

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Ask & Answer Questions

Read the short story and answer each question.



Taro and the Talking Drum

Long ago, in a village by the sea, a boy named Taro found a drum in the sand.

When he tapped it, the drum said, "Boom! Bring me to the chief!"

Taro blinked. A talking drum?

He carried it through the village.

Boom! "Help the fisherman!"

Taro saw a man whose boat was stuck. He pulled and pushed until the boat moved.

Boom! "Help the cook!"

He ran to the cook's hut and stirred the big soup pot.

At last, Taro reached the chief.

"You listened well," the chief said.

Taro smiled. "The drum helped me learn to listen."



Name: _____

Taro and the Talking Drum

1. What did the drum ask Taro to do first?

- A. Help the fisherman
- B. Go to the chief
- C. Help the cook
- D. Play a song

2. Why did Taro listen to the drum?

- A. It told him who needed help
- B. He wanted to play music
- C. He was scared of it
- D. He wanted to keep it

3. Fill in the blank:

Taro found the talking drum near the _____.

4. How did Taro's actions show he was a good listener?

5. What might have happened if Taro ignored the drum's voice?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: J

Lexile Level: 290L-450L

Grade Level: 1st Grade, End of the Year

Genre: Folktale

Introducing the Text

“Today we’re going to read a folktale about a boy named Taro who finds a magical drum. Let’s listen closely to what the drum says and how Taro decides what to do.”

Vocabulary: drum, chief, fisherman, village, listen

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What is a folktale?
 2. Have you ever read a story with a magical object?
 3. What do you think a talking drum might say?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What did the drum tell Taro to do?
 2. How did Taro help the fisherman and the cook?
 3. What did the chief say to Taro at the end?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. Why was it important that Taro listened to the drum?
 2. What does this story teach about helping others?
 3. Can you think of a time when you listened and helped someone?
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Activity Idea

Students create their own "talking drum" messages using construction paper drums and speech bubbles. Inside the speech bubbles, they write helpful things the drum might say, like “Clean your room!” or “Help your friend!” Then they present their drums to a partner and act out what they’d do.

