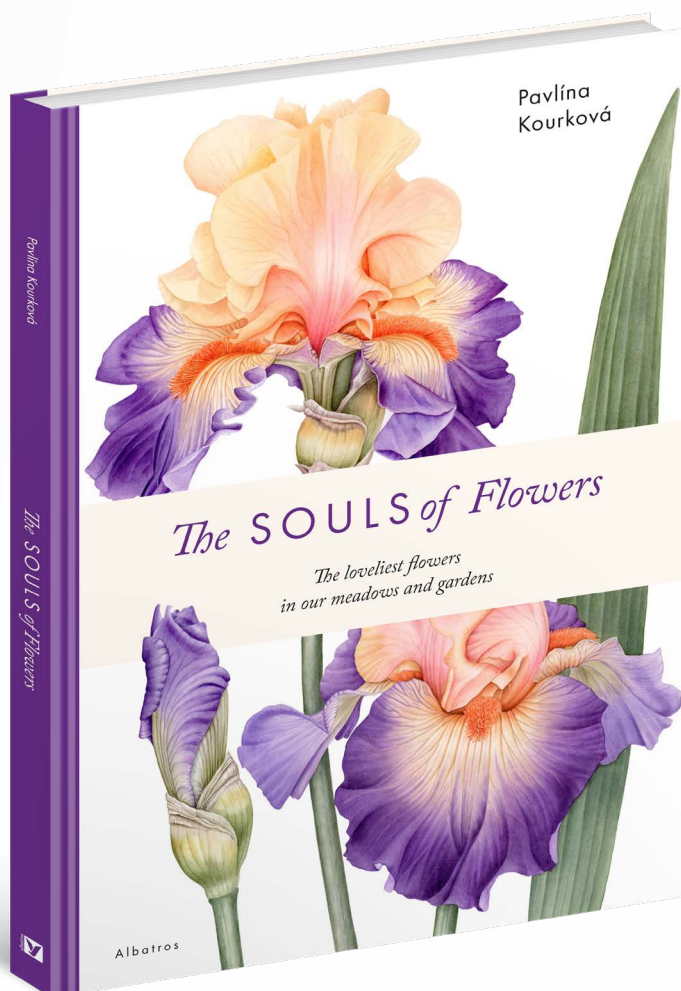




albatros

THE SOULS OF FLOWERS



GUIDE FOR TEACHERS



Created by Dolly Ko, M.A.

Curriculum: Visual Arts; Development, Movement, and Interaction of Cultures

● AGES 12-15

● GRADES 7-10

● LEXILE LEVEL: IG1080L

● ISBN: 9788000071008

BEFORE READING

Essential Questions

1. What is a botanical artist?
2. What are the defining features of the flowers that Pavlína Kourková used as subjects in her watercolor paintings?
3. How have flowers been used and valued across different cultures and time periods?
4. What roles have flowers played in art, literature, religion, and other aspects of human culture?

Discussion Questions

Read the title of the text and think about the meaning of it. Do you think flowers have souls? Why or why not?

Take a picture walk across the whole text and pay special attention to the works of art created by the author and artist, Pavlína Kourková.

Can you name any of the flowers as you browse through the artwork?

Pavlína Kourková is a botanical artist who is recognized for her talent in creating beautiful watercolor paintings of plants. What is something you are good at?

What is an artist? Do you consider yourself an artist?



BEFORE READING

Personification

Personification is a figure of speech in which inanimate (non-human) objects, animals, or abstract ideas are given human characteristics, such as emotions, actions, or speech. Authors use personification as a tool to create strong visual imagery about what they are trying to express or convey.

Read the phrases below. Underline the object and circle the words that are used to personify that object. Challenge yourself to think of the meaning behind the phrases.

- The sun was smiling brightly down at us on this beautiful day.
- The washing machine hummed a tune as it worked.
- Bright lightning danced across the night sky.
- During the storm, the wind raged with fierce anger.
- When I returned home after a long day, the sofa looked at me invitingly.

Write a sentence personifying the object in each phrase below.

Ocean waves: _____

Stars: _____

Car siren: _____

Flowers: _____

DURING READING

Before getting started with the chapters, read the dedication page and get to know more about the author. What are some of Pavlína Kourková accomplishments?

Consider the questions below as you read through each section of the text.

Discussion Questions

What is the purpose of writing this text?

How does the author organize the information in each section of the text?

Why do you think Pavlína Kourková included information on the history of each flower?

What flower is each specific section about?

Is this flowers edible?

What are some other ways this flower is used?

What is something that surprised you about this flower?

What personal connections does Pavlína Kourková have with this flower?



DURING READING

Travel Guide for Flower Lovers

On what continents can we find the different flowers that you learned about in the text?
Keep track of this information below.

CONTINENT	FLOWERS

AFTER READING

Now that you've read through the text, go back to the beginning and take another picture walk through the artwork that is featured.

Discussion Questions

Is there anything that you are noticing now as you look through the pictures another time?

What is an interesting fact you learned about flowers?

Describe the legend, myth, or fable that stood out to you. Why was this specific story memorable?

Is this text like any other text that you've read before? If so, how are they alike?
How are they different?

What kind of research do you think Pavlína Kourková had to do to write this book?

Why do you think the author titled the book, "The Souls of Flowers"?

What are some flowers that the author didn't mention that you would like to learn more about?

Poetry

On page 9 of the text, Pavlína Kourková included a poem by William Blake that reads,

*To see a World in a Grain of Sand
And Heaven in a Wild Flower
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand
And Eternity in an hour*

What does this poem mean? How does this relate to her book?



AFTER READING

Making Connections

What was your favorite flower?

Create your own work of art to replicate the style of the artist.

Pavína Kourková describes how flowers are often used. Bearded Iris inspired the flowery fleur de lis pattern, which is the symbol of France. Where do you see flowers around you?



Writing

Dandelions remind Pavína Kourková of happy memories of her childhood with her sisters, when she used to make wreaths, trumpets, and rings out of dandelion stalks.

Is there a certain flower or anything else in nature that brings a memory for you?

Write a story about that time.