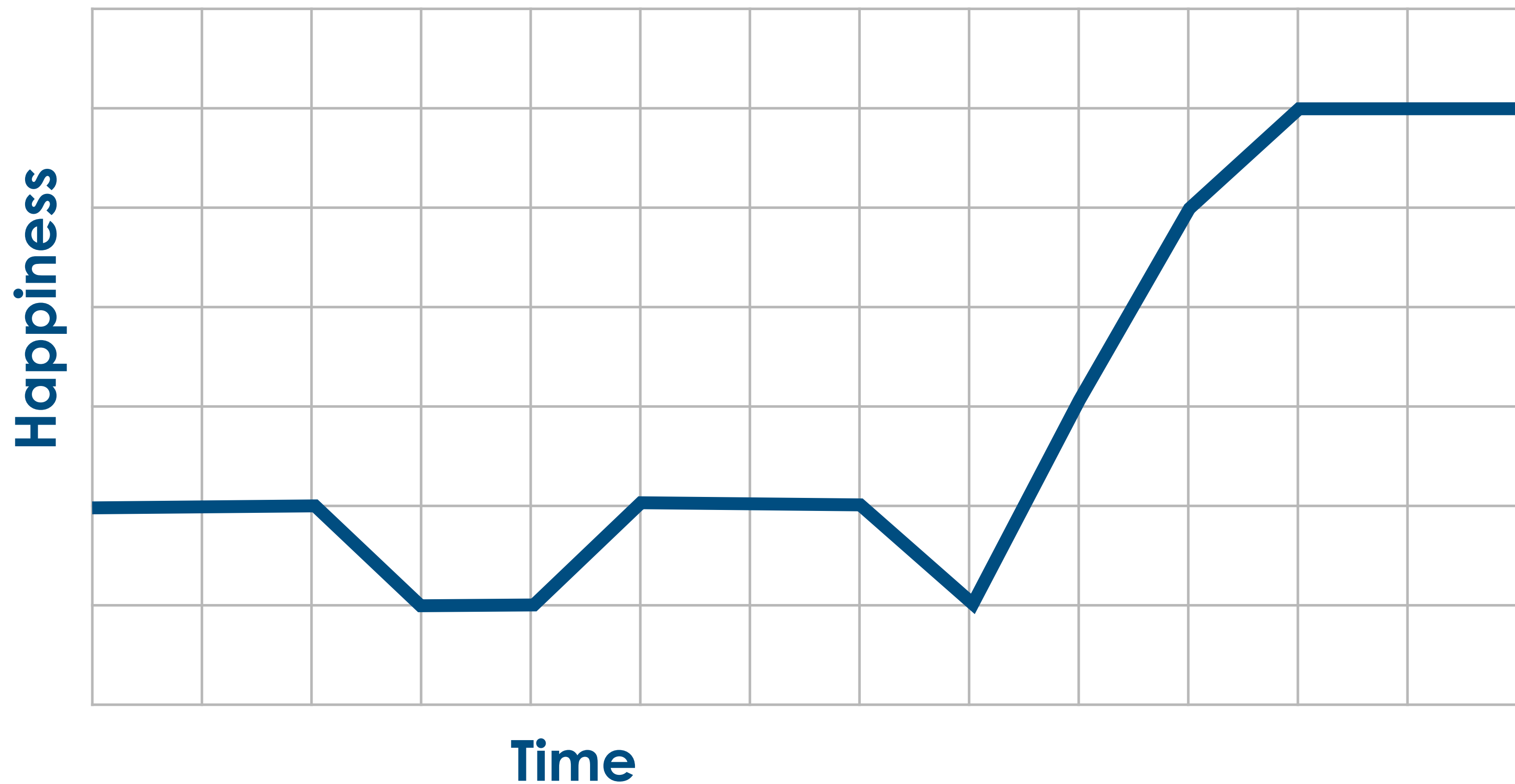
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# Plenary

This graph shows Amasis's happiness levels throughout the story. Where is he happiest?

What part of the story do you think this is?



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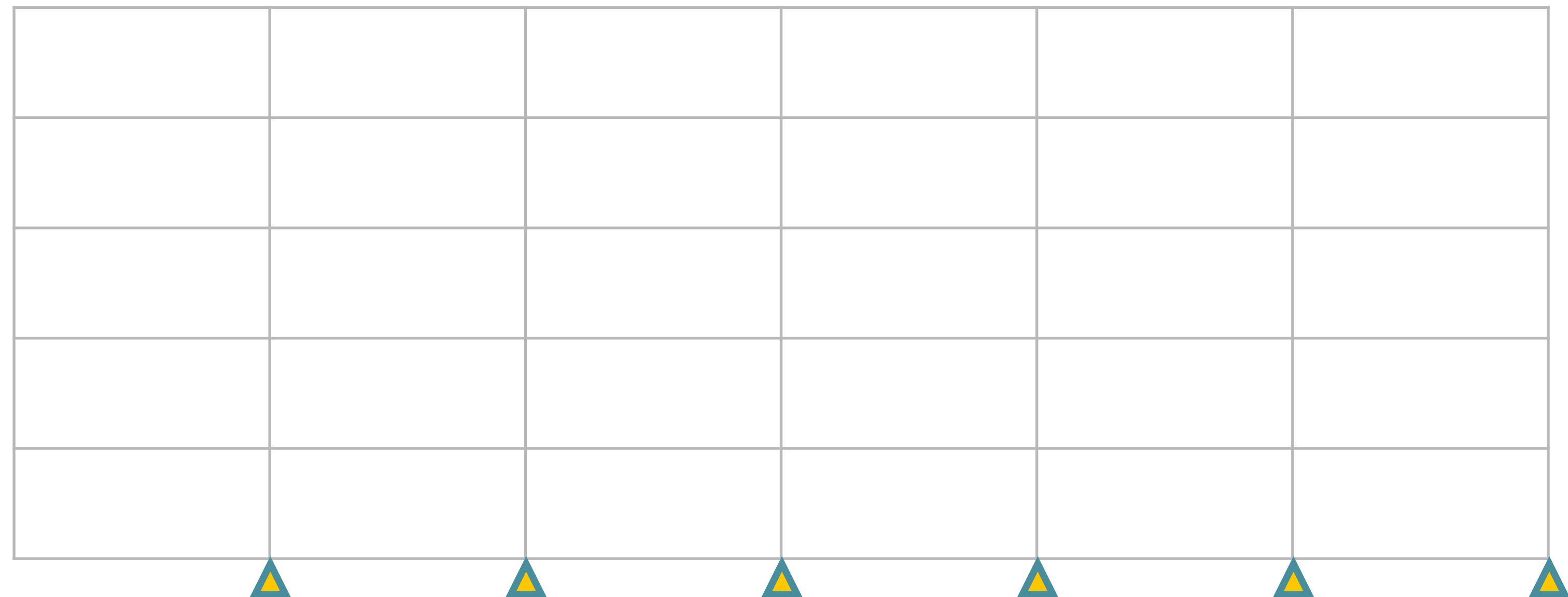


# Plenary

## Let's map out Rhodopis's happiness throughout the story. When do you think she was happiest? When do you think she was saddest?



Happiness



Rhodopis is a slave and is teased by the other girls.

Her master gives her the rose gold slippers.

The servant girls leave her behind when they go to see the Pharaoh

The falcon takes one of her slippers.

The royal barge is spotted on the Nile.

Her shoe fits and the Pharaoh declares she will be his queen.

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