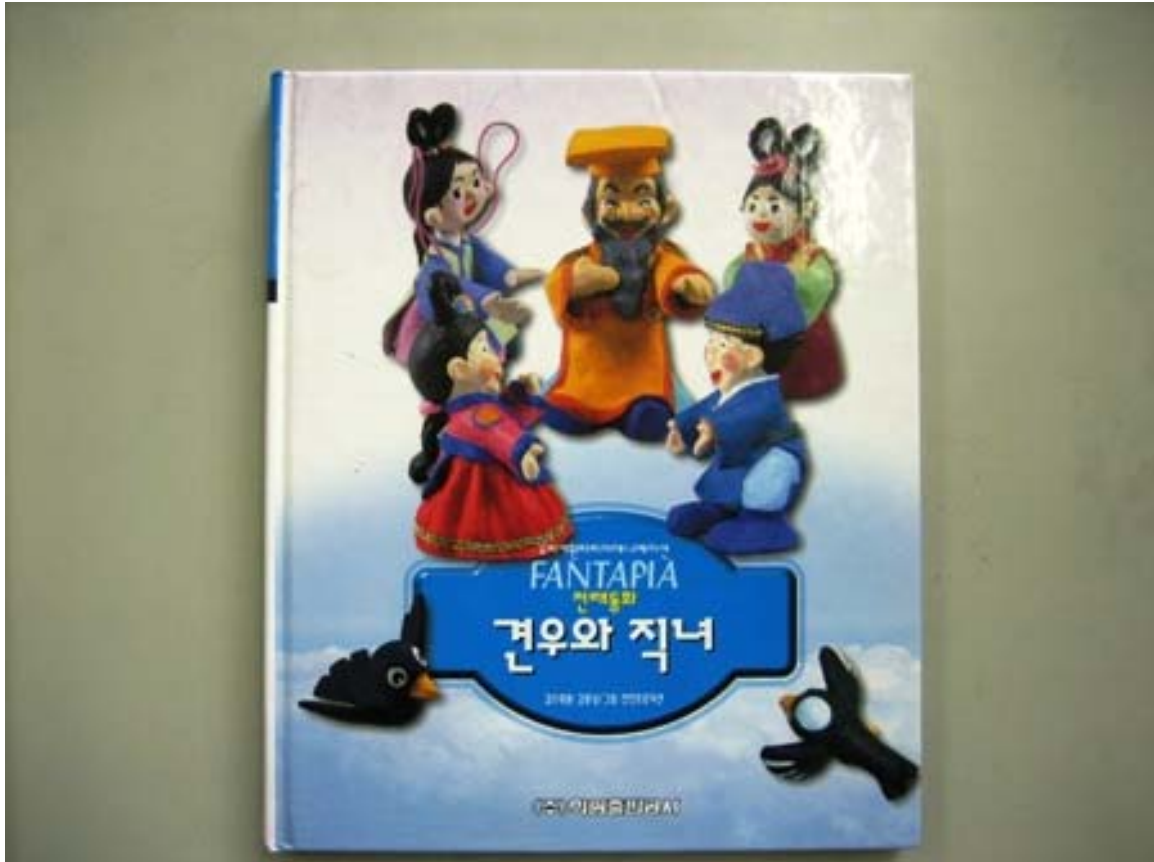


# Chilseok



Adapted from  
the Korean book *Gyeonwu and Jiknyeo*  
by Sakuramoto Elementary School  
Kawasaki, Japan

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# Chilseok

A play by the second-graders of Sakuramoto Elementary School,  
Kawasaki, Japan

**Narrator 1:** Once upon a time, a beautiful princess was living in a big country in the sky.

**Narrator 2:** The princess was very good at weaving, so she was called Orihime (weaver princess).

**Narrator 3:** The king thought he should find someone suitable for Orihime to marry, so he went to a neighboring country to look for someone.

**Narrator 4:** He found a prince who was a hard worker and good at taking care of cattle.

*The prince takes care of cattle. The cattle look very pleasant.*

**Narrator 5:** Orihime and Kengyuu (the herdsman) got married and became a lovely couple.

**Narrator 6:** However, the two got along so well that they did nothing but play all the time.

**Narrator 7:** Orihime's loom became covered with dust.

**Narrator 8:** The cattle pen also became filthy since Kengyuu did not clean.

**Cattle 1&2:** Moo moo, please clean the pen.

**Cattle 3:** I am hungry. Moo.

**Narrator 9:** Kengyuu neglected the cattle crying from hunger.

**King:** Stop playing and work.

**Queen:** Orihime, weave as hard as you can in the country to the east of the Milky Way.

**King:** Kengyuu, take care of cattle in the country to the west of the Milky Way.

**Queen:** I will allow you to meet at the Milky Way once a year on July 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Narrator 11:** The separated couple was very sad.

**Narrator 12:** They worked hard, always looking forward to July 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Narrator 13:** The long-awaited July 7<sup>th</sup> came.

**Narrator 14:** They hurried to the Milky Way.

**Narrator 15:** When they found each other across the Milky Way, they shouted

**Kengyuu:** Orihime

**Orihime:** Kengyuu

**Narrator 15:** loudly.

**Narrator 16:** However, there was the very wide Milky Way between them, so they could not cross it.

**Narrator 17:** Big drops of tears trickled down from their eyes.

**Narrator 18:** In a country on the earth...

**Narrator 19:** The clear blue sky became dark and started to rain heavily.

**Narrator 20:** Houses, rice fields, farms, animals, and even people floated into the waters.

**Narrator 21:** The couple's tears became a heavy rain that poured on the earth.

**Narrator 22:** People on the earth worried:

**People on the earth 1:** The sky must have broken.

**People on the earth 2:** It's a curse. We all are going to die if it stays like this.

**Everyone:** What are we going to do? We are in a bad situation.

*Each group says it in a different time.*

**Narrator 23:** A princess on the earth did not know what to do, so she asked a fortune-teller for help.

**Narrator 24:** She understood the reason for the heavy rain, so she gathered her followers and said:

**Princess on the earth:** Everyone, do you have any good ideas to help this situation?

**Follower 1:** In our country, we have *kachi* (magpies in Korean).

**Follower 2:** How about sending the *kachi* to fly and build a bridge?

**Follower 3:** That's a good idea.

**Narrator 25:** So the princess asked the head of the *kachi*.

**The head of *kachi*:** O.K. Leave this to us. We will go to the Milky Way now to become a bridge.

**Narrator 26:** The *kachi* of the whole country took off all together.

**Narrator 27:** Then what happened? A marvelous *kachi* bridge was created in the Milky Way.

**Narrator 28:** Kengyuu and Orihime were surprised and very happy.

**Narrator 29:** Kengyuu crossed over the birds' heads saying thanks to each *kachi*.

**Kengyuu and Orihime:** Thank you.

**Orihime:** Kengyuu.

**Kengyuu:** Orihime.

**Narrator 30:** The rain stopped completely on the earth and the sky started to clear up.

**Narrator 31:** This is why you cannot see even one *kachi* on July 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Narrator 32:** It is said that because Kengyuu walked on top of the *kachi*'s heads, their heads became white.

**Narrator 33:** It is said that the reason it rains on July 7<sup>th</sup> is that the two shed tears of happiness when they meet.

**Narrator 34:** It is said that the rain on the next day comes from their tears of sadness when they have to part from each other.

*The End*