New England Common Assessment Program

Released Items
2010

Grade 5
Reading

Reading

❶ Which sentence uses the word set to mean "changed"?

A. Ethan set an extra place at the dinner table for his guest.

B. Marisa set her clock back one hour to be on time.

C. The glue set before Cindy moved on to the next step.

D. John and Marty set a time to meet on the playground.

❷ An **antonym** (opposite meaning) for the word soak is

A. melt.

B. rub.

C. dry.

D. tear.

Read this folktale about a man with two sons. Then answer the questions that follow.

Treasure in the Field

a Vietnamese folktale
Retold by Marilyn Bolchunos

Once there was an old man who lived with his two young sons on a farm in Vietnam. The mother of the boys had died. Since the old man had to tend the field, the boys took care of the house. That is, they were supposed to take care of the house, but they were lazy.

Often the father returned home to find that nothing had been done—he even had to cook dinner.

"What have you been doing all day, Ta?" he would ask his older son.

"Studying, Father, and thinking," Ta would reply.

"And what have you been doing, Hai, my young son?" the father would ask.

"Watching the house for you," Hai would answer.

A neighbor asked the old man, "Are your sons helping you?"

"Oh, they would," the father answered, "but they are young, and they miss their mother."

Some years later, the neighbor asked, "Aren't your sons helping you in the field?"

"Oh, they would," the father replied again, "but they are still young. I will let them enjoy life now. They will help me later on."

As the years went by, it became clear even to their father that the boys were lazy. Though they sometimes tended the field with him, they always made excuses to go home early.

Finally the father grew too old to work, and he took to his bed. The sons were sad, for they not only depended on their father, but they also loved him.

One day the old man called Ta and Hai to his side and said weakly, "I have a secret to tell you, my sons. Bend close."

Hai and Ta leaned over to hear the secret.

"Before your mother died," the old man said, "we learned that there is treasure buried in the field. It's still there, but you must dig for it."

The sons' eyes widened.

"Treasure in the field?" Ta said.

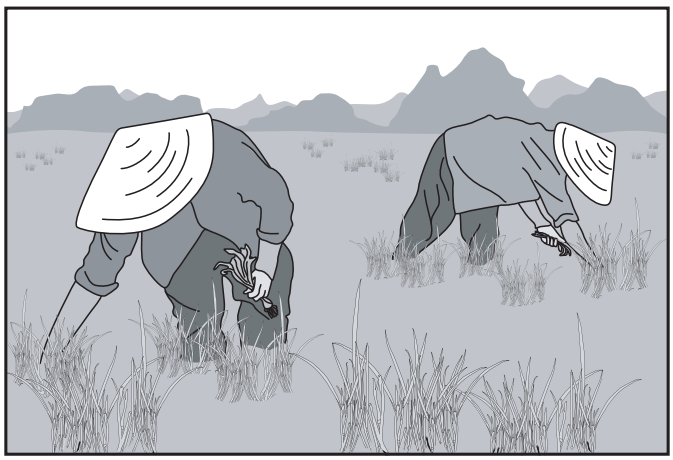
"Where?" asked Hai.

"Dig for it, and you will find it," said their father. "But promise me that you will share it equally."

The sons promised and hurried out to begin. Day after day they dug. Their neighbor was astonished to see how long and hard the young men worked. As for Ta and Hai, they felt stronger and better than ever before.

At last, the entire field had been dug, but no treasure had been found. The brothers moped around with their heads down.

Finally an idea came to Ta. "The land is ready for planting," he said to his brother. "And our rice is almost gone. You take one half of the field, and I'll take the other. We'll tend it just as Father did."



23 The days passed and the seedlings grew. In due time, the field gave an abundant harvest. There was rice to eat and rice to sell.

When the sons took the rice to the marketplace, it brought a good price.

Excited, Ta and Hai ran back to the house and approached their father's bedside. They dropped coins into the old man's hands.

"Look, Father," said Hai. "We have sold rice and brought you gold!"

"Yes," said Ta. "Just as you said, the treasure was in the field."

The old man smiled. They had learned his secret.

3. At the beginning of the folktale, what are the sons supposed to do at home?

   A. study their lessons
   B. plant the garden
   C. take care of the house
   D. guard the treasure

4. Which event happens **first** in the folktale?

   A. The father reveals his secret to his sons.
   B. The father admits that his sons are lazy.
   C. The sons dig up the entire field in search of gold.
   D. The neighbor asks if the sons are helping their father.

5. What **finally** convinces the father that his sons are lazy?

   A. The neighbor asks many questions about the sons' help.
   B. The sons continue to make excuses for not working.
   C. The father grows older and needs the sons' help.
   D. The sons continue to study and take care of the house.

6. How do the sons react to learning about the treasure in the field?

   A. They will not let anyone near the land.
   B. They fight over who will get the most.
   C. They work long and hard to find the treasure.
   D. They do not believe the story about the treasure.

7. Explain why the father tells the sons there is a treasure in the field. Use information from the folktale to support your answer.

8. Ta and Hai decide to plant the field because

A. their father asked them to do it.
B. they have already dug it up and are almost out of rice.
C. they are unhappy and need something to do.
D. their father explained what the treasure is.

9. In paragraph 23, the word abundant means that the harvest is

A. large.
B. difficult.
C. ready.
D. enjoyable.

10. At the end of the folktale, what will the sons **most likely** do next?

A. sell the land
B. tend the field
C. return to their studies
D. search for treasure

11. What is the message in this folktale?

A. Old people have much to learn.
B. Neighbors are not blind to the truth.
C. Treasure is not always made of gold.
D. There is more to life than work.

12. Identify how the sons change in the folktale. Use information from the folktale to support your answer.

Acknowledgments

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