

TAKIDS



A Blue Cottage Taekwon-Do Group

Comets

Materials List

2" Styrofoam Ball
6 lengths of curling ribbon,
(about 3 feet long)
straight pin with pearl like top
glue
aluminum foil

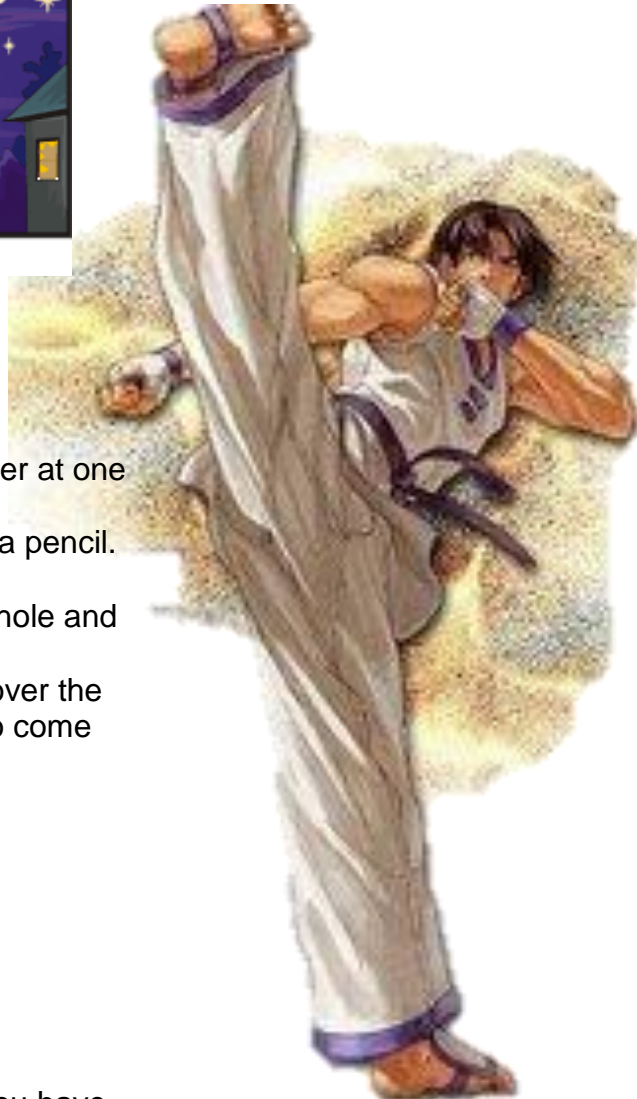


Instructions

1. Cut curling ribbon in lengths, tie together at one end and cut off excess (short end).
2. Poke a hole in the Styrofoam ball with a pencil.
3. Put a little glue in the hole.
4. Poke the tie end of the ribbon into the hole and secure with the pin.
5. Cut a piece of foil, about 7" x 7" and cover the ball allowing the comet's tail (ribbon) to come out through the foil.



The kids can toss the comets around, but if you have cats watch out. They love them too.





Princess Pyong Kang and Oun Dahl, the Fool

In the old kingdom of Koguryo, there was a princess named Pyong Kang. She was a crybaby. She cried all the time. Whenever she cried, the King always made fun of her, saying “I’ll make you marry Oun Dahl, the fool.”

Oun Dahl was a well-known beggar in town who lived with his old mother. He would do whatever people told him to do, even make a fool of himself to get food to support his mother. People would say things like, “Oun Dahl, bark like a dog and I will give you some rice.” He was not too proud to do it. He was a kindhearted man, though, and always smiled and laughed.

When Pyong Kang became 16 years old, the King arranged for her to get married to the prince of the neighboring kingdom. Then the princess said, “Father, you’ve told me all my life that I’m going to marry Oun Dahl, the fool. I shall marry Oun Dahl.” The king told her that he had not been serious, but the princess would not listen. The king became very angry so he kicked her out of the palace.

Pyong Kang took what little jewelry and silk she had and went to find Oun Dahl.

Oun Dahl and his mother graciously accepted the princess. She sold all her belongings to help support her husband and his mother. Then she set about the task of educating Oun Dahl. She taught him everything she knew.

When the neighboring country invaded Koguryo, an unknown warrior led the army and contributed greatly to the defeat of the enemy. Curious who this impressive man was, the king called him in and found that this unknown warrior was the very Oun Dahl, whom he had once called the idiot. The king made him a general and welcomed his daughter, Princess Pyong Kang back to the palace.

Note: This is based on a true story. Koguryo was one of the many ancient kingdoms of Korea and lasted for approximately 700 years from the year 37 BC. Pyong Kang and Oun Dahl are real characters from the 7th century.



The Seed of Integrity

Once upon a time there was a childless King who wanted to choose a worthy successor to his throne after he passed away.

He called all the young children in his kingdom to his palace one day and said: “I feel it is time for me to choose the next King. I have decided to choose one of you as my successor, as my Crown Prince, and groom you to be the King after I am gone.”

The amazed children listened spellbound as the King spoke: “I am going to give each one of you a seed today. Yes, I will give you all just one seed, but

it is a very special seed. I want you all to go home, plant the seed, water it, nurture it, and come back here to me exactly one year from today with the plant you have grown from this one seed. I will then judge the plants that you bring to me and whoever grows the best plant will be the Crown Prince, the next King after me.”

There was one small shy boy who was there that day and he, like the others, received a seed from the King.

He went home and excitedly told his mother the whole story.

She helped him get a pot and some planting soil, and he planted the seed and watered it regularly and nurtured it carefully.

Twice every day, in the morning and in the evening, the small shy boy would water the seed lovingly and watch to see if it had germinated and grown.

After a few days, some of the other children began to talk about their seeds and the lovely plants that were beginning to grow, but the small shy boy kept going home and checking his seed, disappointed that nothing was growing from his seed.

Days passed, then weeks, and months, but still there was no sign of a plant growing from the small shy boy’s seed. But the small boy still kept lovingly watering his seed regularly hoping that it would germinate.



By now the others were talking about their wonderful healthy plants but small shy boy didn't have a plant and he felt like a failure, but he kept persevering and nurturing his seed with love and dedication in the optimistic hope that his seed would someday sprout a plant.

Six months went by and there was still no sign of a plant in the small shy boy's pot.

Everyone else had exquisite tall plants, but the small shy boy had nothing.

Inwardly he wondered why his seed was not germinating and feared that maybe he had not watered it properly and so maybe he had killed his seed.

But the small shy boy did not say anything to his friends and kept on tenderly watering and nurturing his seed with dogged determination and doting devotion in the fond hope that his seed would grow and blossom into a beautiful plant.

Finally, one year passed, and all the children of the kingdom brought their plants to the King for inspection.

The small shy boy was scared and did not want to take his desolate plant-less pot with just the soil and seed to the King, but his mother encouraged him to go, to take his pot with him, and to be honest about everything and speak the truth.

The small shy boy felt fearful and nervous, but he listened to his mother and took his barren pot to the King.

When the small shy boy arrived at the King's Palace, he was astonished to see the variety of beautiful and exotic plants grown by all the other children.

Totally crestfallen, the small shy boy put his desolate pot on the floor and everyone jeered in derision and mocked him and made fun of him.

A few children felt pity for him and tried to console the small shy boy.

Suddenly the King arrived, looked around the hall appraising the plants and showered words of praise to the gathered children: "It is really amazing – you all have really grown fantastic beautiful plants, trees and flowers. I am truly impressed. Today, one of you is going to be selected as the Crown Prince to be the next King...!"

The small shy boy shivered with tremors of trepidation and, overcome with shame and fear, he tried to hide in the back.

The King's eyes searched all over and suddenly he saw the small shy boy at the back of the hall with his barren pot.

The King ordered his guards to bring him in front of the throne.

The small shy boy was terrified and thought to himself, "When the King looks at my pot, and sees how badly I have failed in the task he gave me, he is sure to punish me...!"

Seeing how frightened the small shy boy was, the King stepped down from his throne, walked down towards the petrified boy, lovingly put his hand on the small shy boy's shoulders and announced: "This boy is your new King...!"

The small shy boy could not believe his ears – it was unbelievable that the King should select a failure and loser like him who could not even sprout his seed be the Crown Prince.

The King escorted the small shy boy to the throne and said to everyone: “One year ago I gave all of you a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But what you did not know is that I gave you all boiled seeds that would not grow. Except this honest boy, all of you have brought me beautiful plants with exotic flowers and even trees with fruit. When you found out that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you. This boy was the only one with the sincerity to nurture the barren seed for one whole year with dedication, hope and perseverance and had the courage and honesty to bring me the desolate pot with my seed in it. Therefore, I select him as my Crown Prince to be the next King...!”



COLORING TIME



TAEKWONDO