

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. "Ready, set, go!" Mr. Oka, the art teacher, boomed at us."

In the sentence above, the word *boomed* is used to show that Mr. Oka

- A. ran.
 - B. shouted.
 - C. was surprised.
 - D. was angry.
-

2. The boy in the story is in what grade?

- A. first
 - B. second
 - C. third
 - D. fourth
-

3. Who raced first?

- A. the red team
 - B. the white team
 - C. the first graders
 - D. the fourth graders
-

4. What did the children wear to show what team they were on?

- A. T-shirts
 - B. flags
 - C. numbers
 - D. headbands
-

5. What do Mrs. Morita and Mr. Oka both do in the story?

- A. sit on straw mats with the parents
 - B. ask about the children's headbands
 - C. sweep the playground with brooms
 - D. help the children with their sports day
-

6. What happened first in the story?

- A. The first graders ran a race.
 - B. The parents arrived at school.
 - C. The students swept the playground.
 - D. The students showed the teacher their headbands.
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7. Which sentence BEST shows that the first graders were excited about the race?

- A. One fine spring day we had our sports day.
 - B. We cheered and clapped our hands.
 - C. We swept the playground with all the brooms in the school.
 - D. The youngest children were the first to race.
-

Jamie's family is moving. He is worried about it. Read the story to find out why he is worried and then answer the questions that follow.

What About My Goldfish?

by Pamela Greenwood

We're moving. Dad got a new job. Mom told me today. I went out on the porch and hugged my dog. Mom followed me.

"What if Freckles won't leave home?" I asked.

"Her home is with us," Mom said.

"What if we can't find her when it is time to move?"

"Don't worry, Jamie. We won't leave without her."

I took Freckles for a walk through our neighborhood. I didn't want her to forget it.

The next day I told my teacher we were going to move.

"We'll miss you, Jamie." Ms. Dillow put her hand on my shoulder. "When are you moving?"

"Dad said we have to sell our house first." Maybe no one will buy it, I thought. I told my friends at recess.

"Where?" "Why?" "When?" they asked.

"Can we still be friends?" asked Joe.

"I think so," I answered.

"Can I have your goldfish?" Terry asked. "The water will spill out if you try to move them."

Mom fixed apple slices for my after-school snack.

"What about my goldfish?" I asked.

"What about them?" Mom said.

"Freckles will miss them," I said. "She likes to watch Skunk and Merlin play together when I am at school."

"We'll take them with us," Mom said.

"Won't the water spill?"

"We'll put them in a big jar. With a lid."

"Oh," I said. "Freckles will be glad."

"What about Joe?"

Mom laughed. "We can't take *him* with us."

"Can we still be friends?"

"You can always keep your friends."

8. What is the root word of *neighborhood*?

- A. hood
 - B. neigh
 - C. neighbor
 - D. or
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9. Why is the family in the story moving?

- A. The father got a new job.
 - B. Jamie needed a new school.
 - C. The pets needed more space.
 - D. The family wanted a bigger house.
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10. What did Jamie have for an after-school snack?

- A. cookies
- B. goldfish
- C. apple slices
- D. orange slices

Answer Key

1. B) shouted.
2. A) first
3. C) the first graders
4. D) headbands
5. D) help the children with their sports day
6. D) The students showed the teacher their headbands.
7. B) We cheered and clapped our hands.
8. C) neighbor
9. A) The father got a new job.
10. C) apple slices