

The Japanese Magic Flower

Blue = Instructions for the teacher (modifications to suit the teacher are requested)

For each child, a white square with two folded diagonals is prepared (photo 1). The diagonals are both folded on the same side of the paper. The square one gets from an A4 paper is ideal. The squares are then hidden in the room or in the garden. The teacher begins to read:

Once upon a time, there was a sad, sad king. The queen had been ill for many years and even though he had searched all over the country for someone to heal her, he had found no one. He would have loved to go for a long walk with her in the castle's garden again. He would have loved to dance with her again at the ball they held in the royal ballroom.

One day, a small, thin man with a long, white beard knocked on the door of the royal castle and asked for some food. The king invited him to stay for a few days, before going on his way again. The old man was very happy to be able to rest for a while and thankfully accepted.

At dinner, the king told the whole sad story of the queen's illness. The old man stroked his beard thoughtfully, but said nothing.

When he left the castle a few days later, he handed a scroll to the king and said: "My dear king, you have been so hospitable to me, I want to help you. Follow the instructions on the scroll and the queen will return to health."

The king unrolled the scroll and read:

Find the big, white cloth with the cross in the middle. It is hidden in your garden.

Immediately, the king searched his garden. It took him all of two days to find the cloth.

The teacher sends the children to search for the cloth with the white cross in the middle. She gives them the hint that the cloth is made of paper. When all children have found a cloth, the story goes on. The teacher has her own cloth.

The king carried on reading:

Pour many small hearts onto the middle of the cloth. They demonstrate your love for the queen.

The teacher asks the children to put their papers in front of them in such a way that the diagonals are mountain folds (show upwards, not downwards – photo 1). Now, using wax crayons, the children draw a red circle in the middle of the paper. Into this circle, they draw lots and lots of red hearts. The hearts can overlap each other. The more the children draw, the more the circle is filled with just the red colour (photo 2). While the children are drawing hearts, the teacher reads on:

The king did as requested on the scroll. He poured so many small hearts into the middle of the cloth, that all one saw, was a big red circle. His love for the queen was very, very strong.

All children now colour their circle red. Here, the teacher can mention that the paper looks like a Japanese flag (photo 3).

The teacher folds the paper in half along one of the diagonals, so that the red circle is visible on the outer side (photo 4). The children follow this and all further steps with their own paper.

Now go through the red archway of the big white mountain the teacher shows the red archway on her own paper and climb up the stairs to the crater of the volcano. The teacher folds her paper in half again and turns it, so that its peak is red (photo 5). Two flaps are on the right, the left side is closed. You will have to endure much heat.

Sweat poured from the king's forehead, when he reached the crater. Inside the mountain, the heat had gotten more and more unbearable as he climbed the stairs. On the soles of his feet, big blisters had formed, caused by the hot stone he had walked on.

When you reach the top, you must breathe in deeply and strike the mountain in two with your biggest sword.

Never in his life, had the king made such a heavy stroke with his sword. Sure enough, almost magically, the mountain fell into two pieces.

The teacher folds the top right flap to the left (photo 6), turns the paper and folds the left flap to the right (photo 7).

Once you have divided the mountain, the white eagle will come flying, to take you down to the valley again.

The teacher folds the upper right flap to the left (photo 8), turns and folds BOTH left flaps to the right (photo 9). Now the wings of the eagle can be spread like the wings of a paper airplane (photo 10) and the eagle can fly into the valley.

When the eagle and the king arrived in the valley, the eagle said to the king: „ Trim my wings with a round cut, so that I can unfold myself !“

The king sent for the royal tailor to bring him scissors. With these, he trimmed the eagle's feathers, as the bird had requested.

The teacher folds the wings down again (returns to photo 9) and cuts a curve through ALL layers. The cut has to be so far down, that ALL layers are included, when cutting (photo 11 and photo 12). Smaller children will probably need help here, in order to cut correctly through all layers.

In a magical way, the eagle unfolded itself into a beautiful white flower (all children unfold their paper into the flower – photo 13), which smelled so strongly in its red middle, that, within

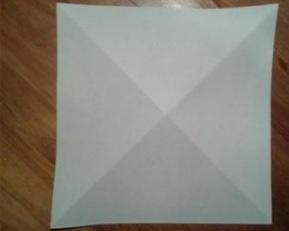
seconds, the scent spread all over the castle. [Everyone sniffs on the flower.](#) The flower said: „Let the queen breathe in my scent as deeply as she is able to. This will heal her.“

The king ran to the queen’s bed: “Here, my darling. Breathe, as deeply as you can.” The flower’s scent was so lovely, the queen could not stop breathing it in and behold, with each breath, she seemed a litte healthier, a little stronger...

A few days’ march away, even the old man with the white beard could smell the flower’s lovely scent. He smiled to himself knowingly: “The queen had been healed.”

THE END

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