

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

## Adapted from *The Dutch Twins:* *“Market Day With Father”*

*by Lucy Fitch Perkins*

One afternoon Kit and Kat were playing around the kitchen doorstep while their Mother sat on a bench by the door peeling some onions for supper. It was not yet suppertime, but Mother Vedder was always ahead of the clock with the work.

Kit and Kat had a pan of water and were teaching their ducklings to swim. They each had one little duckling of their very own. The ducklings squawked when Kit lifted them over the edge of the pan and into the water.

“Don’t do that, Kit,” said Kat. “The ducklings don’t like it. You didn’t like it when you fell into the water, did you?”

“But I’m not a duck,” said Kit.

“Well, anyway, they’re tired and want to go to their mother,” said Kat. “Let’s do something else! I’ll tell you what! Let’s go out to the garden and help Father get the boat loaded for market.”

“All right,” said Kit. “May we, Mother?”

“Yes,” said Mother Vedder; “and you may ask Father if he will take you to market with him tomorrow if it’s fair. Tell him I said you could ask.”

“Oh, goody, goody!” said Kit and Kat, both at once; and they ran as fast as their wooden shoes would take them out into the garden.

They found their father cutting cabbages and gathering them into piles. He was stopping to rest for a moment when they reached him.

“O Father!” said Kit and Kat both together. “May we go on the boat to market with you tomorrow morning? Mother said we might ask!”

“We’ll help you load the boat,” said Kit.

“Yes,” said Kat, “I can carry a cabbage.”

“I can carry two,” said Kit. “We’ll both be good,” said Kat.

"Very well," said Father, at last. "We'll see how you work! And tomorrow morning, if the weather is good, I'll see! But you must go to bed early tonight, because you'll have to get up very early in the morning, if you go with me! Now you each take a cabbage and run along."

Father Vedder went back to his work.

Kit and Kat ran to the cabbage pile. Kat took one, and Kit took two—just to show that he could.

"When Father says 'I'll see,' he always means 'yes,' " Kat said to Kit.

Perhaps it seems strange to you that they should go to market in a boat, but it didn't seem strange at all to the twins.

You see, in Holland there are a great many canals. They cross the fields like roadways of water, and that is what they really are. Little canals open into big ones, and big ones go clear to the sea.

It is very easy for farmers to load their vegetables for market right on a boat. They can pull the boat out into the big canal, and then away they go to sell their produce in the town.

The canals flow through the towns, too, and make water streets, where boats go up and down as carriages go here.

The twins and their father worked like beavers, washing the vegetables and packing them in baskets, until their good old boat was filled with cabbages and onions and beets and carrots and all sorts of good things to eat.

By that time it was nearly dark, and they were all three very hungry; so they went home.

They found that Mother Vedder had made soup for supper. The twins loved soup. They each ate three bowls of it, and then their mother put them to bed.

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- 1 What must happen for the twins to be able to go to the market?
- A The weather must be nice, they must work hard, and they need to go to bed early.
  - B They must help their mother with supper and help their father load the boat.
  - C They must put up their ducklings, help load the boat, and help cook dinner.
  - D The boat must be loaded, and they must go to bed early.
- 2 Which detail supports the idea that the twins were excited to go to market with their father?
- A "Kit and Kat had a pan of water and were teaching their ducklings to swim."
  - B " 'Let's do something else! I'll tell you what! Let's go out to the garden and help Father get the boat loaded for market.' "
  - C " 'Oh, goody, goody!' said Kit and Kat, both at once; and they ran as fast as their wooden shoes would take them out into the garden."
  - D "Kit and Kat ran to the cabbage pile."
- 3 What is Kit and Kat's father's job?
- A boater
  - B farmer
  - C fisherman
  - D wood-carver

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- 4 Which statement shows Kit and Kat are trying to prove they can be helpful and should be allowed to go with their father to the market?
- A "Mother said we might ask!"
  - B "I can carry a cabbage."
  - C "We'll see how you work!"
  - D "And tomorrow morning, if the weather is good, I'll see!"
- 5 What does Kit and Kat's family take to the market?
- A meat
  - B fruit
  - C buttermilk
  - D vegetables