Ancient Voices

Worksheet for Chinese Classes



CHART I: Characters of the I Ching

Select one of the characters below and on the back of this handout draw your design for a mask, incorporating into the mask design a few of the symbols and emblems relating to your chosen character.

Family Relationship	Name	Attribute	Image (Symbols and Emblems)	Trigram
FATHER	Ch'ien the Creative	Strength	Heaven (Clouds, sun, stars, winged dragons)	
MOTHER	K'un the Receptive	Devotion, Yielding	Earth (Flowers and herbs, fruit, stalks of rice)	
FIRST SON	Chen the Arousing	Inciting Movement	Thunder (Lightning bolts)	
SECOND SON	K'an the Abysmal	Dangerous	Water (Waves, whirlpool, river)	
THIRD SON	Ken Keeping Still	Resting	Mountain (Mountain scenes, rocks, boulders)	
FIRST DAUGHTER	Sun the Gentle	Penetrating	Wind, Wood (Bamboo flute, branches, stylized lines indicating movement of wind)	==
SECOND DAUGHTER	Li the Clinging	Light-Giving	Fire (Flames, sunbeams)	
THIRD DAUGHTER	Tui the Joyous	Joyful	Lake (water images, dancing waves, laughing faces)	

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CHART II: Classic Characters from Chinese Opera

In ancient times, opera performers wore masks made of willow wood. Select one of the characters below and on the back of this handout draw your design for a mask, incorporating into the mask design a few of the symbols and emblems pertaining to your chosen character.

Name	Symbols and Emblems, Identifying Characteristics		
LAO SHENG Senior Male Role	Usually a dignified, well-mannered government official, scholar or high-ranking military man, either middle-aged or elderly. He has a black or white beard and wears a black hat with two fins on either side that vary in shape and size according to his status.		
XIAO SHENG Junior Male Role	Usually small and slight of stature, an elaborately dressed member of high society or a young warrior, sometimes an impoverished scholar. A smooth-shaven face, elaborate helmets, headdresses and hats are common. Pheasant feathers denote military status.		
WU SHENG Acrobatic Male Role	Usually a military man highly skilled in acrobatics; bright-colored costume; military headgear and related symbols.		
HUA DAN Young Girl Role	Coquettish character known for her flirtatious, mischievous eye movements. Vivid, colorful costume includes jacket and trousers; also red handkerchief that she flutters in front of her face.		
DAO MA DAN Female Warrior Role	Often portrays heroines in Chinese history famed for military prowess. Wears the Kao of traditional armor, feathered helmet.		
LAO DAN Old Woman Role	Often carries a staff; wrinkled face, white hair, subdued costume and headdress denotin extreme age.		
JING Painted Face Male Role	Swaggering, assertive character, usually a warrior, government official or high-ranking military general. Ornate headdress or helmet; face elaborately painted to match personality.		
	Red: intelligent, loyal, brave; also prosperous Blue: fierce, wild, stubborn, steadfast Green: violent, impulsive, lacks self-restraint Yellow: ambitious, sly, deceitful White: cruel, sinister Black: brusque, rough, impartial Gold and Silver: symbols of mystery reserved for supernatural characters such as gods, demons or ghosts.		
CHOU Comedy Role	Male clown has distinctive white patch around nose and eyes; female has reddened face with expressive, black eyebrows.		