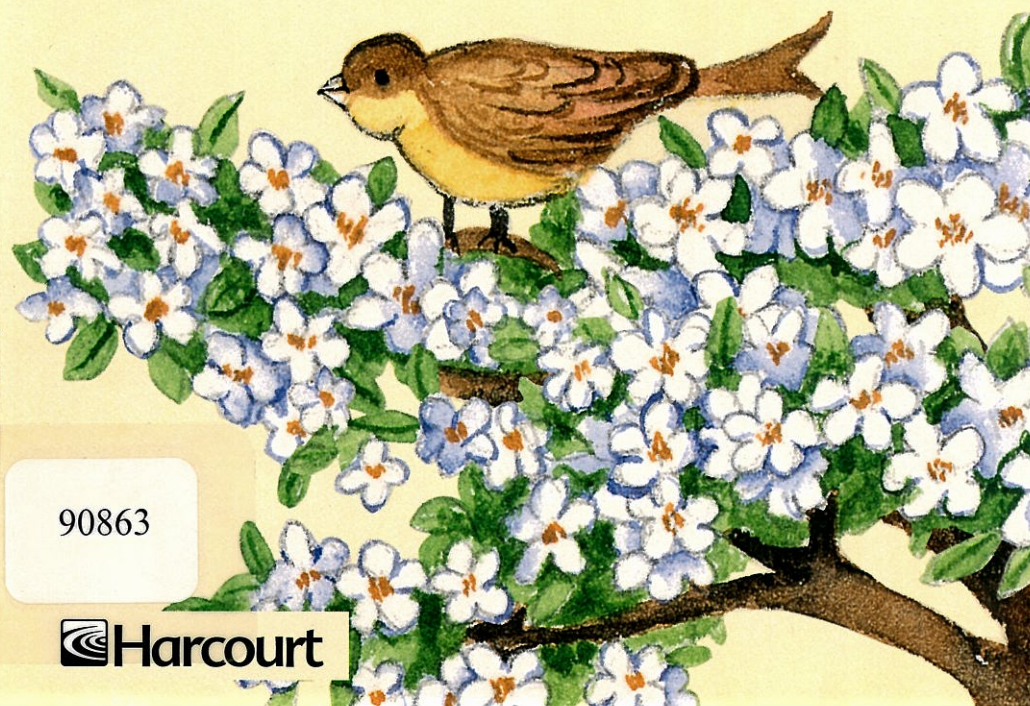


The Bird in the Plum Tree

a folktale retold by Lucy Floyd
illustrated by Yu Cha Pak



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There was once a great leader called Mighty One. He loved plum trees. He loved the light, beautiful look of them.



Then a tree died. "What a shame!" he thought. "I wonder if we might find another one."



Nearby an artist and his family owned a plum tree. The boy, little Tim-Tim had a friend who lived in the tree.



As the light faded every night,
Tim-Tim went to see his special
friend.



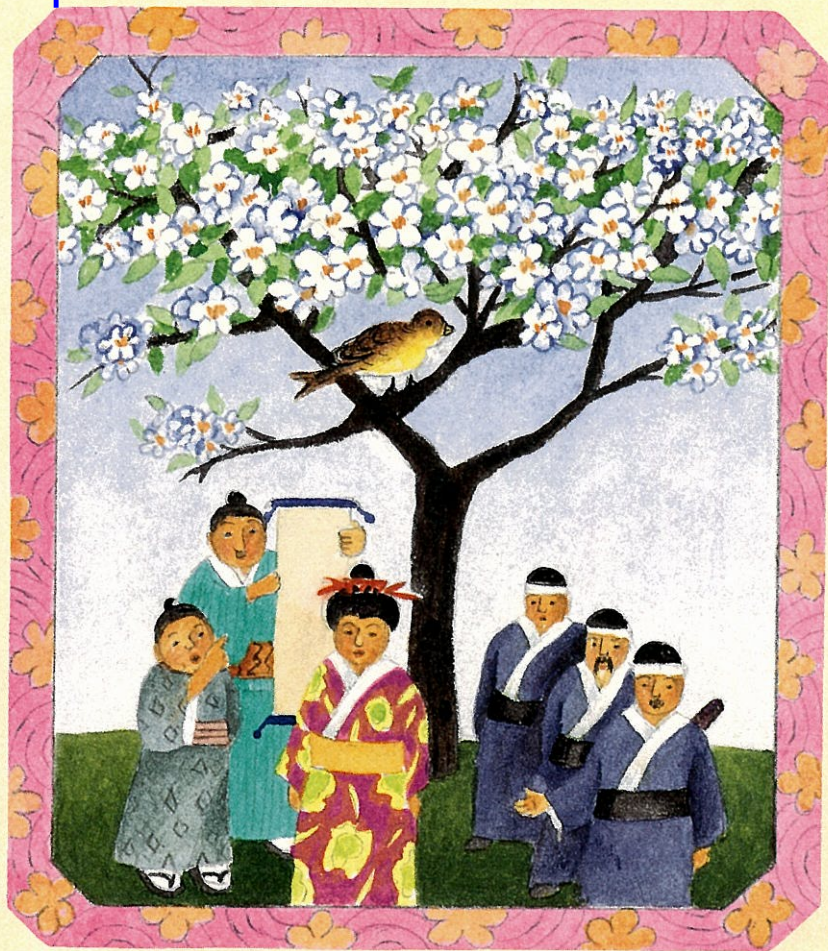
Under the bright stars, Tim-Tim
said, "Night bird, night bird,
sing your bright song.
Sing your bright, bright song!"



Mighty One sent men to look for a plum tree. "This is the right one," they said. "It's light. We'll move it right now."



"I am afraid there's nothing we can do," the artist said to Tim-Tim. "It's for Mighty One. But this might help you picture the tree."



"I wonder what might happen
if I tied a note to the tree,"
Tim-Tim thought.



Tim-Tim cried as his night bird flew away, following the tree. "If only I could join you, night bird!" he sighed.



Mighty One thought his new tree was wonderful. Then he saw the note tied tight to a branch.



“What a special picture of my beautiful tree!” Mighty One said.
“It’s just right!”



He saw a verse also.
*My night bird sang songs
High up in the plum tree.
Now he sings no more for me.*



Mighty One thought about the note. He sent for Tim-Tim right away.



“You lost your friend because of me,” Mighty One said to Tim-Tim.
“That isn’t right. I want to give the tree back to you.”



“I want only this picture, Tim-Tim.
I also want others to know that I
can learn much from a little one.”

Think and Respond

- 1 What happens to Mighty One's tree?
- 2 What is Tim-Tim's special friend?
- 3 What happens to the friend?
- 4 What does Mighty One learn from Tim-Tim?
- 5 Which character in the story would you choose for a friend? Why?

LANGUAGE
ARTS



A Tree Poem Make a list of words that describes trees. Use these words to write a poem about trees.



School-Home Connection After you read aloud the story to a family member, retell it together. See how many details you can remember.