

Shibumi and the Kitemaker

..... by Mercer Mayer (Marshall Cavendish, 1999)

Inspired by this original fairy tale, children write about their own magic kite.

Themes: Kites, Japanese Culture, Fantasy

Cover Preparation Idea

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1. Photocopy the cover template. Mount it on sturdy paper and cut out.
For the back cover, trace onto sturdy paper and cut out.
2. Color the kite and background.
3. Glue yarn for the string and cotton balls for the clouds.



Literature

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Shibumi wants to change her world—and she takes some very drastic steps to do so. While reading, ask students to describe things about the world that they'd like to change. Are Shibumi's concerns valid? Ask children what they would have done in her situation. Do they feel Shibumi's solution is reasonable?

Writing & Art

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In this tale, Shibumi leaves her family's kingdom and finds solace on a faraway coast. Where would your students like to travel to? On the board, write "**I would like to ride my magic kite to _____.**" Have students write about where they would like to go and then draw an illustration. Encourage children to write about what they would see or do in this place.

Beyond the Book

- Imagine what Earth would look like from a kite's point of view high in the sky. Have students draw their representations, and display them around the classroom.
- Make your own kites and hold a kite festival outside to give children a chance to fly them.

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Book Links: *Curious George Flies a Kite* by Margaret Rey (Houghton Mifflin, 1958). In trouble again, the curious monkey's adventures this time involve a kite. *Kites: Magic Wishes That Fly Up to the Sky* by Demi (Crown, 1999) is a beautifully illustrated tale of a magic kite and the story behind the tradition of the Chinese kite festival. Complete kite-making instructions are included. *The Emperor and the Kite* by Jane Yolen (Philomel, 1967). In this Caldecott Honor book, a princess uses her kite to save the day.



