

## THIRD GRADE–READING (READ3\_4)

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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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4. What did Mieko like to do more than anything else?

- A. read books
- B. listen to music
- C. dance
- D. paint

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5. How does this story bring us a different culture?

- A. by showing what Mieko eats for breakfast
- B. by showing that Mieko has many friends
- C. by telling about Japanese calligraphy
- D. by telling the history of Japan

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**Johnny's Room**

"JOHNNY!!!!!!"

Oh no—that's Mama yelling!

Is it your dirty sock mountain she has been smelling?

Could it be your room is a mess?

Johnny, please do confess!

Baseball cards stuck to banana peels hiding with cracker crumbs under the clothes pile

Dust bunnies, crumbled paper, crayons and toy critters line Johnny's sticky, sloppy mile

Mama is mad and standing with her shovel!

Where are you Johnny—boy are you in trouble!

"JOHNNY!!!!!!"

Mama yells again, and this time Johnny finally appears

She hands him the big shovel, and smiling she says, "Start digging through your mess, my dear!"

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6. When does Johnny finally appear before his mother?

- A. after she yells once
- B. after she yells twice
- C. after Johnny has the shovel
- D. after Johnny confesses

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7. What mood is Mama in when she is standing with her shovel?

- A. angry
- B. happy
- C. sad
- D. pleased

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8. What has Mama been smelling?

- A. dust bunnies
- B. crayons
- C. dirty socks
- D. crackers

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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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9. 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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10. 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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11. 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.

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12. Doug Nordquist is a teacher of

- A. sports.
- B. music.
- C. shop.
- D. reading.

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*Some animals are little and cute, some animals are big and brave, and some animals are dirty! Read the story about a very dirty animal and then answer the questions that follow.*

**Dirty Henry**

*by Lucy Dickens*

Henry never looked neat. Even when Lily brushed him, he still looked wild and wooly. As soon as Lily turned her back, Henry ran off with his friends and got dirty.

He jumped into muddy ponds, played hide and seek at the farmer's, searched the trash for tasty bones, dug for rabbits in burrows, and always rolled in the blackberry patch at the bottom of the garden before he came in for supper.

One day, Lily and her mother met him in the garden. "You're not coming in until Miss Pink has given you a shampoo and haircut!" scolded Lily's mother.

Lily dragged Henry to Miss Pink's. Henry looked at Miss Pink. "I do like a challenge!" she exclaimed to Lily. "Come back in two hours."

She grabbed Henry and plunged him into a sink full of hot soapy water. Just as Henry started to recover from the shock, Miss Pink turned a cold shower over his head.

At last, Henry was swept up into a warm, dry towel and rubbed all over. He even opened his eyes again. But there was worse to come.

Miss Pink whipped out a large brush and started pulling at the tangles and knots in Henry's hair. And when that was finished, she started to cut his hair with a snip! snap! snip!

Henry watched his hair fall to the floor in chunks. Then she put what was left of his hair into curlers and popped him under the hairdryer. Henry closed his eyes once more.

When Henry dared to open his eyes again, he blinked. "There!" stated Miss Pink with satisfaction. "Don't you look nice!"

But when Lily arrived to take him home, Henry wouldn't look at her. He slunk down the street.

He wouldn't come out from under his favorite chair for supper.

But when no one was looking, Henry came out and ran into the garden. And that's where Lily found him—in the blackberry patch, rolling on his back.

"Oh, Henry!" she said as she hugged him. "I like you better when you're happy and dirty!"

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13. Where did Henry like to roll on his back?

- A. in the sink
- B. under the hairdryer
- C. on his favorite chair
- D. in the blackberry patch

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14. What kind of writing is "Dirty Henry"?

- A. poetry
- B. nonfiction
- C. folktale
- D. fiction

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15. Which happened LAST in the story?

- A. Lily hugged Henry.
- B. Lily took Henry home.
- C. Miss Pink cut Henry's hair.
- D. Lily and her mother met Henry in the garden.

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*Ferdinand is eager to reach the ocean in this story, "The Shell." Read the story to find out why, and then answer the questions that follow.*

from **The Shell**

*by Paul Koning*

"Can you hear it?" asked Ferdinand, holding the huge conch shell up to his sister's ear. His eyes were wide with excitement.

"No," said Julia, leaning away from him on the long seat in the back of the minivan. "Leave me alone."

Big sisters can be a real pain. And Ferdinand ought to know, because he has two of them.

He put the shell to his own ear. He heard a mighty rushing sound and imagined huge waves breaking on a deserted beach.

The family was headed for the ocean right now, and Ferdinand could not wait to catch his first glimpse of the sea. He had read about it in so many stories and, of course, he'd seen pictures of it on TV. But this was his first chance to actually see it, jump in it, smell the salty air, and watch the seagulls bank and wheel in the sky. There aren't too many oceans in North Georgia, their father always says, and then he tells a long story about grandpa's fishing boat off the coast of Veracruz.

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16. The word *glimpse* in the last paragraph MOST LIKELY means

- A. touch.
- B. smell.
- C. sight.
- D. thought.

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17. From the story we know that Ferdinand enjoys

- A. reading stories.
- B. teasing his sisters.
- C. eating conch stew.
- D. going to visit his grandpa.

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18. Which tells the reader that Julia is older than Ferdinand?

- A. She wants to be alone.
- B. She is annoyed by Ferdinand.
- C. She still remembers Veracruz.
- D. She is called a "big sister."

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19. Where did the family live?

- A. on a beach
- B. on a boat
- C. in Veracruz
- D. in North Georgia

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*In this story, Benny wants to buy a present for his grandfather. Read it to find out what happens to Benny and then answer the questions that follow.*

### **A Present for Grandfather**

*by Gertrude Chandler Warner*

Benny Alden had a dollar. "Tomorrow is Grandfather's birthday," he told his dog, Watch. "But I don't know what to get him." Watch wasn't much help. He was busy chasing a squirrel. Grandfather saw Benny on the steps. "Let's go to the shopping center," he said. Benny leaped up. Great! He could buy Grandfather a present!

As they drove down the street, Benny said, "There's Michael. Can he come, too?" Michael was Benny's friend. Michael asked his mother and was back in a flash.

Grandfather parked the car in front of the shopping center. There was a barbershop, a bank, a bakery, and a gift shop on one of the blocks.

"I need a haircut," said Grandfather.

"We'll be in the gift shop," Benny said.

Benny took Watch outside. "Wait here," he said.

Back inside, he saw a brass pen set. "That's neat," said Michael.

"It would look nice on Grandfather's desk," Benny agreed. Then he saw the price tag. "Twenty dollars! I only have one dollar!"

A furry blur hopped up and down outside the window. The blur was Watch. "Watch doesn't like it out there," said Michael.

"I'll talk to him," said Benny. When he went outside, Watch ran down the sidewalk. Benny chased his dog. "We can't play now!" he scolded.

Benny took Watch back to the gift store. "Sit," he said. But Watch wouldn't sit.

Benny found a box for Watch to stand on. "Now you can see us."

Benny went into the store again.

Michael held out a key ring. "This only costs one dollar," he said.

"It's not very special," Benny said. "But it's all I can afford." He reached into his pocket and pulled out...nothing! "My dollar!" He cried. "It's gone!"

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20. Why didn't Benny buy the brass pen set?

- A. It cost too much.
  - B. His dollar was gone.
  - C. It was not a good gift.
  - D. He had to chase after his dog.
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21. How much money did Benny have to spend on Grandfather's present?

- A. one dollar
- B. two dollars
- C. five dollars
- D. twenty dollars

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22. Which word has three syllables?

- A. bakery
- B. outside
- C. scolded
- D. chasing

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Casey's Braces

by *Deb Manske*

Kevin stopped sharpening his pencil. Sarah stopped practicing subtraction at the board. Wendy stopped reading aloud. Ms. Jacobs looked up from her book. Everyone stared at Casey.

Casey stood in the classroom doorway. She knew they were all looking at the thing on her head. She wanted to run away from all the stares. But Ms. Jacobs called her.

"Come in, Casey. Your mother phoned and told me about your surprise."

Casey came slowly into the room.

"Sit here beside me," said Ms. Jacobs. "You and I have stories to tell!"

Casey sat. Ms. Jacobs put an arm around her.

"I bet you feel uncomfortable right now," Ms. Jacobs said. "Well, I think you were very brave to come to school wearing your new headgear."

Casey had been afraid everyone would think she looked silly. But now Ms. Jacobs sounded so kind and understanding. And no one was giggling anymore. Casey started to feel better.

"It does look silly," Casey said. "It doesn't feel too great either. Know what else? I can't chew gum for six months!"

"I know how that feels," said Ms. Jacobs. "When I got my braces, I had to stop eating taffy!"

"You had braces?" asked Kevin.

"I sure did!" Ms. Jacobs said. "I'll show you some pictures to prove it!"

She passed her pictures around.

"You'll never guess what my nickname was," Ms. Jacobs said.

"Tinsel teeth?" David Anderson tried.

"Metal mouth?" asked Wendy.

Ms. Jacobs walked to the board. In big white letters, she wrote "Jawbreaker Jacobs." Under the name, she taped a picture of herself wearing braces. Then she reached for her camera.

"Casey, you are the first student in our class to have braces," said Ms. Jacobs. "I want to tape a picture of you next to mine."

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23. Ms. Jacobs knew about Casey's braces before Casey came to school because

- A. she saw Casey at home.
- B. Casey told her.
- C. Casey's mother told her.
- D. she received a letter from Casey.

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24. What was Ms. Jacob's nickname?

- A. Jawbreaker Jacobs
- B. Tinsel Teeth
- C. Metal Mouth
- D. Foil Face

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25. Who had to stop eating taffy?

- A. Casey
- B. Ms. Jacobs
- C. Wendy
- D. Kevin

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## THIRD GRADE–READING(READ3\_4)

(Answer Key)

1. unhappy
2. early morning
3. beauty in the heart.
4. paint
5. by telling about Japanese calligraphy
  
6. after she yells twice
7. angry
8. dirty socks
9. He jumped his best ever.
10. trying hard and still not winning.
11. do the best that they can.
12. music.
13. in the blackberry patch
14. fiction
15. Lily hugged Henry.
16. sight.
17. reading stories.
18. She is called a "big sister."
19. in North Georgia
20. It cost too much.
21. one dollar
22. bakery
23. Casey's mother told her.
24. Jawbreaker Jacobs
25. Ms. Jacobs