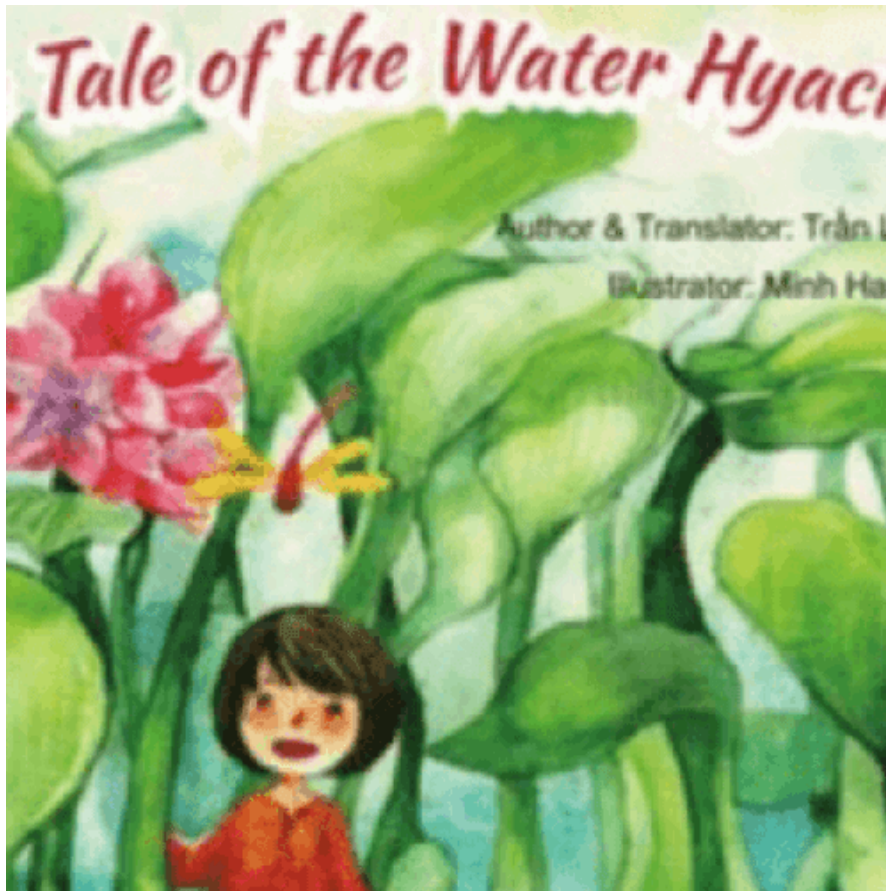


The Tale of the Water Hyacinth

A Guide for Teachers and Parents



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THEMES

Community

Environment & Conservation

SUB-THEMES

Community Engagement

Resilience and Determination

Women Empowerment

Story Discussion Guide

- Students will understand the concept of invasive species and how they impact ecosystems.
- They will explore traditional and modern uses of natural materials.
- They will appreciate local knowledge systems and environmental stewardship.
- They will develop curiosity about ecological challenges and solutions in different parts of the world.

Lesson plan

Students will explore environmental problem-solving by examining how an invasive plant can be turned into a resource

Learning Outcome

Before Reading:

- Have you ever seen a plant grow on water?
- What do you think it's like? Do you know of any plants that people use to make things?

During Reading :

- What is Nep curious about when she sees her mother working with the plant?
- What are some of the uses of the water hyacinth mentioned in the story?

After Reading:

- What do you think is the main message of this story?
- Can you think of other natural resources people creatively use in your community?

Activities:

- Draw or list 3 things that can be made from a water hyacinth.
- Research another plant used for making everyday items (e.g., bamboo, coconut, banana leaves).
- Create your own invention using natural materials or recyclable items.

Expected Outcomes

Children will learn how nature, even in forms often seen as nuisances, can be full of surprises and value. They will develop respect for traditional ecological knowledge and feel empowered to think about how problems in their environment might have creative solutions. They will also begin to internalize the Zamasama value of our one shared humanity through resourcefulness and care for nature.

Applicable SDGs

- SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- SDG 15: Life on Land

SDG Explanation

- The story shows how an invasive species can be repurposed through human ingenuity, reducing environmental impact. By highlighting sustainable uses of a local plant, it aligns with SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption) and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

ABOUT ZAMASAMA

Zamasama is a nonprofit initiative that curates children's stories from diverse cultures and lived experiences around the world. It gives children a window into other communities—and a mirror that affirms their own, helping children recognize the shared humanity that connects us across differences. Through narratives that gently challenge biases and broaden worldviews, Zamasama helps children see difference not as a barrier but as a bridge. Through the power of stories, we sow the seeds of pluralism that can grow into a more harmonious world for all.