

# The Bamboo Cutter

A Japanese Folktale



## A VIDEO STORY

Full video, PPTx versions.

Text for reading.

Sequence the story cards.

Retell/Rewrite the story activity.

Write an alternative fairytale.

6 Sentence story template.



# The Bamboo Cutter



## A Japanese Folktale

Once upon a time there was an old man. His name was Taketori no Okina. He and his wife had been childless for a long time.

One day while cutting a bamboo stalk, he found something strange in it - a baby the size of his thumb. He took the baby back to his wife. They began crying tears of joy. After so long, they finally had a child of their own. The two decided to name their baby Kaguya-hime.

Soon the child grew into a beautiful woman. But as she grew older, she realized she didn't belong in this world. Knowing that she would have to return to her real home one day, she would always cry when she saw a full moon.

One day, the emperor of Japan met Kaguya-hime. They fell in love and he asked her to marry him. Realizing the day of her return was approaching, she decided to reject his proposal.

That night, Kaguya wrote the emperor sad notes of apology. The next day, Heavenly Beings arrived at Kaguya's door. The emperor sent guards to protect her from the moon people.

But the embassy of Heavenly Beings blinded everyone with a strange light and took Kaguya-hime back to the moon. Her parents fell into grief and grew sick.

The emperor read her letter and was overcome with sadness.

He traveled to the summit of the mountain closest to heaven with the letter and burned it, hoping that his message would reach the distant princess. The love they couldn't have in this life. The fate they were denied in this world.

Although apart, they are still waiting until the day they will meet and be - together forever.

The End.

# A FOLKTALE

## Story Response



***After reading, answer these questions, then share, discuss.***

1. Who were the characters in the story you read?

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2. What was the main problem in the story?

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3. How was the problem resolved?

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4. Which character did you most identify with? Why?

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5. What did the story teach you?

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6. What is a story that is similar to this one? Tell us about it.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# THE BAMBOO CUTTER



*Write and retell the story using only 6 sentences.*

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- 2

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- 3

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- 4

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- 5

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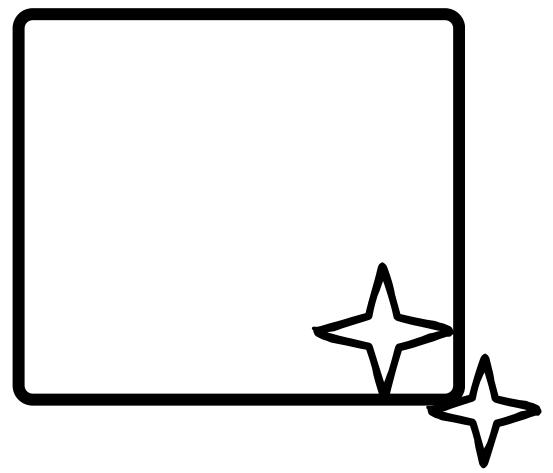
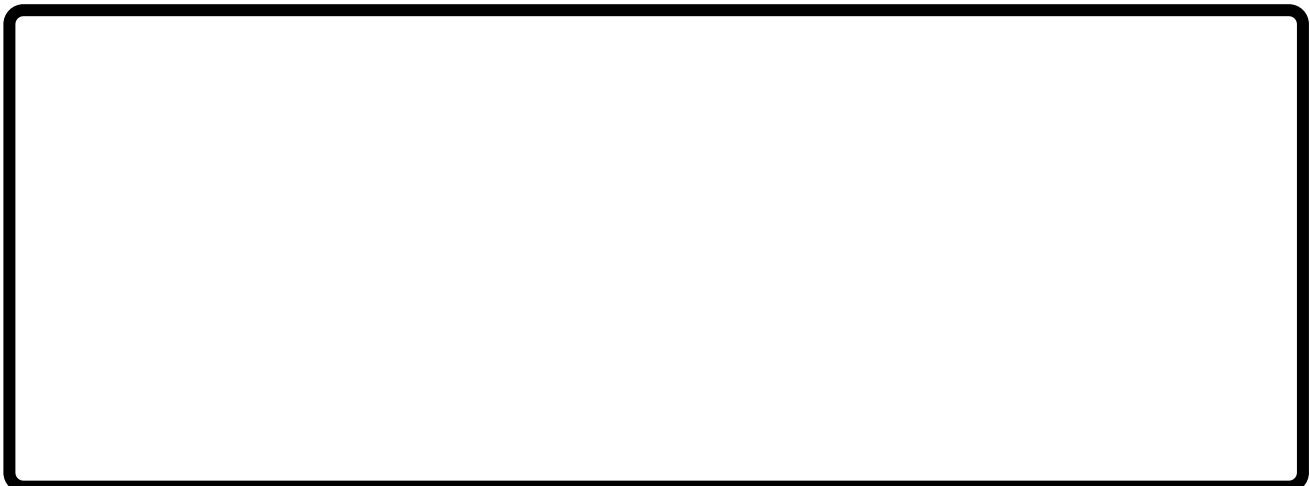
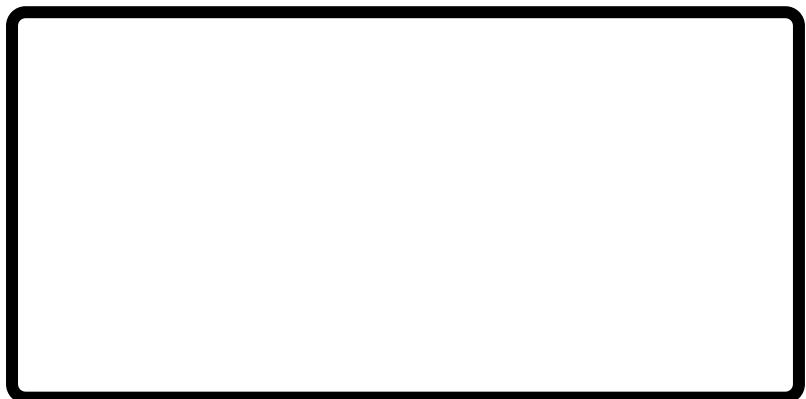
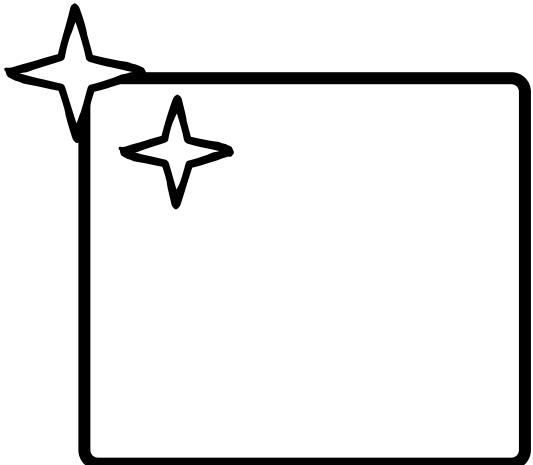
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# THE BAMBOO CUTTER



# Alternative Tale



Retell your favorite story, fable, fairy tale.  
Add a plot twist or a different setting or ending.  
How is it different from the original?

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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# Story Sequence

*Watch and put the sentences in order to tell the story.*

An old man and his wife were childless.

One day the man found a small baby.

They called the baby Kaguya-hime

The baby grew up to be a beautiful woman.

Kaguya always felt like a stranger in this world.

One day the emperor asked her to marry him.

She said no. She wrote him some notes of apology.

The moon people visited and took Kaguya back.

The emperor wrote her a letter and burned it.

Kaguya and the emperor both wait until they meet again.

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