

Name: _____

Date: _____

Some days at school are exciting no matter where you are. Read this story about an exciting day at school in Japan and then answer the questions that follow.

from **The Bicycle Man**

by Allen Say

When I was a small boy I went to a school in the south island of Japan. The schoolhouse stood halfway up a tall green mountain....

From the playground we could see the town, the ships in the harbor, the shining sea.

One fine spring day we had our sports day. All the children and teachers were out in the playground long before the first bell rang.

"Did everybody remember to bring a headband?" asked Mrs. Morita. She was our first-grade teacher. Eagerly we showed her our headbands. They were red on one side and white on the other. "Remember, we're on the red team," she told us.

We swept the playground with all the brooms in the school. We tied colored flags and streamers to bamboo poles. We drew white lines on the ground with powdered chalk.

Our parents came. . . . They spread their straw mats and sat around the oval track.

When everything was ready Mrs. Morita rang the bell. It was nine o'clock. The principal stood on the platform and said, "Parents, children, my fellow teachers, let us remember that we are gathered here in the spirit of sportsmanship. Whether we win or lose, let us enjoy ourselves."

We cheered and clapped our hands.

The youngest children were the first to race. We lined up six at a time at the starting line.

"Ready, set, go!" Mr. Oka, the art teacher, boomed at us. We first graders leaped out and dashed around the track.

1. Where does this story take place?

- A. on a ship in the harbor
 - B. on the top of a mountain
 - C. at a school in Japan
 - D. on a bamboo platform
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2. "When everything was ready Mrs. Morita rang the bell." What is another good way to write this sentence?
- A. Mrs. Morita rang the bell when everything was ready.
 - B. When the bell rang, Mrs. Morita was ready.
 - C. When Mrs. Morita was ready, she rang the bell.
 - D. When Mrs. Morita rang the bell, everything was ready.
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3. This story is mostly about
- A. a school house on a mountain.
 - B. how a small boy won a race.
 - C. sports day at a school in Japan.
 - D. children and their families.

Answer Key

1. C) at a school in Japan
2. A) Mrs. Morita rang the bell when everything was ready.
3. C) sports day at a school in Japan.