

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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### THIRD GRADE–READING (READ3\_5)

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

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

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2. 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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3. 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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*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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4. The word *imprint* from the first paragraph means

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

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5. 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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6. 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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*The wind and the Sun made a bet. To find out what it was—and who won it—read the story and answer the questions that follow.*

### **The Wind & the Sun**

The North–wind and the Sun once had an argument as to which had the more power. They were squabbling back and forth with words, words, words when an unlucky man happened to walk along on the road beneath them.

"All right," said the North–wind, "here's a chance to prove who's right. I'll bet you I can take that man's coat off more quickly than you can."

"That's a bet," said the Sun. "You try first."

The North–wind blew an icy puff at the man and nearly froze him, so he clutched his coat closer around him. Then the North–wind got angry and puffed, blew and blasted away so hard he even brought icy showers down on the miserable man, whose teeth rattled with the cold.

Naturally the poor fellow hugged his thin little coat all the tighter and the North–wind had to give up.

"Now, it's my turn," said the Sun. "I'll do it the easy way."

He came out from behind a cloud and started to shine with all the heat he could.

After a short while the man was so warm he had to take off his coat and go sit in the shade of some trees. So the Sun won the bet.

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7. How did the man probably feel about what the North–wind did?

- A. angry
- B. unhappy
- C. surprised
- D. sad

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8. In the first paragraph, what does the word *squabbling* mean?

- A. arguing
  - B. playing
  - C. writing
  - D. pulling
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9. Which word from the story has three syllables?

- A. argument
- B. quickly
- C. icy
- D. showers

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10. Add the prefix *un-* to the word *lucky*. It makes a new word, which means

- A. more lucky.
- B. not lucky.
- C. a little bit lucky.
- D. lucky again.

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

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

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

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

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13. 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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14. What did Mieke like to do more than anything else?

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

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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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15. Which of the following BEST describes this passage?

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

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16. 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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17. Who is teaching Marybeth to swim?

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

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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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18. The MAIN food pandas eat is

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

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

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

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

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

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21. Which word sounds the same as *main*?

- A. mine
- B. man
- C. may
- D. mane

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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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22. 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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23. 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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24. Which word has three syllables?

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

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25. Which word rhymes with *flash*?

- A. flies
- B. float
- C. trash
- D. crush

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## THIRD GRADE–READING(READ3\_5)

(Answer Key)

1. sight.
2. reading stories.
3. She is called a "big sister."
4. shape.
5. a piece of paper
6. find a project for science class.
7. unhappy
8. arguing
9. argument
10. not lucky.
11. unhappy
12. early morning
13. beauty in the heart.
14. paint
15. letter
16. They live in Florida.
17. Uncle Vincent
18. bamboo.
19. 3
20. more
21. mane
22. It cost too much.
23. one dollar
24. bakery
25. trash