

The Art of Storytelling

Before television came to Japan, children were entertained by *kamishibai*. Kamishibai is paper theater. Each day, the kamishibai man rode his bicycle into town and smacked two wooden blocks together. *Clack! Clack!* The children rushed outside. As the kamishibai man told his tales, he held up cards. On the cards were scenes he had painted that brought his stories to life.

Allen Say is an author and illustrator. He grew up in Japan. He has written and illustrated a new book called *Kamishibai Man*. In it, Say's watercolor paintings tell the story of his favorite childhood memory.

"The sound of those clappers!" Say remembered, "I waited for it all afternoon."

The Art of Storytelling *(cont.)*

Directions: Answer these questions. You may look at the article.

1. What is *kamishibai*?
 - a. It is a kind of Japanese food.
 - b. It is a card game.
 - c. It is paper theater.
2. How did the kamishibai man let children know he arrived?
 - a. He called to them in the street.
 - b. He made loud sounds using wooden blocks.
 - c. He put flyers up around town.

3. What did Allen Say do?

4. What kind of artwork does he do?

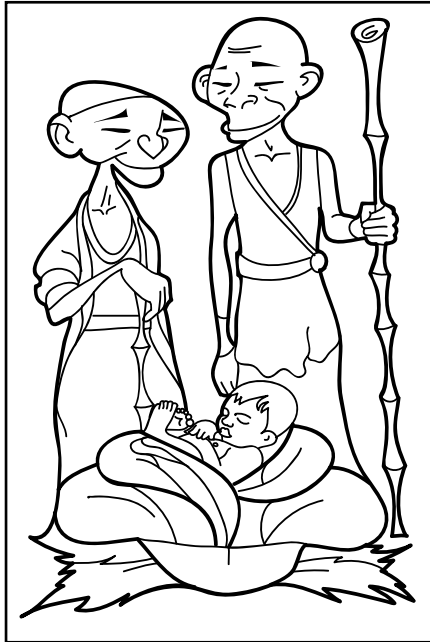
5. How did he know about the kamishibai man?

6. Do you think life is better or worse with television? Explain your answer.

7. What kinds of things do you think children did before they had television and electronics? How do you think your life would be different if you did not have any of those things?

The Art of Storytelling *(cont.)*

Directions: Look at the kamishibai cards. Respond to the prompt below.



Imagine you are the kamishibai man telling a story to children. Write a short story based on these pictures. Give your story a beginning, middle, and end.

Make Room for the New Kids

Most kids get nervous before the school year starts. Michelle Meyers, 10, was extra worried. "I'm afraid I'm going to get lost!" Michelle said before her first day. She is a new student at W.S. Boardman Elementary in Oceanside, New York.

About one out of seven kids move each year. Like Michelle, most of them end up at a new school. This year, schools may see many more new faces.

David Kerbow studies why kids change schools. He and other experts say that a law called the *No Child Left Behind Act* is one reason more kids are changing schools. The law lets parents switch kids to schools where test scores are higher. Kerbow also says that when people are out of work, "families are more likely to move in search of jobs." It is a hard time for workers.

Being new can be tough. Schools like Hopkins Academy in Texas try to make it easier. New students visit their classrooms with their parents before school starts. They tour the building and meet teachers and students. Michelle's visit to Boardman helped make her first day fun. She didn't get lost! "By noon, I knew my way around the whole school," she says. She isn't nervous anymore!

Make Room for the New Kids *(cont.)*

Directions: Answer these questions. You may look at the article.

1. How old was Michele Meyers when she moved?
 - a. She was six years old.
 - b. She was 10 years old.
 - c. She was 14 years old.

2. What is the name of her new school?
 - a. Oceanside Academy
 - b. Hopkins Academy
 - c. W.S. Boardman Elementary

3. What law lets parents switch kids to schools where test scores are higher? Do you think that is a good thing or not? Explain your answer.

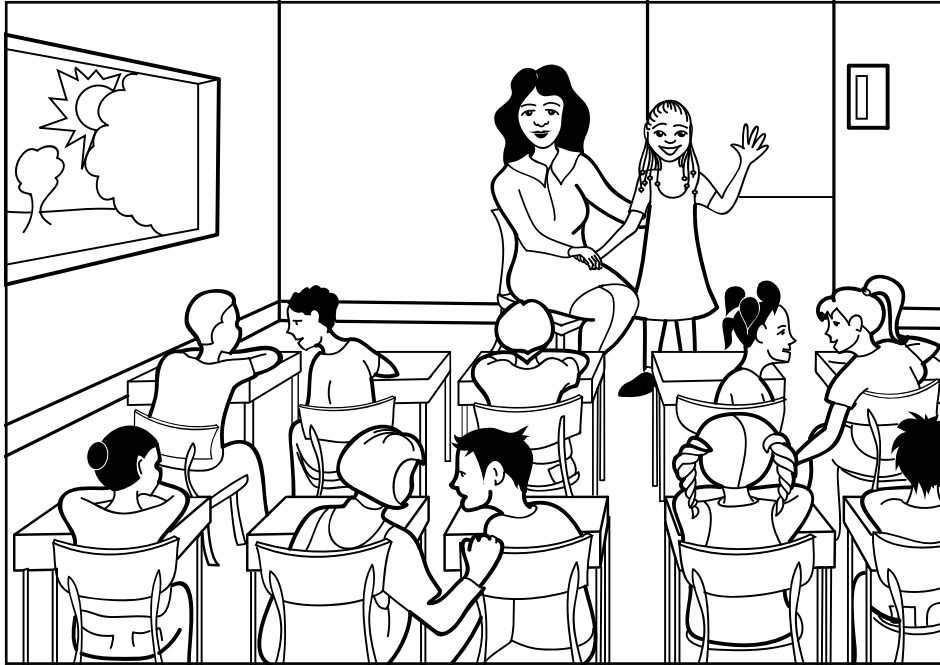
4. Did you have a tour of your school before your first day? If so, did it make your first day easier? If not, do you think it would have? Explain your answer.

5. How would you feel if you had to switch schools? Describe how you would feel about starting at a new school where you did not know anyone.

6. Everyone is nervous or excited on the first day of school. What are some of the things that made you feel less nervous and more comfortable about the first few days or weeks of a new school year?

Make Room for the New Kids *(cont.)*

Directions: Look at the picture. Answer the questions.



1. It is the girl's first day at her new school. How do you think she feels?

2. If you were a student in that class, how would you treat the new girl on her first day? Would you go up and talk to her? How would you want to be treated if you were the new kid in class?

3. Think of a time you felt like you did not belong. What did you do to handle the situation?
