# Interdisciplinary Ideas

## LANGUAGE ARTS

1. Write a legend about your state flower. In groups research to find information about your state flower. (Keyword: state flower, *your 2 letter state abbreviation*) Then write a legend or folktale explaining how it was chosen for your state. Use the downloadable "Story Outline" to get started.*
2. Make a Native American Symbols chart. With a parent or school volunteer research symbols Tomie dePaola uses in his illustrations and other Native American symbols. (Keyword: Native American symbols) Make a chart of these symbols and their meanings.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

Find out more about the Comanche people. (Keyword: Comanche Indians kids) Together list "fast facts" about these Native Americans.

## SCIENCE

In small groups, make plans for giving something back to the earth such as creating a compost heap, planting trees, or planting wildflowers on your school grounds. Make plans, share with the class, and together choose a project to improve the school environment.

## ART

1. Make small tipis. (Keyword: tipi pattern kids) Draw and color symbols on them like those in the story. Display tipis on a table near the Native American Symbols chart (Language Arts #2).
2. Make wildflower placemats to give as gifts to family members or friends. (Keyword: pressed flower placemats) Use dried flowers for the placemats or images of wildflowers downloaded from the Internet. (Keyword: Lady Bird Johnson wildflowers)

* Visit www.heartwoodethics.org and choose Teaching Heartwood, Activities, Primary, for a "Story Outline."

# The Legend of the Bluebonnet

*Tomie dePaola*
*1983*
*New York: Putnam*

***LOYALTY***
*U.S.A./Native American Legend*
*Reading Time: 8 minutes*

## CONCEPTS

**Loyalty**
**Sacrifice**
**Courage**
**Hope**

## SUMMARY

**This touching legend is more than a story about the origin of a flower. It is a tale of moral courage and sacrificial loyalty. The author states, "She-Who-Is-Alone's act of thrusting her beloved doll into the fire to save her people represents the decisive sort of action that many young people are capable of, the kind of selfless action that creates miracles." The author's colorful paintings of the Texas countryside and the Comanche people enhance the text.**

## OBJECTIVES

The student will be able to identify, define, and discuss loyalty, sacrifice, courage, and hope as they apply to the story. The student will become aware of sacrifices she/he can make to help others.

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# After the Story

**The Legend of the Bluebonnet**

## DISCUSSION

1. Talk about how the Comanche people are loyal to She-Who-Is-Alone and how She-Who-Is-Alone is loyal to her tribe.
2. Think about the circumstances of the tribe. What problems did they face? Why are drought and famine hardest on the very young and the very old?
3. What does She-Who-Is-Alone give up or sacrifice? Why? How is her sacrifice related to loyalty to her people?
4. Do you think sacrifices take courage? If so, why? Why is her doll her most valued possession? Think of a possession you value highly. What might make you give up or sacrifice this possession?
5. In the story the Great Spirits say that for years the people have taken from the earth without giving anything back. What do we take from the earth? What and how can we give back to the earth?

## ACTIVITIES

1. Locate Texas on the world map. If you live in another state, find it on the map and connect it to Texas with string.
2. Together list sacrifices you can make to help others that don't involve material possessions. In small groups talk about giving up recess or free time to help your teacher, friend, or classmate. Brainstorm ideas for helping others, choose one of the ideas, and carry it out.
3. With a parent or school volunteer, research to find organizations in your community that donate toys or books to children who need them. (Keyword: donate toys, books) Hold a toy and book drive, and bring items to class to donate to these organizations.

## WRAP-UP

Choose one of the following to do in *My Heartwood Journal*:

Draw and write about one of your most valued possessions. In your writing include reasons you might have for giving it up.

Write about how the girl was loyal to her tribe and how you are loyal to your family.

Write about She-Who-Is-Alone's courage as it relates to loyalty in the story.

## EXTENSION

1. Complete Home Connection Pages and take home to share with families.
2. Retell the story at home and discuss sacrifices you make for each other. With permission share with the class.
3. Discuss what you and your family do or can do to help others in your community.

## VOCABULARY

**sacrifice**
**famine**
**drought**
**Comanche**
**shaman**
**cease**
**buckskin**