

# Message to interpret from Classics



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## Introduction

In Japan, we have a school subject called "classics". Through the Classics, we can know the lives, people, and their feelings at that time.

### | *The Tale of the Bamboo Cutter* |

- An oldest Japanese story
- Written in more than 1000 Years ago
- One of the most famous and widely known Classics

"One day, the old man went to a bamboo forest when he saw one of the bamboos shining bright."



### | *The Tale of Princess KAGUYA* |



- An animation movie
- Produced by Studio Ghibli in 2013.
- Drawn a delicate Brushing touch.

(Princess KAGUYA)

As time goes by, the way of expression has changed. However, never a story will be made without any meaning. We interpreted the hidden messages through the main character, *Princess KAGUYA*.

## Purpose

We had two main questions below.



- What is the difference between *The Tale of Bamboo Cutter* and *The Tale of Princess KAGUYA*?
- Why was the oldest story remade?  
—What was the purpose and message?

## Method

- Reading the original story
- Watching the movie
- Researching them by books and Internets



We compared them and considered the difference. Particularly in terms of each character's appearance length and how either the Earth and the world of Moon were depicted.



(Five suitors)

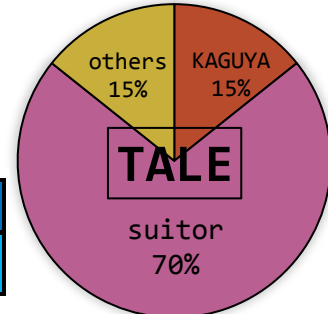
## Results

We found that they were similar in outline, but different in details, especially appearance length of five suitors.

While Princess KAGUYA is on 15%, more than 70% of the tale suitors.

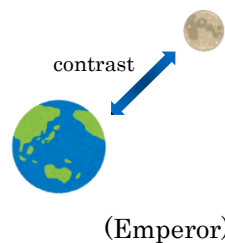
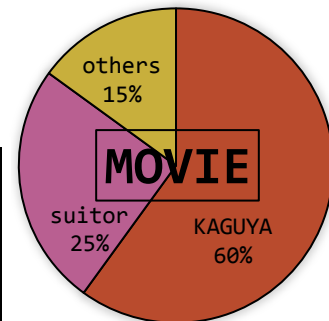
### | Impression |

Earth	Moon
dirty	clear, pure



The Princess KAGUYA accounts for 60% of the whole. Her depicts of life and growth and emotions which were affected by others increase.

Earth	Moon
dirty beautiful interesting	clear pure



## Discussion

### | *The Tale of Bamboo Cutter* |

The author was not satisfied with corrupt politics of the model persons. Therefore, he satirized them through the tale by contrasting pure moon world with worthless Earth.

### | *The Tale of Princess KAGUYA* |

In the movie, Princess KAGUYA from the clean moon world experienced many things in the Earth which is sometimes dirty but sometimes beautiful.

The producer Isao Takahata expressed not only bad aspects but also good ones of the Earth and humans.

He wanted to tell us that we should always live with the feeling of thanks to everything around us.



In Japan, there are some literatures which have survived for over many hundred years.

Like Princess KAGUYA in the both old and new work, though the meaning of a character is not same, we can see what the author or directors interpreted from it.