Activity

THE HOPEFUL FIREBIRD

Use the activity below to foster a sense of community, creativity and hope in the classroom by exploring the mythology and folklore of the firebird. For inspiration, use the visual examples on this page.

Materials Needed: Chart paper, crayons, markers, construction paper in various warm colors (reds, oranges, yellows), scissors, glue or tape

1. Gather students in a circle and explain the concept of a firebird—a mythical creature often associated with hope, rebirth and renewal. Have a group discussion about the importance of hope in their lives and in the world.
2. Roll out a large sheet of chart paper on the classroom floor or a large table. Work with students to draw a large firebird on the chart paper. They can decide on the shape and the details of the firebird.
3. Give each student a piece of construction paper and ask them to cut out ember shapes. Once they have their embers, ask them to either draw a picture, or write on them a word or phrase that represents their hopes for the world. These could be hopes for their community, the environment or even personal aspirations.
4. After everyone has finished with their embers, gather the students around the firebird drawing. Have each student take turns sharing their hope and then attaching their ember to the firebird, creating a vibrant fiery tail.
5. Once all the embers have been attached, ask students to share what they feel when they look at the firebird and how it represents their collective hopes. Reflect on how working together made the firebird stronger and more beautiful, just as sharing hopes and dreams can strengthen a community.
6. Hang the completed firebird in a prominent place in the classroom where it can serve as a beacon of hope for everyone. This can be a reminder of the positive energy and the shared dreams within the classroom.
7. Throughout the school year, you can refer back to the firebird when discussing challenges or moments of hope in the classroom, reinforcing the idea that together, the class can create and inspire hope and change.

Reflection Questions:

What was your favorite part of this activity?

What was it like to think about and share your hopes and dreams?

What does the firebird represent to you?

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