

3c. Write your speech and be ready to explain your point of view in the studio. Remember you don't have to be very serious but you are expected to give professional advice on style and fashion. You can use the proverbs and the phrases below.

Be yourself. Don't be afraid of change.
to run / take risks, to feel comfortable / relaxed / confident
to suit / fit / match / go well with

4. Get ready to present the project 'Fashion verdict'. Don't forget to bring the defendant's clothes to the studio. You can also use photos, pictures or slides.

Lesson 9. A dress for the moon

1a.  Listen, read the story and answer the questions.

1. Is it a fiction or a non-fiction story?
2. Is it prose or poetry?
3. Is it a description or a narration?
4. Is it a fairy tale, a story or a legend?
5. Who are the characters?
6. Can Madan make a dress for the moon? Explain why.

A dress for the moon

(After Indira Krishnan)

Once upon a time a young man named Madan lived in a village in northern India. Madan's father wanted him to become a farmer. But Madan wished to leave the village and find work in town. He promised to his father that he would send a part of his earnings home regularly.

In town, Madan learned to be a tailor (портной). He worked hard and soon became known for the fine clothes he made. All people in the town wanted clothes made by Madan.



The more dresses he made, the more proud and boastful (хвастиливый) Madan became.

One night Madan sat looking at the full moon high up in the sky. The moon was beautiful above a tall coconut tree (кокосовая пальма). Madan said, "I am sure I can make a dress for the moon. The moon will like my handiwork, and then the sun and stars will want me to make dresses for them."

The coconut tree heard his words. Laughing softly, the tree bent down (наклонилось) and whispered, "That's one thing you can't do."

Madan didn't like that. "How do you know what I can do?" he said. "You are only a tree."

The coconut tree tried to say something more, but Madan would not listen.

"If you want to be of some help, tell the moon that I want to make a dress for her. You are tall enough to do that," he said.

So the tree told the moon about Madan. The moon said she would like to have a dress made by the famous tailor from Earth.

Madan was excited. Quickly he began to make a dress of wonderful white silk for the moon. When it was done, he said to the coconut tree, "The dress is ready. Give it to the moon." The coconut tree did so.

The following evening, the moon didn't come out in her new dress. The coconut tree bent down and whispered, "The moon says your dress doesn't fit. It's too loose." Madan was shocked. "It can't be!" he cried. "The clothes I make always fit perfectly." But the moon gave the dress back to him, and he had to redo (переделать) it. Madan spent the night making the dress a little bigger.

The next evening the moon rose a little later. She wasn't wearing her new dress again. And again the coconut tree bent down and whispered, "The dress is too small."

Madan couldn't believe that! "How could I go wrong?" he cried.

"I tried to tell you before but you didn't listen," said the tree. "I have seen for many years that after the moon is full, she grows smaller each day until you can't see her at all. Then, she starts growing bigger day after day until she gets full. So how can you make one dress that would fit the moon perfectly?"

Brokenhearted, Madan sat with his head in his hands all night long. When he saw the moon on the other side of the sky, he whispered, “I am sorry, dear Moon. I am not as great a tailor as I thought.”

“It’s all right,” said the moon. “After all, I’m the moon. How can I wear clothes as people do?”

From that day on, Madan worked harder than before. He was not proud or boastful anymore, and his hard work brought him more money. He remembered to send a good part of it to his father. People liked him better because he was an excellent tailor and a humble (покорный) one, too.

1b. Answer the questions.

1. Why did Madan want to make a dress for the moon?
2. Why did the coconut tree say, “That’s one thing you can’t do”?
3. Why didn’t the moon put on the dress on the first evening?
4. Why didn’t she put it on the following evening?
5. Why did the greatest tailor on Earth get the moon’s size wrong?
6. Why didn’t Madan make another dress for the moon?

1c. Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

1. What parts of the story could happen in real life and what parts are make-believe¹?
2. Is it possible that if the moon tried the dress on another day, it would fit her?
3. What lesson did Madan learn from his experience with the moon’s dress?
4. What lessons can we learn from the story?

Project 

Fashion verdict

¹ make-believe – выдумка