

Chapter 16: The Magic Waterfall

Fill in the blanks

1. Taro was a poor _____ who lived with his elderly parents on a hillside.
2. Taro's _____ wished for sake to warm his bones on a cold evening.
3. The magic waterfall gave Taro delicious _____ instead of water.
4. When Taro first tasted the waterfall's liquid, he drank it from his _____.
5. After drinking the magic liquid, Taro's father stopped _____ and even danced.
6. The neighbor spread the news about the waterfall throughout the _____.
7. The villagers brought containers like _____ and _____ to collect the magic liquid.
8. For the villagers, the waterfall only produced _____, not sake.
9. The angry villagers wanted to _____ Taro for tricking them.
10. The waterfall rewarded Taro's _____ for his parents, not greed.

Multiple choice questions

1. Why does the author emphasize Taro's poverty early in the story?
 - a) To criticize societal inequality
 - b) To highlight his selflessness despite hardship
 - c) To explain why he hated being a woodcutter
 - d) To make the magic seem more surprising
2. The line "My poor old father ! If only he was as warm as I !" reveals Taro's:

- a) Guilt for working outdoors
 - b) Desire to show off his strength
 - c) Fear of winter
 - d) Deep empathy and filial love
3. What literary device is used when the waterfall gives sake only to Taro?
- a) Foreshadowing
 - b) Symbolism (reward for virtue)
 - c) Hyperbole
 - d) Onomatopoeia
4. How does the neighbor's reaction to the sake advance the plot?
- a) Shows her generosity
 - b) Proves the sake is poisonous
 - c) Triggers the villagers' greed
 - d) Makes Taro famous
5. The villagers' anger stems from their:
- a) Frustration over unmet expectations (Correct)
 - b) Belief in Taro's witchcraft
 - c) Jealousy of Taro's strength
 - d) Dislike of sake
6. Why does the waterfall stop working for others?

- a) Taro secretly cursed it
- b) Magic responds to pure intentions
- c) The villagers used wrong containers
- d) It was a dream

7. Taro hiding behind the rock symbolizes his:

- a) Fear of confrontation
- b) Desire to hoard the sake
- c) Wisdom in avoiding conflict
- d) Shame about the magic

8. Which detail best shows the father's joy after drinking sake?

- a) "He stopped shivering"
- b) "Did a little dance"
- c) "Thanked the neighbor"
- d) "Offered more to guests"

9. What cultural value does this Japanese folktale promote?

- a) Respect for elders and selflessness
- b) Importance of hard work
- c) Distrust of neighbors
- d) Celebration of alcohol

10. How might the story differ if Taro kept the waterfall secret?

- a) Villagers would never know
- b) His father might recover faster
- c) The magic would disappear
- d) The moral about sharing would be lost (Correct)

Taro was a woodcutter; similarly there are many people who help us. Read the description and choose the best job title from the options.

1. "I cut and style hair, give shaves, and help people look their best."

- a) Chef
- b) Librarian
- c) Barber
- d) Farmer

2. "I design buildings, draw blueprints, and make sure structures are safe."

- a) Architect
- b) Plumber
- c) Cashier
- d) Nurse

3. "I rescue people from fires, teach fire safety, and drive a big red truck."

- a) Dentist
- b) Firefighter
- c) Mail Carrier

d) Teacher

4. "I grow crops like wheat and vegetables, and take care of farm animals."

a) Pilot

b) Mechanic

c) Farmer

d) Artist

5. "I fix leaky pipes, install sinks, and repair water systems in homes."

a) Plumber

b) Veterinarian

c) Police Officer

d) Baker