

The Meaning of the Maypole

by A. G. Hughes

The sun has come back out to shine; the animals have emerged from their dens and burrows.

The grass is green and the trees are full of leaves. The flowers are bright and blooming and colorful. We all know what that means...

...Beltane is fast approaching!

We can't wait for the Beltane festival, with flower crowns and bright colors.

There will be tasty food and games to play.

And of course, there will be dancing around the Maypole!

The Maypole stands tall in the grass, reaching up into the sky, with bright ribbons fluttering from the top.

But what do the colors on the Maypole mean?

The red ribbon is for creating! Every picture and every craft and every invention starts with an idea.

The red ribbon reminds us to follow through with our ideas, and create things, big and small.

The orange ribbon reminds us that we are a community! We have friends, and family, and pets all around us.

When we dance with orange, we remember to tell our parents we love them.

Orange also reminds us to help our friends when they feel sad, and to ask our friends for help when we feel sad.

The yellow ribbon is for joy and sunlight! We welcome the sun to shine down on us while we play and help the plants grow tall and bright.

Yellow reminds us of the joy we feel when we dance and play.

It also reminds us of the feeling of a belly full of tasty food.

Yellow also reminds us of our mother's hugs.

The green ribbon is for growing and laughing! Just like the grass, and the flowers, and the trees, the green ribbon represents all the life around us, and reminds us to take care of ourselves to grow big too!

It also reminds us to laugh when times are hard. If we fall down, the green ribbon is a reminder to get right back up again.

The blue ribbon is the color of the sky on a bright, sunny day.

Blue reminds us that while it's fun to dance and run and laugh all day, it can be just as nice to lie on the grass and watch the clouds in the sky.

It also reminds us to take time for ourselves. Sometimes we need some peace and quiet after a long day.

Purple is the last color on the Maypole, and it's just as important as the others!

The purple ribbon reminds us that things come to an end.

Day turns to night, spring will become summer, then fall, then winter.

Even the Maypole will come down, once the festival is over. But one thing remains the same...

The very last moments of the sunset....

The starry night sky...

And the first hint of dawn...

Purple reminds us that all things come to an end, but there is always a new beginning around the corner.

So when YOU dance around the Maypole at Beltane, be sure to dance with every color and remember the meaning of the Maypole.