Advanced - Story 30

Class Objective- I am able to read and understand a story, learn new vocabulary and answer related questions.

Concept A: The magic tea kettle

Once upon a time there lived a poor man who had an antique store. One day he found a tanuki (raccoon dog) caught in a trap. Feeling sorry for the creature, he set it free.

The tanuki visited the man that night. "Thank you very much for your kindness," he said. "As a token of my gratitude, I will tell you something valuable. The priest at the temple is looking for a tea kettle. I will disguise myself as a tea kettle so that you can sell it to him." The tanuki then somersaulted into the air and transformed himself into a splendid gold tea kettle.

The man took the tea kettle to the temple priest the next day, who said, "What a beautiful tea kettle!" The priest was very pleased with the kettle, and paid a high price for it.

After the priest brought the tea kettle back with him to the temple, he ordered a novice priest to wash it. The novice priest promptly went to the river behind the temple and began to scrub the tea kettle hard. Suddenly the tea kettle cried, "You're hurting me! Please wash me a bit more gently." The novice priest was astounded, and told the priest, "The tea kettle spoke!" But the priest did not believe him. "Nonsense! It is not possible for a tea kettle to speak," he said.

The priest then decided to boil some water. He filled the tea kettle and placed it on the fire. The tanuki, disguised as the tea kettle, was shocked. "It's hot!" he screamed. Unable to stand the flames, the tanuki half-transformed back into his true form and ran back to the poor man's home.

That night, the tanuki offered an idea to the man. "Let's go into town together," he suggested. "I will remain in this tea kettle form and perform a tightrope walk, so please gather some people to watch me."

So the man and the tanuki went into town the next day, and the man set up a show tent. "Come one, come all, and see the amazing tea kettle tightrope walking show!" he loudly announced at the entrance. Inside, the tanuki tea kettle nimbly walked across the rope, drummed his belly and sang.

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