

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Retelling & Central Message

Read the short story and answer each question.



The Tale of the Bamboo Grove

Long ago, in a quiet village surrounded by a bamboo forest, lived a boy named Kenji. He was clever but often impatient.

One day, while walking in the grove, Kenji found a tiny bamboo shoot glowing in the sunlight. A scroll beside it read:

"Water me with patience, and I will grow to help your heart."

Kenji was curious. He watered the bamboo shoot every day for three days, but it hardly grew. "This must be broken," he muttered. The next day, he dumped the entire bucket of water on it. Still, it barely grew.

He returned to the grove angrily and kicked the soil. A wise old man who had been watching stepped forward. "Growth takes time, Kenji. Just like wisdom."

Kenji hung his head. He returned every day, watering carefully, waiting silently. After many weeks, the bamboo finally grew—**taller than all the others**. At its base was a second scroll:

"You have learned patience. Now your heart is ready to grow."



Name: _____

Milo and the Missing Beads

1. What lesson does Kenji learn by the end of the story?

- A. That magic scrolls are rare
- B. That waiting and patience bring results
- C. That bamboo is hard to find
- D. That he should never try gardening

2. What causes Kenji to finally see the bamboo grow?

- A. He waters it every few hours
- B. He ignores it for days
- C. He shows patience and keeps trying
- D. He asks the wise man to grow it for him

3. Fill in the blank:

Kenji found a glowing bamboo shoot and a _____ beside it.

4. What is the central message or moral of the story? How do Kenji's actions help reveal this message?

5. How does the wise old man help Kenji change?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: N

Lexile Level: 530L-680L

Grade Level: 3rd Grade, Beginning of the Year

Genre: Folktale

Introducing the Text

"Today we're reading a folktale about a boy who finds something unusual in a bamboo grove. As you read, think about the character's actions and what he learns. We'll be working to find the central message and how the story's events help teach it."

Vocabulary: grove, scroll, glowing, wisdom, impatient

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you know about bamboo or folktales from other cultures?
 2. What do you think it means to "water something with patience"?
 3. Have you ever had to wait a long time for something to happen?
-

During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What did Kenji do when the bamboo didn't grow right away?
 2. What advice did the old man give Kenji?
 3. What changed about Kenji's actions after that moment?
-

After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What is the lesson Kenji learned, and how did his actions lead to it?
 2. Why do you think the bamboo only grew after Kenji showed patience?
 3. How is this story like a fable or a myth you may have read before?
-

Activity Idea

Have students create a **"Patience Tree" bulletin board**. Each student writes one way they've had to be patient in their lives on a leaf-shaped cutout. Then, build a classroom tree out of brown paper and attach the leaves to its branches. Reflect together on how patience helps us grow, just like Kenji.

