**The Story Outline**

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| Once upon a time, an おじいさんand おばあさん lived in a bamboo forest in the mountains. One day, おじいさん went out to cut bamboo trees. |
| He saw a bamboo tree glowing with a magic light.  |
| おじいさん cut down the bamboo and inside he found a beautiful baby girl, whom he brought home. |
| おばあさん was very happy to keep the baby girl. They named her かぐやひめ, Shining Princess, and decided to raise her as their child. |
| From that day on, おじいさん found gold coins in the bamboo every time he cut down the trees. They became very wealthy. |
| With the gold they bought かぐやひめ a beautiful kimono. In three months she grew into a beautiful woman, and news of her beauty spread through the village. |
| People hearing of her beauty came by day and night from everywhere in Japan to catch a glimpse of かぐやひめ. |
| Five noblemen came from the imperial palace to ask for かぐやひめ’s hand, but she had no wish to marry. |
| おじいさん urged her to consider marrying one of them. かぐやひめ reluctantly agreed to make a decision on one condition. |
| かぐやひめ asked each nobleman to find and bring her one of the following gifts:・A jewelled branch from the depths of the sea 　のなかののえだ・Golden fur の ・A dragon king's necklace のり・A bowl which Buddha used ほとけさまがった・Swallow's seashells つばめの |
| Each nobleman set out to find one of these things, but each was rejected because he either failed in the attempt or resorted to trickery. |
| The emperor heard this story and went to meet かぐやひめ. He was mesmerised by her beauty and tried to bring her back to his palace, but she declined. かぐやひめ never wed, but spent four happy years with おじいさん and おばあさん. |
| One day, おじいさん and おばあさん found かぐやひめ shedding tears, gazing at the moon. |
| When they asked かぐやひめ why she was crying, she told them her secret; she was from the Palace of the Moon and had to go back to the moon on the 15th of August. |
| Dismayed, おじいさん and おばあさん went to ask the emperor for help. |
| The emperor sent 2000 samurai to protect かぐやひめ on the night of the 15th of August. |
| At midnight, moonbeams streamed down from the heavens carrying celestial maidens to earth. |
| All the samurai were paralysed and could neither shoot nor speak. |
| かぐやひめ stepped out, apologised, and bade farewell to おじいさん and おばあさん. |
| かぐやひめ, led by the celestial maidens, rose up to the heavens. |