

Die Zauberflöte - The Magic Flute
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Composer
Emanuel Schikaneder, Librettist

Animated Synopsis: Three Minutes

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Synopsis for the Reduced Elementary Student Performance:

Prince Tamino has been sent by his father, the King, to the kingdom of the Queen of the Night. Tamino is chased by a serpent/dragon and collapses in exhaustion. Three Ladies kill the serpent/dragon. They leave to tell the Queen of the Night of Tamino's arrival.

Papageno, the bird catcher, enters as Tamino revives. Prince Tamino assumes that Papageno has saved him from the serpent/dragon, and Papageno agrees! Papageno explains that he is the Queen's bird catcher and trades his birds daily with the Three Ladies who deliver the birds to the Queen. In exchange for the birds Papageno receives food and drink from the Three Ladies.

The Three Ladies return and trade Papageno's birds for water and for a stone as a warning not to lie. They scold Papageno for lying that he has saved Tamino when in truth The Three Ladies saved Tamino! They padlock Papageno's mouth as a reminder not to lie!

The Three Ladies give Tamino a portrait of the Princess Pamina, daughter of the Queen of the Night. Tamino immediately falls in love with Pamina.

The Queen of the Night arrives and tells Tamino of the kidnaping of her daughter, Pamina. Tamino must rescue and return her daughter, and then he can marry her.

The Queen leaves and the Three Ladies release Papageno from the padlock on his mouth, however, do not lie! The Three Ladies give Tamino a golden magic flute to use as defense from danger, to soften the heart of others to be kind, and to remove the pain within each heart. Papageno is given silver bells to play at any time to bring happiness to others.

There are three tests for Tamino. The first test is "Silence." When Tamino falls silent, Pamina who knows nothing of the test of silence, feels sorrowful. Pamina thinks Tamino no longer loves her. Nonetheless, Pamina is faithful in her heart to Tamino. Tamino passes the first test.

The second test is "Fire," and the third test is "Water." Pamina and Tamino overcome these tests together, and through the power of the magic flute.

Meanwhile, Papageno finds his Papagena, and they are joined together in their commitment to each other.

The Magic Flute celebrates the power of music to bring happiness and joy to the world. People endure trials in life, but an enduring commitment to one another can support us through life's trials of "fire" and "water". At the end we are together, and achieve truth, beauty and wisdom together.