

# JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE FACT SHEET

Scientific name: *Lonicera japonica*



## What Is Japanese Honeysuckle?

Japanese honeysuckle is a fast-growing vine with white and yellow flowers that smell sweet—like candy! It climbs on trees, fences, and anything it can find.

## How to Recognize It:

- Flowers: Start white, turn yellow as they get older
- Leaves: Oval and green, in pairs
- Vines: Twist and climb like a jungle gym!

## Why Do We See So Much of It?

This plant came from Japan and China long ago. People planted it in gardens—but it escaped! Now it grows wild and spreads fast, even where it shouldn't.

## Can You Eat It?

Yes! The flowers smell amazing in spring and early summer. You might even see bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds drinking its nectar.

Gently pluck a flower, pinch off the green end, and pull the stem out the back—if you're lucky, a drop of sweet nectar appears!

## Is it a problem?

Yes! Japanese honeysuckle can:

- Take over forests and push out native plants
- Strangle trees by wrapping tightly around them

# JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE ACTIVITIES

- Draw a Honeysuckle: Use crayons to color its flowers white and yellow.
- Scavenger Hunt: Find honeysuckle on a fence, tree, or bush.
- Invasion Detective: Talk about ways to help native plants by not planting invasive ones.

## Let's Talk

- Why do you think plants like honeysuckle grow so fast?
- What might happen to animals if honeysuckle replaces native plants?
- Should we pull it out or let it grow? Why?

# THE HONEYSUCKLE AND THE OAK

A nature fable about friendship and balance

Long ago, in a quiet forest, there stood a strong, proud Oak Tree. He was tall and sturdy, and all the animals came to him for shade and shelter.

One day, a sweet-smelling Vine climbed up his trunk.

"Hello," she whispered. "I'm Honeysuckle. May I stay with you?"

The Oak puffed out his chest. "I am big and strong. I don't need help from something so small."

"But I bring sweetness," Honeysuckle said. "Birds and bees love me, and I make the forest smell lovely."

The Oak grumbled, but let her stay.

Seasons passed. Honeysuckle grew quickly, winding her way around the Oak's arms. The forest buzzed with bees and birds drawn to her sweet flowers. But as she grew, the Oak began to feel squeezed and tired.

"You're wrapping too tightly," he said. "I can't breathe!"

Honeysuckle looked down and gasped. "Oh no! I didn't mean to hurt you—I just wanted to be close."

They made a deal: Honeysuckle would climb gently and share her sweetness, and Oak would offer her strength—but only if she gave space.

And from then on, the two grew side by side in balance—one strong, one sweet.

Moral: Even beautiful things must grow with care and respect for others.

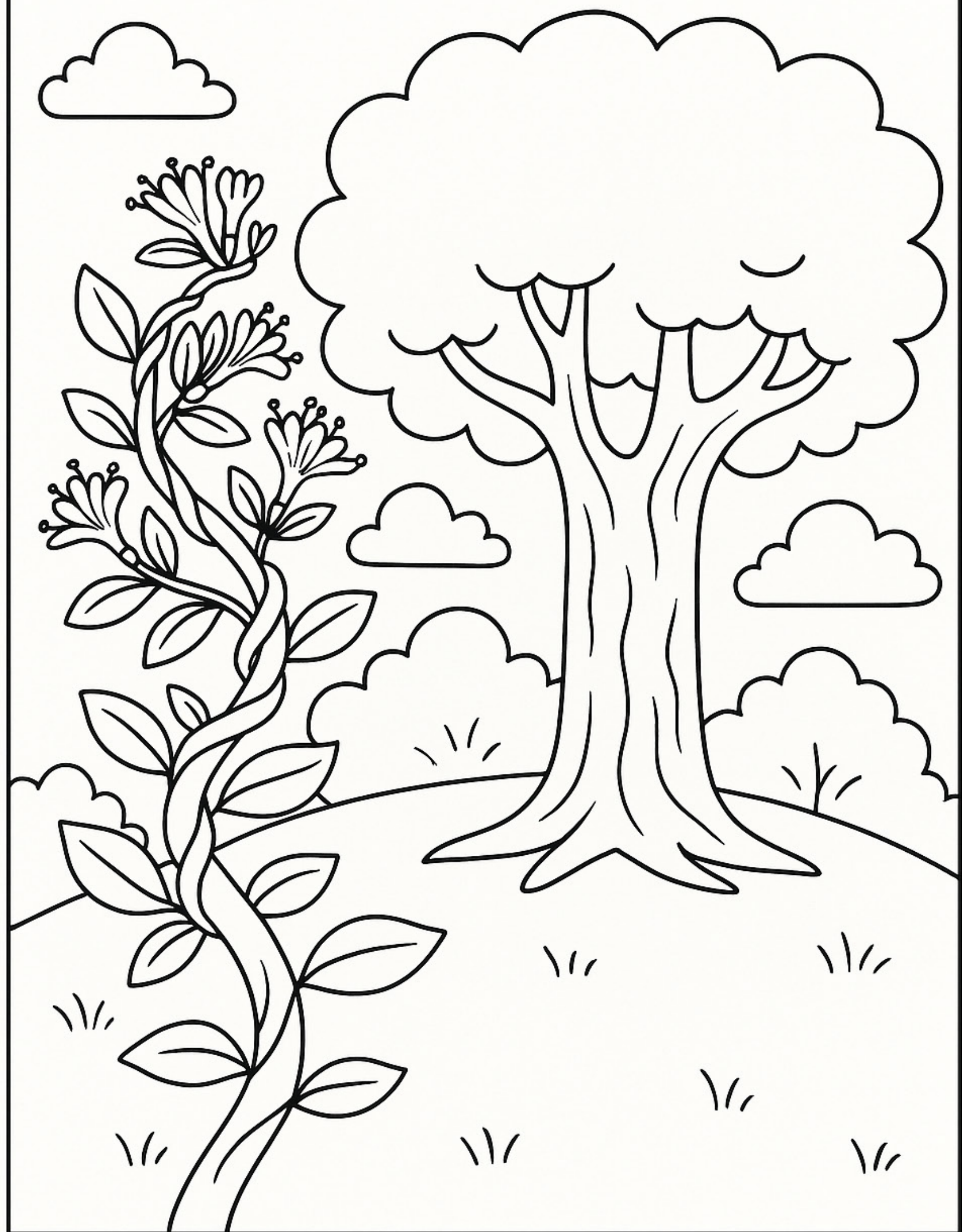
# THE HONEYSUCKLE AND THE OAK

## Discussion Questions for Kids

1. Why did the Oak Tree not want help at first?
  - a. What does this tell us about how he saw himself?
2. What did the Honeysuckle bring to the forest?
  - a. How did she help even though she was small?
3. What problem happened when Honeysuckle grew too much?
  - a. Can something good still become a problem if there's too much of it?
4. How did Honeysuckle and Oak solve their problem?
  - a. What do you think would have happened if they didn't talk to each other?
5. What does this story teach us about friendship or teamwork?
  - a. Can you think of a time when you needed to give someone else space?
6. Bonus nature question:
  - a. Have you seen honeysuckle before? What did it smell like? Where did it grow?



# THE HONEYSUCKLE AND THE OAK



# STONEWALL FOREST ACADEMY



## Activity Guide

Learning through Nature, Story, and Wonder

This guide was lovingly created by Stonewall Forest Academy to inspire curiosity, creativity, and connection with the natural world. Designed for hands-on learners and wild-hearted families.

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