

A young boy in India spends an afternoon with his dadaji (grandfather). It is monsoon season—a rainy season that lasts from June to September.

from **Monsoon Afternoon**

1 Outside I saw dark clouds roll like ocean waves across the sky. The temple flag fluttered loudly. The peacocks called out, *tahoonk, tahoonk*.

2 The dogs woke up and stretched their legs, and the cows got up and left. Ants scurried across the ground as if the earth were one big maze.

3 I counted the raindrops, one, two, three. Soon there were too many to count. On the patio, the rain fell fast, cutting the heat in half.

4 "Dadima, can you come out and play?" I asked.

5 "Not now. I want to drink my tea," she said, going in the kitchen.

6 I peeked in Mommy's room. "Please, come out and play."

7 "Not now. My patients are waiting for me at the clinic," she said, picking up her umbrella.

8 "Pappa, will you come out?"

9 "Not now. I have to finish this story," he said, scribbling in his notepad.

10 "Jai, let's play," I said to my brother.

11 "Not now. I'm hungry," he said, picking up one banana and two guavas.

12 I stuck my face out the door and caught some raindrops on my forehead.

13 "What are you doing?" asked Dadaji.

14 "Nothing," I sighed.

15 "You look as glum as an ink pot. What's the matter?"

16 "No one wants to go out and play with me."

17 "Are you sure?" Dadaji's mustache shook slightly, and I saw a smile hiding in it.

18 The old washtub was almost full of rainwater. "Can we sail boats?" I asked.

19 "Of course we can," Dadaji said.

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22 "It looks like you are wearing pearl earrings," I said to Dadaji. When he shook his head, they fell off, but two new raindrops slid in their places.

23 By now the rain was tired. It sprinkled just one tiny drop after another.

24 "Let's take a walk, Dadaji," I said.

25 I looked at the ground and there were no cracks.

26 "What happened to all the ants?" I asked.

27 "They are all safe and snug in their homes," Dadaji replied.

28 We stopped to watch a peacock dancing.

29 When we drew closer, it silently spread its beautiful tail feathers.

- 30 "Look how shiny the leaves of the banyan tree are now," I said, picking up a wet fallen leaf.
- 31 "They are," Dadaji said, smiling. "Do you want to swing?"
- 32 He lifted me up. I grabbed the roots of the banyan tree and swung back and forth.
- 33 Then he lifted me onto his shoulders.
- 34 "Dadaji, did you ever swing on this banyan tree?"
- 35 "Oh yes. Very often," he said.
- 36 I tried to imagine Dadaji swinging on the banyan tree.
- 37 I tried to imagine him as small as me, sitting on his dadaji's shoulders.
- 38 "Did monsoon come when you were little?" I asked.
- 39 "Of course. Monsoon came every year when I was little. Just like it does now."
- 40 "Did peacocks dance in the rain and did ants disappear when you were little?"
- 41 Dadaji nodded. "They always did."
- 42 "Will monsoon come when I become a dadaji?"
- 43 "Yes, it will," Dadaji replied.

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Glossary

Dadaji grandfather

Dadima grandmother

Pappa father

Item 1

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.2 - Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.

This question has two parts. Answer Part A, and then answer Part B.

Part A

What is the main message at the end of the passage?

- 1. There are many quiet and calm ways to have fun.
- 2. Some events in life happen over and over again.
- 3. Even adults can learn from playing simple games.
- 4. Plans must be changed when the weather changes.

Part B

Choose two details from the passage that best support the correct answer from Part A.

- | |
|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. "Look how shiny the leaves of the banyan tree are now,' I said" (Paragraph 30) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. "I grabbed the roots of the banyan tree and swung" (Paragraph 32) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. "Then he lifted me onto his shoulders." (Paragraph 33) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. "Of course. Monsoon came every year when I was little." (Paragraph 39) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. "Dadaji nodded. 'They always did.'" (Paragraph 41) |

Item 2:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.3 - Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

This question has two parts. Answer Part A, and then answer Part B.

Part A

How does the boy feel in paragraphs 12–16?

- 1. He feels foolish and angry.
- 2. He feels sad and disappointed.
- 3. He feels surprised and curious.
- 4. He feels excited and interested.

Part B

What happens in the passage because of the boy's actions in paragraphs 12–16?

- 1. The ants return to their homes.
- 2. Jai stays inside to eat some fruit.
- 3. Dadaji agrees to come play outside.
- 4. The peacock spreads its tail feathers.

Item 3:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.4 - Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language

This sentence is from the passage.

"By now the rain was tired." (Paragraph 23)

What do the words the rain was tired mean in the sentence?

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|--|
| <input type="radio"/> 1. The sky looks a little darker. |
| <input type="radio"/> 2. The rain is falling more lightly. |
| <input type="radio"/> 3. The boy wants to go inside again. |
| <input type="radio"/> 4. The rain makes the boy feel sleepy. |