

THE REAL SAMURAI



ArtSpotTheatre

GENERAL ORGANIZATION OF THE BOOKLET

The booklet is organized in three main levels: **Level 1** for beginners of the English Language, **Level 2** for an intermediate class and **Level 3** for advanced students. There is a special Level prepared for **Native Speakers** of the language for those countries in which English is spoken as a mother tongue.

Besides, each level has been divided into **three sessions** in which learners will have an approach to the story, plot, characters and they will have the possibility to solve creative activities before the play.

The amount of **time** to complete each session is between **30 and 50 minutes**.

IN ARTSPOT WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT THE USE OF THE BOOKLET IN CLASS WILL ENHANCE STUDENTS' EXPERIENCE BY HELPING THEM TO COMPREHEND THE STORY DEEPLY, BROADENING THEIR LANGUAGE SKILLS AND PROVIDING THE CONDITIONS TO EXPLORE ENGLISH WITHIN AN INGENIOUS AND INNOVATIVE CONTEXT.

Sessions

1. Getting Started!

Aim: Getting to know the story, vocabulary, reading comprehension.

2. Meet the Characters

Aim: Meeting the characters of the play and going over English grammar concepts.

3. Creative Writing

Aim: Thinking beyond the story, creative writing.

THE PLOT

In the garden of a picturesque Japanese temple, the fate of the country hangs in the balance. The great Samurai is about to choose a new leader. Tension builds up as Reiko, the son of the family, gets ready to occupy this important position. Akira, the youngest daughter, however, argues her older sister, Shoko, should be the rightful successor. In order to make a fair decision, their father agrees to bring in Master Fuyu, an experienced instructor who will guide Reiko and Shoko in finding the most suitable person for the position.

Before leaving, the father gives a precious item to each of his children. Shoko receives a sacred flower, symbolizing purity and beauty. Reiko receives a precious stone, representing strength and resilience. Akira receives a gong, signifying the need for harmony and balance. Each item carries a unique meaning and sets the stage for the challenges that lie ahead.

As their father leaves on a mission, the siblings embark on a journey of self-discovery and face the challenges presented to them by Master Fuyu.

The journey begins under the guidance of Master Fuyu. The siblings embrace all the physical, mental, and spiritual challenges they encounter. They push their bodies to the limit, honing their physical abilities through hard work and martial arts. They engage in intellectual exercises, sharpening their minds and learning the intricate strategies of a true Samurai. In addition to this, they delve into the depths of their souls, connecting with their inner selves to find their purpose.

During these difficult tests, Akira finds solace in her deep connection with the wise Sakura tree. Every day, Akira shares her dreams and experiences with the tree, seeking its wisdom and guidance. Through this bond, the Sakura imparts messages that only Akira can interpret, broadening her understanding of the path she must follow.

Will Reiko and Shoko's transformative journey allow them to find the true Samurai?

The answer lies in the culmination of their efforts, their growth, and their commitment to the path of the Samurai.

Did you Know?

There are many legends about the Sakura tree. One of them says that the soul of a samurai lives in that tree. Once, a Sakura tree grew in his garden and bloomed at the usual time. He played under the tree as a child and knew that his parents and all his ancestors played there too.

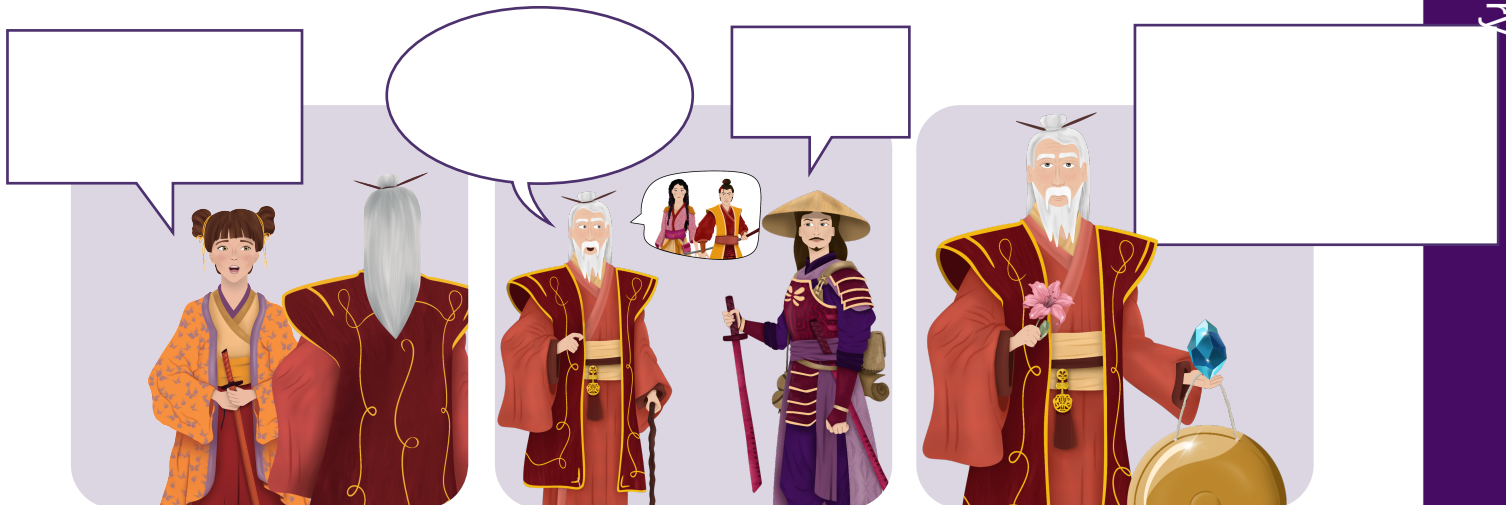
The following summer, the tree began to wither before dying. The old samurai fell ill with grief; nothing could compensate for his loss. On the sixteenth day of the first moon, he went out into the garden, bowed to the dry trunk and pleaded: "I beg you, take my life and start blooming again!" Then, spreading a white cover under the tree, he sat down in a ritual pose and ended his life. As he died, his soul moved into the tree.

Can you find another legend about this famous Japanese tree?

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE SAMURAI

Follow the plot of the story and create possible conversations between the Samurai and the rest of the characters. Use one of the following words and phrases in each box:

take care - beat - unfair - disagree - excited - I'm afraid - skills - look after -
listen up - depart - worried - meaningful



In the middle of the reunion, Akira questions her father's decision to appoint Reiko as his successor.

The father summons Fuyu, a spiritual master, to train his children.

The father announces that he has to leave on a mission and gives a special object to each of his children.



The master announces that they will have to overcome physical, mental and spiritual tests.





The siblings challenge themselves to become better. Both of them want to be appointed as the real Samurai.



Akira tells her wishes and experiences to her Sakura tree.

THE BEST CANDIDATE

Reiko and Shoko will face physical, mental and spiritual challenges to occupy the position of Samurai. Each of them has special skills:

		
BALANCE	☆☆☆	☆☆
ARCHERY	☆☆☆☆	☆
STRENGTH	☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆
PUZZLES	☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆

Compare Reiko and Shoko in 4 sentences. Use the following adjectives:

ACCURATE - BALANCE - STRONG - ANALYTICAL

Reiko is

Shoko is

Reiko is

Shoko is

Grammar Spot: Comparatives and Superlatives

» We can use comparatives to compare things, for example:

Shoko **is faster** than Reiko.

» We can use superlatives to say what thing or person is top in a group.

Akira is **the fastest** of all.

» For adjectives with one syllable, add **er** and **est**. Sometimes spelling changes. Don't forget to use **the** before the superlative.

tall - taller - the tallest

I'm **taller** than my sister. My mother is **the tallest** in my family.

» For other adjectives with two or more syllables, use **more** and **most**. Don't forget to use **the** before the superlative.

interesting - more interesting - the most interesting

That story is **more interesting than** mine. This TV program is **the most** interesting!

DEAR SAKURA...

» Akira, the youngest daughter, has a very special friend in the story: Sakura, the tree. She usually shares her feelings and wishes with the tree.

» Choose one of the following events in the story and write down a note to hang from the tree.

All the people gathered outside the Japanese temple.
They are waiting for the new Samurai.

The father leaves the village and gives Akira a gong.
Akira observes how Shoko and Reiko train under Fuyu's guidance.

Dear Sakura,

You won't believe what happened today!

I feel

I wish

