

The Heavenly Gate Race

A long time ago, the *Jade Emperor* wanted to select 12 animals to be his guards. The animals set off on a race towards the Heavenly Gate.

Cat and Rat got up very early and started the race. On their way to the gate, they encountered a big river and had to stop. They were tired and fell asleep. The **clever** Rat woke up and noticed Ox about to cross the river. He and jumped on Ox's head and left Cat behind.

The **hard-working** Ox did not mind and simply continued. After crossing the river, Rat raced towards the palace of the Jade Emperor and won first place. Ox was second.

Tiger was **fast** and came in third. **Competitive** Rabbit got across the river by hopping on floating logs and came right after in fourth place.

Brave Dragon was fifth and was immediately noticed by the Jade Emperor. Just then, **determined** Snake came forward and said Dragon was his adoptive father, so Snake was sixth.

Kind Horse and **modest** Goat arrived. They each let the other go first. The Jade Emperor saw how **polite** they were and ranked them seventh and eighth.

Confident Monkey jumped between trees and stones and arrived in ninth place. Last were **talented** Rooster, **loyal** Dog, and **honest** Pig. These 12 animals became guards of the Heavenly Gate.

Write each animal's personality trait according to the text:

