

## **Falling Flowers (散りゆく花) (3)**

- 1) Kyokichi has returned home from work. He relays Mr. Furukawa's unpleasant message to Yoko. "Yoko, I am sorry, but please listen to what your father says. Don't take part in the school play."
- 2) "Well, why is your father against it?" asks Kyokichi. "Hm, today Mr. Furukawa told him to do so. If you don't do as Mr. Furukawa demands, you can't live in this village," explains Yoko dejectedly.
- 3) Just then Miss Tanaka comes by the house. She is worried about Yoko's situation. "Good evening, it's me, Miss Tanaka." "Y, yes?" inquires a nervous Kyokichi from behind the door.
- 4) "Oh, you're a teacher? What brings you over here?" continues the cautious Kyokichi. Miss Tanaka replies, "Today the principal of the school made a request of me. But I declined it. I came over to speak with Yoko and her father about the matter." "Ah, ah, well, please come in," says Kyokichi. Miss Tanaka enters the home and begins to explain her conversation with the principal...
- 5) "Why are you taking Yoko out of the play? Please let Yoko play the role as it was originally decided. If Masae does not like her role, she can quit, can't she? You can't force Yoko to quit due to Masae's selfish ways."
- 6) While Miss Tanaka is talking to Yoko and Kyokichi, over at Masae's home meanwhile, the no-good Mr. Furukawa is speaking to his daughter. "Masae, I spoke with the school principal already. I told him that Yoko will quit of her own free will, and that you will be given the choice role."
- 7) The next morning, all puffed up with self-confidence, Masae heads off to school. "I've gotten Yoko's role! I'm so happy!" she thinks to herself.

- 8) “Good morning, Masae!” calls out Nameko. She is always finding any opportunity to suck up to Masae. “Nameko, I got a great role in the play, and I am certain that Yoko will drop out,” says a pride-filled Masae to Nameko.
- 9) Just then Yoko crosses paths with them. Masae gleefully tells Yoko her good news, convinced of her father’s words. “Yoko, I just heard you’re going to give up your role to me.” Yoko replies with a confident, “No.”
- 10) “Masae, I am going to play the part. If you don’t like your part, then you can drop out.” A shocked Masae stammer, “W, what are you saying? That’s, that’s...sigh.” Filled with regret, Masae realizes that she cannot make Yoko give up her role.

Well, what do you think will happen next?