News from *Stacked Deck*

Lesson 2: Problem Gambling

Gambling can become addictive. Governments tend to ban gambling when the negative consequences of gambling (including addiction) become more apparent. Generations that grow up free of gambling problems tend to make it legal, until the problems resurface. Gambling is now more readily available than at any other time over the last 100 years.

This Hindu poem was written 3,500 years ago in ancient India:

> *Dice, verily, are armed with goads and driving-hooks, deceiving and tormenting, causing grievous woe. They give frail gifts and then destroy the man who wins.*
>
> *Downward they roll, and then spring quickly upward, and, handless, force the man with hands to serve them. Cast on the board, like lumps of magic charcoal, though cold themselves they burn the heart to ashes.*
>
> *The gambler's wife is left forlorn and wretched: the mother mourns the son who wanders homeless. In constant fear, in debt, and seeking riches, he goes by night unto the home of others.*

Your child was introduced to this poem in class. You might choose to review it together and discuss questions such as

- What does the poem say about consequences of problem gambling?
- What do you think the poet thought, felt, or believed about gambling?
- What might have influenced the poet to have these beliefs?

For more information you may contact

- the National Council on Problem Gambling at www.ncpgambling.org
- the International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors at www.youthgambling.com
- the Responsible Gambling Council at www.responsiblegambling.org

Duplicating this page for personal or group use is permissible.