

Flowers Are In The Head

An illustrated story book.
By Steven Klein

Yulee lives in the valley by the mountains just outside of town. It is a beautiful place. Yulee's garden is filled with orange carrots, red radishes, green spinach, yellow corn and every other kind of vegetable you can imagine. But Yulee does not grow flowers. There are no flowers to grow. Yulee has never seen a flower. Not one flower, plain or colorful, tall or short, young or old. Not one. NONE. Yulee never believed there could be something as colorful and beautiful as a flower.

Walking to town, Yulee hears some townsfolk talking. A deep excited voice proclaims, "There can't be flowers. Those that think of flowers are dreaming - flowers are in the head!" Another voice answers, "But I have a book which makes me think there could be flowers. I hear songs about flowers. I see gorgeous paintings of flowers and talk to my friends about flowers. I think there could be such a beautiful thing."

Yulee wonders, "A book to make me think there could be flowers? Are there really stories about flowers and paintings of flowers? Do

others actually talk to friends about flowers? Oh, there could never, ever, be such a thing. Those who sing and paint flowers just made them up. Flowers are in the head." Yulee decides as he continues walking.

Then he hears some birds singing about flowers. Yulee shouts, "Why do you sing about flowers when no one has ever seen a flower? In all the mountains and valley and town, there are no flowers anywhere. There can't be such a thing. Flowers are in the head."

The birds stop singing to look at Yulee. A small red bird flies from the tree and happily speaks, "Flowers must be very pretty. There are stories, songs, pictures, and poems about flowers. Even if we will never know for sure, I want to live in a world where flowers could be. That would be a nicer place and it makes me feel good to think I will see flowers." Yulee shrugs and says goodbye. As he is walking away he thinks, "The world really would be a nicer place with flowers but without any proof, you can't be sure."

Yulee notices a cow in the meadow. Everyone knows that cows are very smart. So Yulee asks, "You are very smart, cow, tell me, if flowers can exist why can't we see them?" The cow looks up from eating the grass and speaks to Yulee, "Yes, we cows are very smart. But the smarter we get, the more we realize there must be a lot we don't know. The world is a big, big place with all kinds of things to discover and learn about. It seems to me; those in the world who imagine flowers imagine a more beautiful world.

Though we may never know for sure, aren't we better off thinking of those beautiful flowers instead of an empty vase? Just walk up the road and ask the old rhyming tree. She may know something more about flowers."

Yulee says, "I will, thank you" and goes to find the old tree.

Yulee walks for what seems a very long time before he sees the biggest, most beautiful tree, with large branches and green leaves. There are raccoons, squirrels, and humming bees all living on the tree with many small, medium, and grown trees all around. Yulee thinks this tree must be the grandma to all the trees. "Wow" says Yulee, "I have never seen a more magnificent tree. You seem very old and very wise. I must ask you, in all your years have you ever seen a flower?"

The rhyming tree speaks with a voice that shakes the earth.

"I have been here for five hundred years and I am very wise.

But if I saw a flower I would be surprised.

In five hundred years, not one flower seen.

The only flowers are in my dreams."

Yulee is disappointed by this news. He speaks up, "In five hundred years, not one flower! Surely flowers cannot be. Flowers are only in the head? Isn't that so? Not one flower! How can you believe in something you can't see or touch?"

The rhyming tree answers,

"Flowers are in the head and that's a very good thing.

Go to the house down the road to solve your wondering.

The flowers are in the head club is there,

And they want to make all people aware,

That everywhere there can be beautiful flowers,

If you can just believe in higher powers."

"Thank you, I will go" answers Yulee and proceeds down the road.

As Yulee walks, the road changes to gravel, then to dirt, as it curves down a hill then back up again. Near the top of the hill Yulee could see a big sign.

***F**lowers **A**re **I**n **T**he **H**ead [Welcome to House of F.A.I.T.H.](#)*

As Yulee walks past the sign, he sees a beautiful house made of stone and brick and colored glass with large timbers and polished wood. Yulee walks carefully to the huge front door. On the door is a message; All are welcome, Please come in.

Yulee opens the door, walks into a really big room with tall ceilings and rows of benches. Two boys and two girls approach greeting happily, "Welcome to our club. We call it faith because the first letter from each of the words Flowers Are In The Head spells faith. Faith to us means that we believe flowers can be, even though no one has ever seen them. Do you believe there are flowers?"

Yulee tells them what the townsfolk, the bird, the cow and the old rhyming tree said. Yulee continues, "With flowers my garden would be prettier. I could give them to friends to make their houses prettier and

make them feel good. People could have flowers at all their family holidays and special occasions. That would make the world a better place. I do want to believe even though I have never seen one. I can have faith because even if we will never know for sure, I want to imagine my garden with those beautiful flowers. I am going back to town to tell everyone about your house and what I have learned." The boys and girls speak together as if it was one voice, "We believe the world can be a better place than the one we see. Come back soon and bring as many as you can."

Yulee tells everyone he meets about the house of faith. "They all believe in flowers. They all have flowers in their heads, and that is a good thing" declares Yulee. "I think those people of faith are right. I do want to imagine there are beautiful flowers. The world will be a better place with flowers, even if it is only in our imagination".

Yulee's friends are not so fast to agree. "You have rocks in your head; you are foolish to think of flowers. You are silly, you even look silly saying those things. Look at silly Yulee, see rocks in his head" they teased. And many of his friends thought that was funny and laughed which hurt Yulee's feelings.

Yulee stopped seeing many of the people he used to see all the time. He didn't get invited to games, or parties. He began to get lonely and discouraged but he still believed the world would be a better place with flowers. I don't know why my friends would rather believe of rocks than

flowers. If we will never know for sure, I would rather imagine flowers than nothing. I am not going to change my mind, thought Yulee.

The very next spring Yulee is at work in his garden. He turns the soil, waters and fertilizes to prepare for the new crop. There are spring showers. The days are getting longer and are filled with lots of sunshine. All the seeds begin sprouting green leaves and upright stalks. Suddenly, Yulee sees the most amazing thing - a small blue flower. He shouts, "A flower! I see a flower! I have a flower in my garden." Yulee runs to tell everyone about the flower in his garden. All the people gather in the middle of town to hear Yulee when another remarkable thing happens; on the tallest tree, a small little yellow flower appears in front of all the townspeople. Everyone is amazed at such a beautiful miraculous thing. Yulee declares "It takes faith first and you see what can happen".

Then with each rain; a few more flowers grow until there are flowers of all colors everywhere. The flowers are so pretty they are given as gifts on birthdays, weddings, graduations, concerts, and every other occasion. Flowers make everyone smile and brighten their lives. The world is a more beautiful place and everyone wants to see Yulee's largest, most colorful garden.