

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

**Adapted from *The Japanese Twins: "A Rainy Day"*****by Lucy Fitch Perkins**

When the twins woke up the next morning it was cold, and the rain was beating on the roof. They couldn't look out of the window to see it, because there were no glass windows in their house. There were just the pretty screens covered with white paper.

Taro slid one of the screens back and peeped out into the garden. "It's all wet," he said to Taki. "We can't play outdoors today."

"We'll have a nice time in the house, then," said Taki. "I can think of lots of things to do."

"So can I, if I try," Taro said.

"Let's try, then," Taki answered.

They thought all the time they were dressing. They put on three kimonos\* because it was cold. It made them look quite big. "I've thought of one," Taki called just as she was putting on the last kimono.

"I have, too," Taro said.

"You tell me and I'll tell you," Taki begged.

"No, not until after breakfast," Taro answered. "Then first we'll play one and then the other."

After breakfast Mother was busy waiting on Father and getting him off to his work. Then she had to bathe the baby. So the twins went to Grandmother for help.

"O Ba San" (that means Honorable Grandmother), Taki said to her, "it is rainy and cold, and Taro and I have thought of nice games to play in the house. Will you get the colored sands for us?"

"I know what you're going to do!" cried Taro.

\***kimonos:** loose robes with wide sleeves

Grandmother brought out four boxes. In one box was yellow sand. In another was black sand. The other two were filled with blue and red sand. Grandmother brought out some large pieces of paper. "Thank you, O Ba San," the twins said.

They spread the paper on the floor. Taro had one piece, and Taki had another.

"I'm going to make a picture of a boat on the sea," said Taro.

He took some of the blue sand in his right hand. He let it run through his fingers until it made a blue sea clear across the paper.

"And now I'm going to make a yellow sky for a sunset." He let the yellow sand run through the fingers of his left hand.

"I'll put some red clouds in it," he said. Then he let red sand run through his fingers.

When that was done he took some black sand. He made a boat.

"Oh, Taro, how beautiful!" Taki said. "Mine won't be half so nice, I'm sure. I'm going to make—I'm going to make—let's see. Oh, I know. I'll make the pine tree beside the pond."

She took some blue sand and made the little lake. Then she took the black sand and made the trunk of the tree and some branches.

She spilled a little of the black sand. It made black specks.

"Oh, dear!" she cried. "I've spilled."

Taro looked at it. "Put the green leaves over the spilled place," he said.

"It isn't the right place for leaves," Taki said.

She took some blue sand in one hand and some yellow in the other. She let them fall on the paper together. They made the green part of the tree.

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"I know what I'll do about the black that spilled," she said. "I'll call it a swarm of bees!"

"I think your picture is just as good as mine," said Taro.

"Oh, no, Honorable Brother! Yours is much better," Taki answered politely.

They showed them to Grandmother when they were all finished. Grandmother thought they were beautiful.

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- 1 What is the central message of this selection?
- A The twins can go out to play on a sunny day.
  - B The twins can have fun making sand art on a rainy day.
  - C The twins can learn how to dye sand to make pictures.
  - D The twins can have fun helping their grandma around the house.
- 2 Which statement from the selection supports the idea that the children are fine with playing inside?
- A “ ‘It’s all wet,’ he said to Taki. ‘We can’t play outdoors today.’ ”
  - B “ ‘We’ll have a nice time in the house, then,’ said Taki. ‘I can think of lots of things to do.’ ”
  - C “Then she took the black sand and made the trunk of the tree and some branches.”
  - D “They showed them to Grandmother when they were all finished.”
- 3 Which statement from the selection supports the idea that the twins played well together?
- A “ ‘I’m going to make a picture of a boat on the sea,’ said Taro.”
  - B “She took some blue sand in one hand and some yellow in the other.”
  - C “ ‘I think your picture is just as good as mine,’ said Taro.”
  - D “Grandmother thought they were beautiful.”

- 4 In paragraph 27, what lesson did Taki show she had learned?
- A Mistakes are not always as big as they seem.
  - B A swarm of bees is a bunch of black dots.
  - C Grandmothers are very helpful and wise.
  - D Mistakes cannot be undone.
- 5 What is one lesson the reader learns in this selection?
- A A person should always be better than everyone else.
  - B Grandmothers always know how to do art.
  - C Art projects are never fun on rainy days.
  - D It is good to be kind to one's brothers and sisters.