education sciences

MDPI

Supplementary Material File S1

Sample Passages and Questions (full set of passages and questions are available upon request from the authors.

Passage ID: 1

Long, long ago there lived in Kyoto a brave soldier named Kintoki. Now he fell in love with a beautiful lady and married her. Not long after this, through the malice of some of his friends, he fell into disgrace at Court and was dismissed. This misfortune so preyed upon his mind that he did not long survive his dismissal—he died, leaving behind him his beautiful young wife to face the world alone. Fearing her husband's enemies, she fled to the Ashigara Mountains as soon as her husband was dead, and there in the lonely forests where no one ever came except woodcutters, a little boy was born to her. She called him Kintaro or the Golden Boy.

Now the remarkable thing about this child was his great strength, and as he grew older he grew stronger and stronger, so that by the time he was eight years of age he was able to cut down trees as quickly as the woodcutters. Then his mother gave him a large ax, and he used to go out in the forest and help the woodcutters, who called him "Wonder-child," and his mother the "Old Nurse of the Mountains," for they did not know her high rank. Another favorite pastime of Kintaro's was to smash up rocks and stones. You can imagine how strong he was!

Quite unlike other boys, Kintaro, grew up all alone in the mountain wilds, and as he had no companions he made friends with all the animals and learned to understand them and to speak their strange talk. By degrees they all grew quite tame and looked upon Kintaro as their master, and he used them as his servants and messengers. But his special retainers were the bear, the deer, the monkey and the hare.

Questions & Choices:

What was the brave soldiers name?	**Kyoto**	**Ashigara**	**Golden boy**	**Kintoki**
Where did Kintoki's wife flee to after her husbands passing?	Kintoki's mothers house	Japan	Kintaro	Ashigara Mountains
What is the main idea of the passage?	Kintoki had a bad childhood growing up and he wanted to do everything to make sure Kintaro didn't have the same life.	Kintoki's wife leaves him to raise Kintaro alone where Kintoki teaches him to be a brave warrior like himself.	Kintoki is a brave solider who saves all the animals in the mountains of Ashigara from Kintaro and his large ax.	After Kintoki's passing we see his wife raise their son Kintaro to be unlike other boys and the master of the animals in the mountains.

Passage ID: 3

Passage:

It happened one day that the Doctor was sitting in his kitchen talking with the Cat's-meat-Man who had come to see him with a stomach-ache.

"Why don't you give up being a people's doctor, and be an animal-doctor?" asked the Cat's-meat-Man.

The parrot, Polynesia, was sitting in the window looking out at the rain and singing a sailor-song to herself. She stopped singing and started to listen.

"You see, Doctor," the Cat's-meat-Man went on, "you know all about animals—much more than what these here vets do. That book you wrote—about cats, why, it's wonderful! I can't read or write myself—or maybe I'd write some books. But my wife, Theodosia, she's a scholar, she is. And she read your book to me. Well, it's wonderful—that's all can be said—wonderful. You might have been a cat yourself. You know the way they think. And listen: you can make a lot of money doctoring animals. Do you know that? You see, I'd send all the old women who had sick cats or dogs to you. And if they didn't get sick fast enough, I could put something in the meat I sell 'em to make 'em sick, see?"

"Oh, no," said the Doctor quickly. "You mustn't do that. That wouldn't be right."

"Oh, I didn't mean real sick," answered the Cat's-meat-Man. "Just a little something to make them droopy-like was what I had reference to. But as you say, maybe it ain't quite fair on the animals. But they'll get sick anyway, because the old women always give 'em too much to eat. And look, all the farmers round about who had lame horses and weak lambs—they'd come. Be an animal-doctor."

When the Cat's-meat-Man had gone the parrot flew off the window on to the Doctor's table.

Questions & Choices:

What did Cat's-meat-Man want the doctor to be instead?	**A cat sitter**	**A sailor**	**A cook**	**An animal doctor**
Why did he want the doctor to be an animal doctor?	Because he was very easy to talk to	Because he was very helpful	Because he knows many animals in the town	Because he knows more about animals than other vets do
What is the main idea of the passage?	The Cat's-meat-Man is getting checked up by the doctor and is appreciating his knowledge of animals.	The Cat's-meat-Man is great friends with the animal doctor of the town who is well known by everyone.	The Cat's-meat-Man is a doctor who works well with the animals of the town.	The Cat's-meat-Man is trying to convince the doctor to be an animal doctor because of his knowledge and relationship with the animals.

Passage ID: 5

Passage:

There was a king who had twelve beautiful daughters. They slept in twelve beds all in one room; and when they went to bed, the doors were shut and locked up; but every morning their shoes were found to be quite worn through as if they had been danced in all night; and yet nobody could find out how it happened, or where they had been. Then the king made it known to all the land, that if any person could discover the secret, and find out

where it was that the princesses danced in the night, he should have the one he liked best for his wife, and should be king after his death; but whoever tried and did not succeed, after three days and nights, should be sent to jail.

A king's son soon came. He was well entertained, and in the evening was taken to the chamber next to the one where the princesses lay in their twelve beds. There he was to sit and watch where they went to dance; and, in order that nothing might pass without his hearing it, the door of his chamber was left open. But the king's son soon fell asleep; and when he awoke in the morning he found that the princesses had all been dancing, for the soles of their shoes were full of holes. The same thing happened the second and third night: so the king ordered him to be sent to jail.

After him came several others; but they had all the same luck, and all lost their freedom in the same manner. Now it chanced that an old soldier, who had been wounded in battle and could fight no longer, passed through the country where this king reigned and decided he was willing to undertake the task.

Questions & Choices:

How many daughters does the king have?	**Five**	**Eleven**	**Six**	**Twelve**
Why did the first man get sent to jail by the king?	He lied to the king about where the princesses were going every night.	He failed to figure out what the princesses were dreaming about.	He fell asleep two nights in a row and did not protect the princesses as the king requested.	He fell asleep three nights in a row and did not figure out where the princesses were dancing.
What is the main idea of the passage?	The king wants find out where his daughters are sneaking off to every night.	The king wants to find out why the princesses are sleepwalking every night.	The princesses are dancing every night and making holes in their shoes.	The king hires men to find out where the princesses are dancing every night and they all fail.

Passage ID: 7

Passage:

Far up on the side of Blue Mountain lived Cuffy Bear with his father and mother and his little sister Silkie. Mr. Bear's house was quite the finest for many miles around. It was what people call a cave, being made entirely of stone, and so there was no danger of its ever catching fire; and since it was built straight into the side of the mountain the roof was so very, very thick that Cuffy's father never had to worry for fear a tree would fall upon his house and hurt his family. No matter how hard the wind blew, Mr. Bear was never afraid of that.

Little Cuffy was not a bad bear at heart. But often when he was playing with Silkie, his sister, he would lose his temper and cuff her on the head and make her cry. Then his father or his mother would cuff him. Somehow, he never could learn not to strike out when he became angry. That was why he was called Cuffy. It happened sometimes that a day or two would pass without Cuffy's cuffing his sister. And Mr. Bear and Mrs. Bear would begin to think that at last Cuffy had been cured of his bad habit.

"I do believe the child is growing better mannered," Mrs. Bear would say to her husband, as they watched their son and daughter playing upon the floor. And then just as likely as not, the first thing they knew Cuffy would give Silkie a good, hard box on the ear, or a slap right on the end of her nose.

But for a long time every winter Cuffy was never naughty. You might think that that was just before Christmas. But no—it was not then. All winter long Cuffy was just as good as could be.

Questions & Choices:

What is Cuffy's sister's name?	**Ms. Bear**	**Sunny**	**Sally**	**Silkie**
Where does the Bear family live?	Under a big oak tree.	In the woods.	Near the river.	In a cave.
What is the main idea of the passage?	Cuffy is a bad bear.	The Bear family lives in a cave.	Silkie Bear keeps hitting Cuffy.	Cuffy Bear keeps hitting his little sister.