The
Magic
Flute
Wolfgang Amadeus
Mozart

Tamino
a young prince

Pamina
daughter of the Queen of the Night

Queen of the Night
ruler of the realm of the moon and stars

Papageno
a bird catcher

Monostatos
Sarastro's lieutenant

Sarastro
high priest of the sun

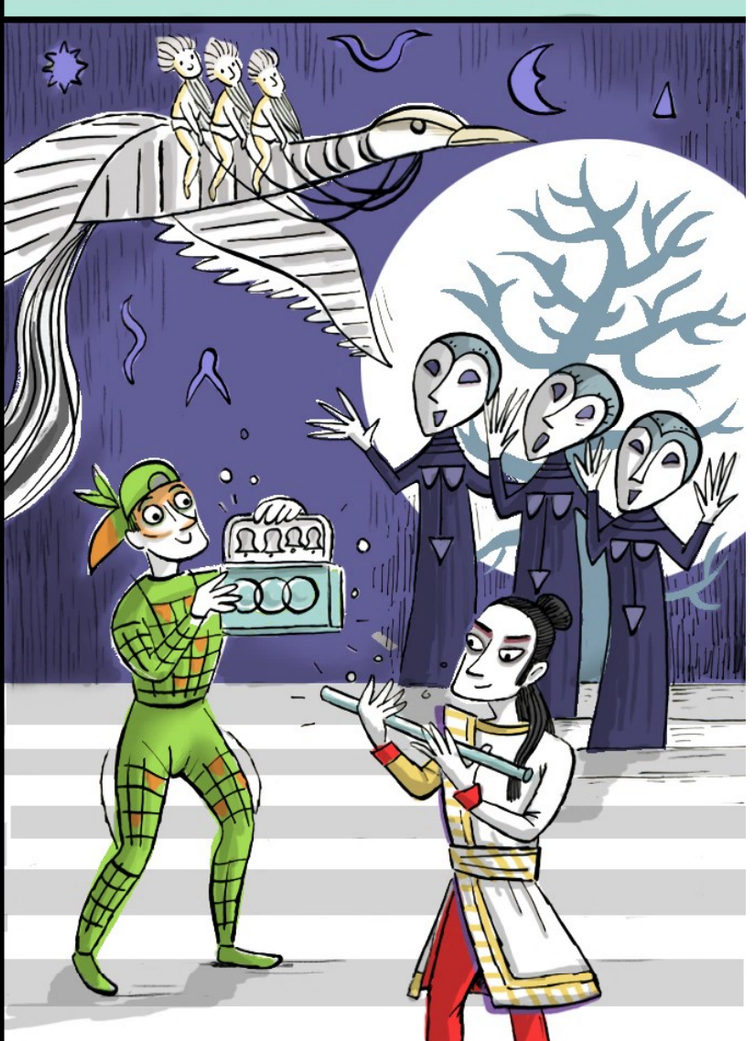
Three Spirits
mystical guides

Three Ladies
attendants of the Queen of the Night

Prince Tamino is being chased by a giant serpent. After he collapses in fear, three ladies appear and slay the monster. They admire Tamino, then leave to tell their mistress, the Queen of the Night, about him.

Tamino wakes up and meets the birdcatcher Papageno, who boasts that he is the one who killed the monster.

The Queen of the Night appears and recruits Tamino to rescue her daughter, Pamina, who has been kidnapped by the evil sorcerer Sarastro. Tamino falls in love with Pamina even before meeting her.



The three ladies give a magic flute to Tamino and silver bells to Papageno to help them on their mission. They also appoint three wise spirits to guide them on their way.

Meanwhile, Pamina is being held in Sarastro's temple. Monostatos, one of Sarastro's minions, wants Pamina all to himself, but Papageno arrives just in time and scares him off.

Tamino learns that it is the Queen of the Night, not Sarastro, who is evil. Tamino meets up with Pamina and Papageno, but before they can escape together...

Sarastro enters. He is actually a good and just ruler, and he punishes Monostatos for his bad behavior and promises to set Pamina free. But first, Tamino must undergo a series of trials and tests.

Now on her own in Sarastro's temple, Pamina is surprised when her mother, the Queen of the Night, appears. The Queen orders Pamina to kill Sarastro and gives her a dagger.

Tamino and Papageno begin their trials together, but Papageno soon becomes distracted. Tamino continues on with the help of the three spirits.

An old lady appears and flirts with Papageno, and although he would prefer a better match, he eventually agrees to be faithful to her. The old lady is suddenly transformed into the beautiful Papagena, but then disappears.

Tamino continues his trials with Pamina at his side. Together, they prevail over the tests of fire and water. Tamino's magic flute helps protect them.

The Queen of the Night, her three ladies, and Monostatos are defeated. Tamino and Pamina, Papageno and Papagena, and Sarastro, along with his whole court, celebrate the triumph of virtue.