かぐやひめ　（たけとりものがたり）

**Related Topics**

* Otsukimi- Moon Viewing
* Traditional Fairy Tales

**Story Overview**

Kaguyahime, the Shining Princess, is one of Japan's oldest fairy tales and was written in the Heian period (about 900AD). It is the story of a moon princess who is found in a shining bamboo stalk and brought up by a bamboo cutter and his wife. She grows up to be a beauty and is courted by many noblemen. She is finally taken back to the moon. It is also known as Taketori Monogatari (The Tale of the Bamboo Cutter).

**Cultural Notes**

**Tsukimi  
O-tsukimi** (moon viewing) is a tradition dating back to the Heian period (794-1185 AD), when the evenings were spent with court aristocrats writing and playing music. The tradition later spread to warriors, townspeople, and farmers and became a harvest festival. Otsukimi is celebrated on the night of the full moon in autumn. The full moon in September is considered to be the most beautiful of the year and is called Chushu no meigetsu (harvest moon.)

**Sprays of susuki** (Japanese pampas grass) are displayed on the verandah and 12,13 dango (small sticky rice dumpling) are mounted on the small wooden stand and vegetables are offered to the moon. Eating dango made people feel like they were sharing a meal with the lunar god. The vegetables are the ones harvested around September - often taro, green soybeans and chestnuts. (This is because traditionally people also celebrated their harvest.)

**Web Links**

* <http://sensei.jpf-sydney.org/may05/sensei_may05.htm>
* <http://www.e-hon.jp/kaguya/kage5.htm>

**Other references**

Big Bird in Japan - video, the story of Kaguyahime is woven throughout.

**Characters**

* Narrator x 2
* Ojiisan
* Obaasan
* Kaguyahime
* Guards (any number) Prince Kuramochi
* Prince Ootomo
* Prince Iso
* Moon guardians (any number)

SCRIPT

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| **SCENE 1 - In the bamboo forest** |
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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | ナレーター 1 |  | むかし　むかし　あるところに　おじいさんと　おばあさんが　すんで　いました。 | |  |  |  | | ナレーター 2 |  | Once upon a time there lived an old man and old woman. The old man was a bamboo cutter. | |  |  |  | | ナレーター 1 |  | あるひ　おじいさんは　やまに　いきました。 | |  |  |  | | ナレーター 2 |  | One day the old man went to the mountains to cut bamboo. | |  |  |  | | おじいさん |  | あれは　なんですか。　いってみましょう。 | |  |  |  | |  |  | *(Points to bamboo and walks over to it, starts cutting)* | |  |  |  | | ナレーター 1 |  | He saw a bamboo stalk that was glowing brightly. When he cut into it he found a little baby girl inside. | |  |  |  | | おじいさん |  | かわいい　あかちゃん。 おばあさんに　みせましょう。 | |  |  |  | |  |  | *(Picks up baby, cuddles it and walks off)* | |  |  |  | | ナレーター 1 |  | He took the baby home. The couple was so overjoyed to finally have a baby of their own. They decided to call the baby Kaguyahime (Shining Princess). | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | | **SCENE 2 - At home** | | | | ナレーター 1 |  | Kaguyahime grew into a beautiful young woman and became famous throughout the land for her beauty. Very soon all the young princes came to her home wanting to marry her. | |  |  |  | | くらもち |  | くらもちです。 こんにちは。 (bows) | |  |  |  | | おおとも |  | おおともです。こんにちは。 (bows) | |  |  |  | | いそ |  | いそです。 こんにちは。 (bows) | |  |  |  | |  |  | (*She looks them up and down and turns to the audience)* | |  |  |  | | かぐやひめ |  | みんな　いやです。　けっこん　したくないです。 | |  |  |  | | ナレーター ２ |  | Kaguyahime did not want to marry any of the young men so she　set them impossible tasks to complete before she would consider marrying any of them. | |  |  |  | | かぐやひめ |  | くらもちさん、きんの　えだを　もってきて　ください。 | |  |  |  | | ナレーター 1 |  | Prince Kuramochi, bring me the sacred branch encrusted with jewels. | |  |  |  | | かぐやひめ |  | おおともさん、ネックレスを　もってきて　ください。 | |  |  |  | | ナレーター ２ |  | Prince Ōtomo, bring me the coloured ball from the Dragon King. | |  |  |  | | かぐやひめ |  | いそさん、めずらしいかいがらを　もってきて　ください。 | |  |  |  | | ナレーター １ |  | Prince Iso, bring me a rare cowry shell. | |  |  |  | |  |  | (The princes leave to seek their treasures) | |  |  |  | | くらもち |  | みつかりませんでした。(bows) | |  |  |  | | おおとも |  | みつかりませんでした。(bows) | |  |  |  | | いそ |  | みつかりませんでした。(bows) | |  |  |  | | かぐやひめ |  | ざんねんでしたね。 | |  |  |  | | ナレーター ２ |  | The three princes failed to find their special gifts and so they were sent away. | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | | **SCENE 3 - In the garden** | | | |  |  |  | | ナレーター 1 |  | Kaguyahime became very sad and one night Ojiisan and Obaasan found her crying. | |  |  |  | | おじいさん |  | かぐやひめ　どうしたの？ | |  |  |  | | かぐやひめ |  | わたしは　つきから　きました。 (pointing to the moon) もうすぐ　かえります。 | |  |  |  | | ナレーター １ |  | Kaguyahime was really a princess from the moon and would soon have to return there. | |  |  |  | | おばあさん |  | かえらないで　ください。 (She begs her) | |  |  |  | | ナレーター ２ |  | Ojiisan was shocked, and not wanting to let his beloved daughter go, devised a plan to keep her with them. | |  |  |  | | ナレーター 1 |  | On the night of the full moon, guards hid Kaguyahime deep inside the Ojiisan’s house and then surrounded it. | |  |  |  | |  |  | (Guards arrive and surround the house and aim their bows and arrows toward the sky) | |  |  |  | | ナレーター 2 |  | Suddenly, the night sky became bright. Messengers from the moon dressed in brilliant clothes came down from the sky and descended to the earth on a cloud. | |  |  |  | | ガード |  | こわい！　こわい！ | |  |  |  | |  |  | (guards run off frightened) | |  |  |  | | ナレーター 1 |  | The messengers place Kaguyahime onto a chariot and dress her in a feathered robe. Leaving the heartbroken old couple behind, Kaguyahime rose up to the moon. | |  |  |  | | かぐやひめ |  | さようなら　おじいさん。　さようなら　おばあさん。 | |  |  |  | | おじいさん おばあさん |  | さようなら。 | |