

## THIRD GRADE–READING (READ3\_2)

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Read this selection from the book *Mieko and the Fifth Treasure*. Then answer the questions that follow.

from **Mieko and the Fifth Treasure**

by *Eleanor Coerr*

*Calligraphy is the art of beautiful writing. Japanese calligraphy uses two special tools. One is an inkstick, which is a smooth stick made of dry, hard color. Another is an inkstone, a small, rough stone. A person pours water on the inkstone and rubs the inkstick in the water to make ink. Look for all three words in this story about Mieko and her five treasures. Read the story and then answer the questions that follow.*

"Mieko, come down to breakfast!" Grandma's cheery voice floated up from the kitchen. "It's time you got out of bed."

But Mieko was not in bed. She was sitting very still and feeling very sorry for herself.

"In a minute," she called back.

Mieko stared at the art supplies lined up on the red lacquer chest. Her art teacher, Mr. Araki, had called them "the four treasures." There was a fine sable brush, an inkstick, an inkstone shaped like a lily pond, and a roll of rice paper. Mieko had used them to paint Japanese word–pictures. Calligraphy was what she liked to do more than anything else in the world.

Mr. Araki had also told her, "Mieko, you are one of the lucky few who are born with the fifth treasure—beauty in the heart. When you paint, that beauty flows from your heart to your hand, to the brush, and out onto the paper. With lots of practice, you will surely become a great artist."

Mieko didn't really understand what beauty in the heart meant, but she knew that she was never so happy as when she had a brush in her hand, with every stroke getting better.

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1. How does Mieko feel at the beginning of the story?

- A. cheery
- B. hungry
- C. sleepy
- D. unhappy

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2. What time of day is it when this story begins?

- A. early morning
- B. afternoon
- C. evening
- D. night

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3. Mr. Araki says Mieko is lucky because she has

- A. art materials.
- B. beauty in the heart.
- C. time for practice.
- D. a quiet place to work.

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*When it is time to go, some people are not quite ready. That is what happened to Sara Kate in this story. Read the story and then answer the questions that follow.*

from *Sara Kate, Superkid*

by Susan Beth Pfeffer

"Hurry up, Sara Kate!"

"I'm hurrying, I'm hurrying," Sara Kate muttered. She knew she'd left her shoe somewhere. It had to be nearby.

"I don't want to be late!" said Sara Kate's brother, Stevie. "I said you could go with me only if you were fast about it."

"I'm being as fast as I can," Sara Kate said.

Stevie sighed. "What are you looking for this time?" he asked.

"My shoe," Sara Kate said. "I was wearing my shoes last night before I went to sleep, and now one of them is missing. Did you take it?"

"What would I do with your shoe?" Stevie asked.

Sara Kate didn't know. She was eight and Stevie was eleven, and sometimes he did mean things to her, but almost never anything with her shoes.

"What does your shoe look like?" Stevie asked.

"You know, it's a shoe," Sara Kate said. Then she pointed to her other foot. "It looks just like this shoe, only it's for the other foot."

"You'd lose your feet if they weren't attached to you," Stevie said. He tossed things off the floor as he searched.

"Be careful," Sara Kate said, but then she threw things around as well, trying to find the missing shoe.

"Found it!" Stevie said. "It was in your closet, Sara Kate. Right where it belonged."

"How did it get there?" Sara Kate wondered. Nothing was ever exactly where it belonged in her bedroom.

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4. This story is MOSTLY about

- A. a lost shoe.
- B. cleaning a room.
- C. a mean brother.
- D. a messy sister.

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5. Where does this story take place?

- A. at a park
- B. in a store
- C. in a house
- D. on a street

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6. Why did Stevie help Sara Kate?

- A. She was his sister and he felt sorry for her.
- B. His mother said he had to help her.
- C. He wanted her to come and help him.
- D. If she did not find her shoe soon, they would have been late.

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*Here is a funny story about a boy who told everyone he had a pet alligator. Read the story about "Frederick's Alligator," and then answer the questions that follow.*

from **Frederick's Alligator**

*by Esther Allen Peterson*

One morning Frederick said to his mom, "I have a pet lion in my closet. We are pals, and he will eat you up if you ever punish me."

"Sure, Frederick," said his mom. "Now finish your breakfast or you will be late for school."

As Frederick was leaving for school, he saw the mailman coming up the sidewalk. "I have a timber wolf in my basement," he said. "He likes to eat mailmen, so be very careful if you go into our house."

"Sure, Frederick," said the mailman. "Why don't you put his name on the mailbox?"

When Frederick got to school, he said, "I have a grizzly bear in my attic. He can tear a man or beast into a hundred pieces in just one minute."

"Sure, Frederick," said his teacher. "Now *please* take your seat."

That day on the way home from school, Frederick went to the river to look for wild animals. But all he found was a dead fish, an egg sticking out of the mud, and an old shoe box.

He put the egg in the shoe box and packed it with mud and leaves. Then he carried it home and hid it under his bed.

Frederick looked at the egg every day. One morning it moved. Then it began to crack. Finally it hatched.

"Yonk, yonk," it said.

When Frederick put the alligator on the floor, it yawned. Then it tried out its wobbly legs.

Frederick put the alligator in a pan of water, hid it under his bed, and went downstairs.

"I have a baby alligator under my bed," said Frederick.

"That's nice," said his mom. "I hope your lion doesn't eat it."

On the way to school Frederick saw the mailman. "I have a baby alligator under my bed."

"That's nice," said the mailman. "Now your timber wolf has a playmate."

When Frederick arrived at school he said, "I have a baby alligator under my bed. Can I bring him in for show-and-tell?"

"Sure, Frederick," said his teacher. "And bring your grizzly bear, too."

The next morning Frederick put his alligator in the shoe box and carried it downstairs.

"Frederick!" said his mom. "You *do* have an alligator!"

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7. Which animal did Frederick say liked to eat mailmen?

- A. his grizzly bear
- B. his lion
- C. his timber wolf
- D. his tiger

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8. What did Frederick say he had in his closet?

- A. an alligator
- B. a timber wolf
- C. a lion
- D. a grizzly bear

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9. A COMPOUND word is a new word made up of two other words. Which of the following is a compound word?

- A. hundred
- B. minute
- C. grizzly
- D. downstairs

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10. Which word from the story has four syllables?

- A. basement
- B. pieces
- C. alligator
- D. animals

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11. What happened to the egg Frederick brought home?

- A. It hatched.
- B. It broke into pieces.
- C. He lost it under his bed.
- D. He put it in the mailbox.

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12. How will Frederick's teacher MOST LIKELY feel when he brings his alligator for show-and-tell?

- A. afraid
  - B. surprised
  - C. angry
  - D. proud
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## **Protecting the Pandas**

*by Robin L. Santos*

The wind whistles down the cold, snowy mountains in China. All is quiet in the bamboo forest below. Suddenly—CRUNCH, CRACK, SNAP! A bearlike creature appears out of the bamboo. For hours, the animal munches on one bamboo shoot after another. Then slowly, it lumbers over to a hollow tree, squeezes itself in, and falls fast asleep.

Many people recognize this animal by its white and black markings. Do you? It's a giant panda! Giant pandas have lived in the mountains of China for thousands of years. But now these special creatures are in danger of dying out. Some scientists say there are fewer than 1,000 giant pandas left in the wild in China.

### **Pandas in Danger**

Pandas need a lot of food to survive. They sometimes eat fish and small rodents. But their main food is bamboo. A panda can eat up to 85 pounds of bamboo in just one day!

Long ago, finding bamboo was easy for pandas. China had many bamboo forests. But people have cut down more and more of these forests to make room for villages and farms. So pandas are losing their homes and their food. Sometimes the pandas starve.

Another danger for pandas is poachers. *Poachers* are people who hunt and kill animals, even though it is against the law. Poachers hunt pandas. Then they sell their skins in foreign countries for lots of money.

### **People Helping Pandas**

Many people from around the world are working to help save giant pandas. Some people in China have set up special areas, called reserves, where the pandas can be safe.

On the reserves, workers try to protect pandas from poachers. They also stop villagers from cutting down bamboo forests. Sometimes workers buy land from villagers who live on the reserves. Then they can plant more bamboo for the pandas.

More bamboo forests and fewer poachers should help more pandas survive in the future.

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13. The MAIN food pandas eat is

- A. mice.
- B. bamboo.
- C. fish.
- D. rice.

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14. How many syllables are in the word *villagers*?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4

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15. Which word means the OPPOSITE of the word *fewer*?

- A. more
- B. stop
- C. add
- D. less

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*Doug Nordquist is a high jumper with some good ideas about winning. Read about his ideas in the story, and then answer the questions that follow.*

### **Is Winning Everything?**

*by Jan M. Van Pelt*

Imagine you're a world-class high jumper. You've trained for years to make the Olympic team. Now you're in the Olympics. The eyes of the whole world are on you. It seems as though everyone is trying to win that gold medal. You jump seven feet, six inches! That's your best ever! But you don't win a gold medal. In fact, you come in fifth place. How do you feel now?

"I came away from there feeling like a winner," says Olympic high jumper Doug Nordquist. In the 1984 Olympics, he jumped his best ever—seven feet, six inches. He came in fifth place.

Doug says being a winner doesn't mean coming in first. It means doing your personal best. Sometimes doing his best earned Doug gold and silver medals. Sometimes doing his best earned him fifth place. As long as he has worked hard and done his best, though, Doug feels good about himself. Even though he wants to take home a gold, silver, or bronze medal, he knows he's always a winner, no matter what happens.

Doug thinks about his other job—teaching high school band—the same way. He believes that "if you put yourself into your work, you can accomplish whatever you want." One of his students explains, "Mr. Nordquist says, 'think higher and you can reach it.'"

His students at Santa Fe High School know Doug is right. They've taken his advice. They've won many awards in Los Angeles and Orange County band competitions. But he reminds them that "it's not the trophies and awards that are as important as all the things we do to get there." The students are winners. That's because they've learned to play their instruments and work with one another the best that they can.

That's not always easy. For Doug, being a good musician and teacher takes practice and education. From JACK AND JILL, copyright 1991 by Children's Better Health Institute, Benjamin Franklin Literary & Medical Society, Inc., Indianapolis, IN. Used by permission.

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16. Why did Doug Nordquist feel like a winner in the 1984 Olympics?

- A. He jumped his best ever.
- B. He came in fifth place.
- C. He liked being at the Olympics.
- D. Everyone said he was the best.

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17. The writer uses the first paragraph MAINLY to make the reader think about

- A. being in the Olympics.
  - B. being a high jumper.
  - C. trying hard and still not winning.
  - D. wanting to win a gold medal.
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18. Doug Nordquist tells students that it is most important to

- A. always come to band practice.
  - B. play better than other bands.
  - C. win trophies and awards.
  - D. do the best that they can.
- 

Dear Grandma and Grandpa,

How are you? I am doing fine. What's new? I've been enjoying my summer. I have a paper route to earn some extra money. I am putting some of it in the college fund that you started for me.

Besides my paper route, I've been taking swimming lessons from Uncle Vincent. I asked him to help me with my front crawl. I always seem to get water in my nose and mouth whenever I do that stroke. I'm really good at swimming the backstroke and the dog paddle. And, if I ever get into any real trouble in the water, I can always tread water.

How's the weather in Florida? Here in Georgia it's been very warm. To keep cool, I've been running through the sprinkler and drinking lots of lemonade. I'm thinking of opening a lemonade stand after my swimming lesson today.

School starts in about four weeks. I'm going to be in 3rd grade. Can you believe it? My teacher will be Mrs. Reese. I have heard that she is very nice and makes you work really hard. I will do my best to make you proud of me.

Mom says that if I keep my grades up that I can take flute lessons at school. I want to be able to play a song or two for you when you come for the holidays. I can't wait to see the two of you. You might not be able to recognize me! Maybe, I'll wear a nametag! I've grown two inches and I have grown my hair to my shoulders. Finally, Mom has let me grow my hair to where I want it. Now, I can wear my fancy barrettes and put my hair in a ponytail.

Well, that's all for now. Give each other a hug from me. Keep healthy and keep safe.

With love,  
Marybeth

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19. Which of the following BEST describes this passage?

- A. fiction
  - B. nonfiction
  - C. letter
  - D. folktale
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20. What can the reader find out about Marybeth's grandparents from this passage?

- A. They are good swimmers.
- B. They play musical instruments.
- C. They like to drink lemonade.
- D. They live in Florida.

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21. Who is teaching Marybeth to swim?

- A. Mrs. Reese
- B. Uncle Vincent
- C. her grandparents
- D. her mother

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*Finding a fossil is fun, and so is making one. Read the directions on how to do it and then answer the questions that follow.*

**Activity: Make Your Own Fossil**

Finding a real fossil is terrific! Fossils are rocks that contain the imprint of bones, shells, or leaves that existed thousands—maybe even millions—of years ago. You may not find a real fossil very often—or ever. But you can make your own fossil. Here are directions for making your own fossil.

**You will need:**

- 1 small bag of plaster of Paris (ask at a hardware store)
- Water
- 1 empty coffee can
- 1 old aluminum pie or cake pan
- Something to stir with (like a paint-stirring stick)
- Some small objects to press into your fossil (shells, leaves, stones, buttons, bottle caps, even your hand will do)
  - A piece of picture-hanging wire (if you want to hang your fossil on the wall)
- A cup

**How to do it:**

1. Spread newspapers on the floor or table where you are going to work. (This can get messy!)
2. Collect your "fossil objects."
3. Pour a cup of plaster of Paris into the coffee can.
4. Stir in enough water until it looks like thick pancake batter, following the directions on the box.
5. Pour the plaster of Paris mixture into the aluminum pan.
  6. Place your fossil objects on the plaster and press down firmly.
  7. If you want to hang your fossil on the wall when it's dry, twist a piece of wire into a loop and stick it into the top of the mold.
8. Wait 5 minutes, then carefully remove the objects.
9. Let the plaster dry, remove it from the pan, and **YOU HAVE MADE A FOSSIL!!**

If you can't get plaster of Paris, you can also make a fossil with clay.

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22. The word *imprint* from the first paragraph means

- A. shape.
- B. pieces.
- C. color.
- D. stones.

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23. Which would NOT be good to use to make a fossil?

- A. a chicken feather
- B. dead leaf
- C. a piece of paper
- D. fish bones

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24. Someone might read this story to

- A. find a project for science class.
- B. learn how to make plaster of Paris.
- C. discover where to look for fossils.
- D. find out how fossils form in nature.

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25. When making a fossil, the coffee can is used to

- A. wash the pie pan.
- B. pour the water.
- C. hold the fossil objects you collect.
- D. mix the plaster of Paris.

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## THIRD GRADE–READING(READ3\_2)

(Answer Key)

1. unhappy
2. early morning
3. beauty in the heart.
4. a lost shoe.
5. in a house
6. If she did not find her shoe soon, they would have been late.
7. his timber wolf
8. a lion
9. downstairs
10. alligator
11. It hatched.
12. surprised
13. bamboo.
14. 3
15. more
16. He jumped his best ever.
17. trying hard and still not winning.
18. do the best that they can.
19. letter
20. They live in Florida.
21. Uncle Vincent
22. shape.
23. a piece of paper
24. find a project for science class.
25. mix the plaster of Paris.