

July in Japan

In Japan people celebrate The Star Festival on the 7th of July.

They decorate bamboo trees and write their wishes on a piece of paper to hang on the tree.

If the sky is clear with twinkling stars at night, your wish will come true.

Why??

Here is the story of the origin of this festival.....



TANABATA ~The Star Festival~

Have you ever been to heaven?

Well, there are many star fairies up there. And they are just like us.

They laugh. They cry. They also work and fall in love.

Everyday God watches over them to see that they work hard. If they became lazy, God would not be happy.

Shukujo (the star Vega/a Weaving Girl) and Kengyuu (the star Altair/a cowboy) are two of these star fairies.

Both of them are very hard workers.

Shukujo weaved beautiful cloth day after day and Kengyuu was busy looking after his cows.

One day they met and fell in love with each other. Because of this, they could not keep their minds on their work. When Shukujo was seated at the loom, her mind would think of nothing else but Kengyuu. And Kengyuu spent more time dreaming of Shukujo than looking after the cows.

God soon discovered that they had neglected their work. As the consequence of their irresponsible behaviour, He separated the two

to opposite sides of the Milky Way so they could not see or talk to each other again. Having lost Kengyuu, Shukujo was overwhelmed with grief. Kengyuu could not conceal his sorrow either.

However, both of them knew that they were in the wrong. They soon went back to their work. Shukujo re-started weaving beautiful cloths day after day and Kengyuu re-started carefully looking after his cows. But gone was their laughter. God noticed their sadness and felt sorry for them.

God at last accepted their improvement and decided to let them see each other once a year. On the seventh day of the seventh month, when the stars begin to twinkle in the sky, they are allowed to cross the Milky Way and see each other. All year round, they work hard and look forward to this very special day, which is called

TANABATA in Japan.



Term 3-2 The HIRAGANA vocabulary

You can read them. You can copy them. And you can enjoy the story!

たなばた	TA NA BA TA	The Star Festival
あまのがわ	A MA NO GA WA	Milky Way
ほし	HO SHI	star

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