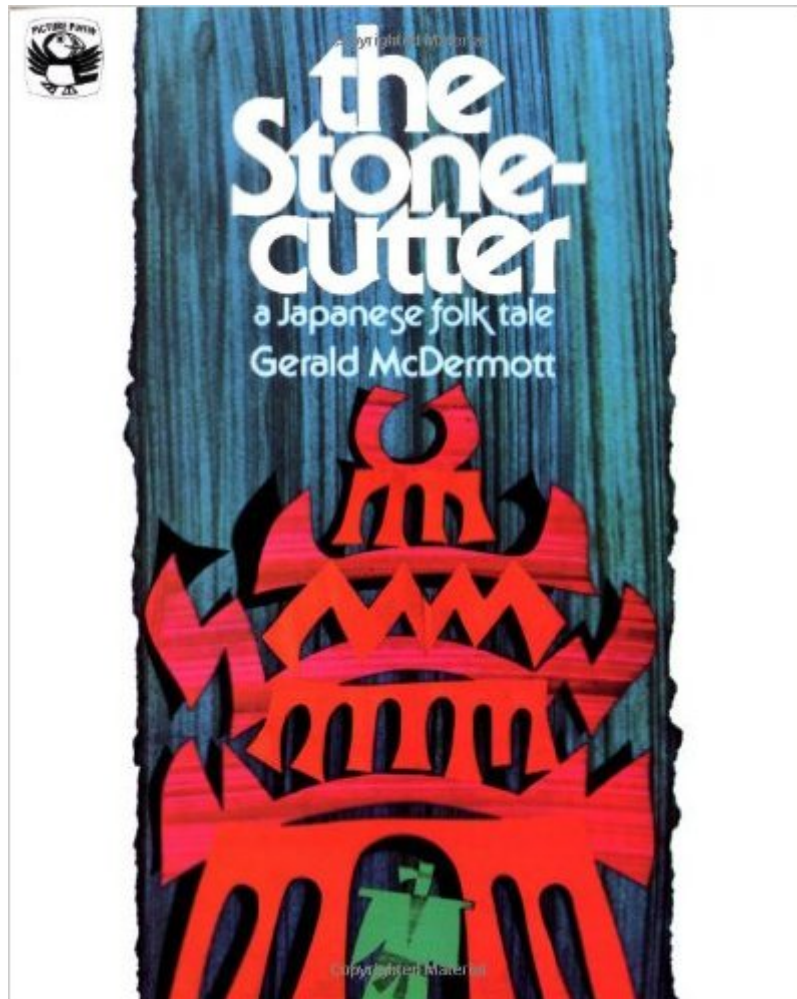


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# The Stonecutter: A Japanese Folk Tale (Picture Puffin Books)



## Synopsis

Relates the consequences of a stonecutter's foolish longing for power.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD490L (What's this?)

Series: Picture Puffin Books

Library Binding: 32 pages

Publisher: Puffin (May 25, 1978)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0140502890

ISBN-13: 978-0140502893

Product Dimensions: 7.1 x 0.1 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,139,742 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #84 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Asian](#) #297 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Other](#) #1072 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural](#)

Age Range: 6 and up

Grade Level: 1 - Preschool

## Customer Reviews

Because I teach Humanities classes on various levels, I am always on the lookout for engaging resources that can bring the subjects of myth, legends, and folklore to life. Just browsing, I happened upon this little book, and I must say that it is impressive for the universal messages it conveys about humility, gratitude, envy, temptation, status, power, ambition, and the cycles of these things. Ambition can take one far--to great heights even, but sometimes it can take one way too far, which the main character, Tasaku discovers. One major theme of the text is "Be careful what you wish for because it may come true, and if it does, there is a moment of choice---how to handle the gift that has been given." Another parallel theme is "with great power comes greater responsibility, especially for one's own actions." Running throughout the tale is the very Taoistic notion of "the Virtue of the Small." The smallest creatures can affect great / significant change--a little piece at a time--if they are just aware of themselves and if they embrace who and what they are. (For more reading about the Virtue of the Small, seek out B. Hoff's *The Tale of Piglet* book.) The images of The

Stone-Cutter prove to be more symbolic shapes than specific details--all rendered in bold colors that look somewhat like expressive "brush" paintings--though I believe they are actually a form of collage. The illustrations truly compliment the curious story rather than detract, and they are unusual enough to capture the interests and imaginations of young people--teaching them to "look" into the pictures rather than just "see" them. Looking vs. seeing makes an excellent foundation-building lesson for the study of visual arts, maps, geography, science, sensory details for composition, etc.

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