

January 21, 1998

Hi Kids,

Enclosed a copy of my take on the Japanese moon goddess harvest moon story This is one of Michi's favorites.

I'm going into the International BiLingual School, on Wednesday February 18, 1998 between 2-3pm to tell stories to an audience of about 100 students to drum up an audience for the Michi Day storytelling and tribute the following Saturday.

Momo, if you're available I'd like to take you in to do your dad's MOMO'S UMBRELLA, and there, maybe we can work out a way to tell Kaguya Hime together.

Lawson, you said you plan to be in town by then, so I'd like to take you with me to the International Bilingual School.

With your help Lawson and Momo, I'd like to tell the story with a max of audience participation and magic. Unfortunately I don't do magic. Ideally, here's how I'd like to tell the story.

The storyteller, me, tells the story.

The silent assistant, as the story teller describes the things the childless couple in the bamboo forest make at night, out of the bamboo he collects during the day, magically makes these things appear out of the audience's ears, pockets, hair, etc.

The storyteller tells all the boys in the audience to ooh and aahhh at every mention of Kaguya Hime's name.

The storyteller says the young man who marries Kaguya Hime, the princess of the moon, will become the richest and most famous, and be known as the sexist man on earth.

Lawson leads the boys in pleading with Kaguya Hime's father to help them force Kaguya Hime to choose one of them to marry.

The storyteller pleads with Kaguya Hime, that's you, Momo. You are 18 years old.

Pop in an act that may or may not be an act of betrayal, makes a very personal plea- Mom and Pop are in their late late late eighties or nineties. Real old. We're rickety and about to creak out, break, suffer and die helpless. We can't take care of you much longer, baby. Make us happy by marrying a nice man and letting us die knowing you will be well cared for the rest of your life.

Kaguya Hime, five envelopes. Inside each envelope is a description of the task the young man must complete to qualify to meet her face to face, over tea. She describes the

missions to the storyteller pop and hands him each envelope after describing each impossible mission, drawn from ancient myth and childrens fiction.

Pop storyteller passes the envelopes out to five boys in the audience.

Kaguya Hime addressess the girls: "Girls. What is wrong with these rich young lords? They have never seen me! They have heard that I am beautiful. They don't care what I really look like. They don't care how tall I am, how wide, how many eyes I have. They don't care why I know, what I do, what I like, what I read, what I watch on TV. They don't know what I want. All they care about is what people who have never seen me, say about me. And what do I know about them? They're stupid. They tried bribing mom and pop to let them have a look at me. They tried bribing the women who work here, to pass me notes and gifts. Girls, I tell you, nothing but the best for Kaguya Hime. I don't want any man who will be fooled by gossip and settle for less than the real thing before making up his mind about marriage. No. No. I want a man who knows the difference between the real and the fake. I'm not even going to consider a man who will not fight for me against the universe, as hard as I will fight for him. And he should know how to cook.

Lawson helps the playboys with the envelopes, read the tall tales and outright lies of how they brought back the stuff of story.

The Buddhas Bowl, the Chinese Fire Rat, the twig from the mythic tree all have tall tales and Indiana Jones stories of bringing back the treasure.

Kaguya Hime: What do you think girls? Now, according the story of the Buddha's Bowl, if this is truly the bowl the Buddha drank from under the Bodhi Tree, it will glow in the dark.

The magician puts the bowl in a dark box. It doesn't glow. He makes it disappear in puff of smoke.

Kaguya Hime: What do you think girls? If this is truly the skin of Chinese Fire Rat from the story, it will not burn, when thrown into fire.

The magician sets the rat on fire and it burns and disappears.

The twig of gold with fruit of precious stones and limbs of silver looks real, but the place and the tree are only stories.

Lawson and the Magician lead the third volunteer to present a jeweler's bill for fabricating the twig on a faraway island in secret.

Number four gives up and parties with his samurai. Number five is never heard from again.

At the end-well, we can't levitate Kaguya Hime---yet.

She gives pop the half full vial of the elixir of life. As the storyteller describes the Emperor's disposal of the love note and the vial of elixir, the magician sets fire to the

note and vial on his left hand, blows the flame out and smoke rises, then closes his right hand over his left, snuffing out the smoke. When he opens his hands they are clean, everything has disappeared, the story is over.