

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 REAL SAMURAI

The story begins in Japan, where a Samurai is about to be appointed. To begin with the story, it is necessary to learn more about this ancestral character. Read the following questions and look up the facts to answer them.

What was a samurai?

What does the word bushido mean?



What age did Samurai start training?

What did the training consist of?

How were Samurais chosen?

HISTORY SPOT!

The bushido or shido is the famous warrior code of conduct followed by the samurai. Put the virtues in order (the first one being the most important and the last one the least important to you).

THE BUSHIDO

JIN Compassion	仁	忠義	CHU Duty and loyalty
REI Politeness	礼	真	MAKOTO Honesty and sincerity
YU Heroic Courage	勇	名譽	GI Integrity
MEIYO Honor	美譽		

1. -----
2. -----
3. -----
4. -----
5. -----
6. -----
7. -----

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.

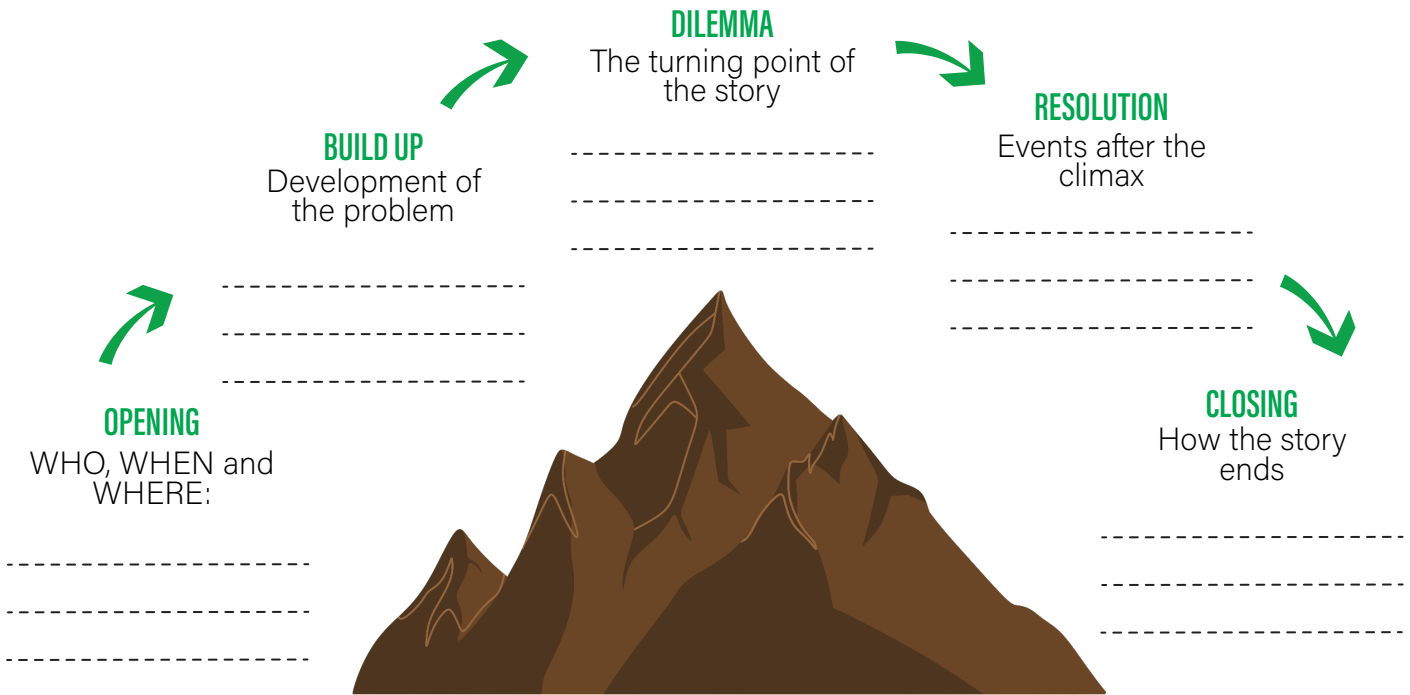
During these difficult tests, Akira finds solace in her deep connection with the wise Sakura tree. Every day, Akira shares her dreams and experiences with the tree, seeking its wisdom and guidance. Through this bond, the Sakura imparts messages that only Akira can interpret, broadening her understanding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

A JAPANESE PLOT MOUNTAIN

Once you have read the story, organize the different parts of the story by completing the following mountain plot. As you still don't know the resolution and the closing, what do you think the two remaining parts would be like?



FUN FACT

On a world map, Japan seems a small nation, dwarfed by China and Russia with North America over the vast Pacific. However, Japan is larger in land mass (145,869 sq. mi/377,800 sq. km) than many of the world's 180 countries, including the United Kingdom and Italy.

Mountains occupy over 80% of Japan's land mass. Japan has many long, narrow valleys between low mountains covered with trees (either natural or resulting from reforestation), with strips of agriculture and human settlements along the edges of the valleys.

Japan is located in the Pacific Ring of Fire and has 186 volcanoes, out of which approximately sixty are active.


Let's compare Japan with your own country. Complete the chart:

Japan	Your country
Size: 377,800 km ²	
186 volcanoes	

THE RIGHT CANDIDATE

Shoko and Reiko will compete for the role of Samurai. Write a profile of the two candidates. Who do you think will win?

	<p>Name: Reiko Role in story: Age: Gender:</p>
<p>CHARACTER GOALS</p> <p>What does the character wants?</p> <p>What sacred object does he have?</p>	<p>INFORMATION</p>

	<p>Name: Shoko Role in story: Age: Gender:</p>
<p>CHARACTER GOALS</p> <p>What does the character wants?</p> <p>What sacred object does she have?</p>	<p>INFORMATION</p>

In my opinion the winner will be

because

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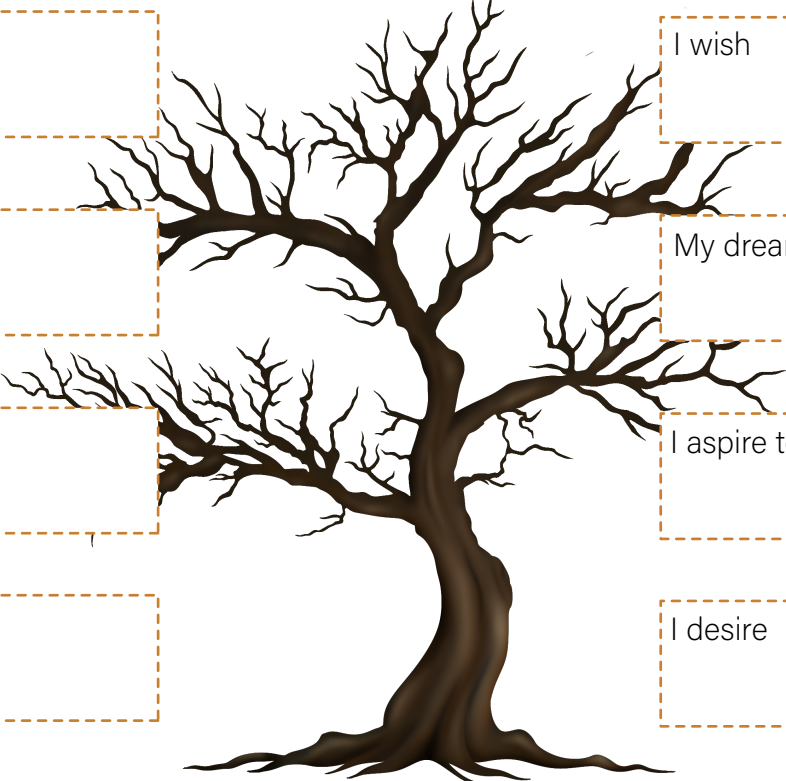
Use these adjectives to justify your answer: obstinate - bold - balanced - industrious - tolerant - mischievous - ethical - dutiful - determined - virtuous

IN AKIRA'S SHOES

Akira, the youngest daughter of the family, finds refuge in a sacred tree that grows in the garden of the temple: the Sakura tree. She hangs her wishes on the tree and tells it about her daily adventures. What wishes would Akira hang on it? Write them on the right side. Write **your personal wishes** for the near future on the left side.

AKIRA'S

YOURS



I wish	I wish
My dream is to	My dream is to
I aspire to	I aspire to
I desire	I desire

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?

SUDOKU

Sudoku is played on a grid of 9 x 9 spaces. Within the rows and columns there are 9 "squares" (made up of 3 x 3 spaces). Each row, column and square (9 spaces each) needs to be filled out with the numbers 1-9 without repeating any numbers within the row, column or square.

	4	6			7	5		
			3				8	
8					2			9
	2	1						
					3			
7					6			5
				4			2	
4	9							
		8		1			3	6

						2		
6		2	8					
3						9		
	8		9		6	7		
							2	5
						8		1
				4	3			1
		4	7			6		
9				2			8	

Tip

Sudoku is a game of logic and reasoning, so you shouldn't have to guess. If you don't know what number to put in a certain space, keep scanning the other areas of the grid until you find an opportunity to place a number. Don't try to "force" anything - Sudoku rewards patience, insights, and recognition of patterns, not blind luck or guessing.

JAPANESE NUMBERS

Play the Sudoku repeating the numbers in Japanese. Look at the names below. Which is your favorite one?

0	1	4	5	8	9
零	一	四	五	八	九
REI	ICHI	SHI	GO	HACHI	KYÜ
2	3	6	7	10	100
二	三	六	七	十	百
NI	SAN	ROKU	SCHICHI	JÜ	HYAKU