



BOTCHAN

NATSUME SOSEKI

A1
YOUNG ADULT READERS

ACTIVITY

Match each question with an answer.

awake - blessed - dead - die - dissolved - myriads
neither - rain - solitude - tempest - towards - wild

- 1 Did Botchan want to sleep in the school to look after the boarding students?
- 2 Was it easy for Botchan to sleep in a strange bed?
- 3 Did Botchan have the same food as the students?
- 4 Were the principal and Porcupine surprised to see Botchan out after his bath?
- 5 Did Botchan get a big surprise when he got into bed?
- 6 Did the students always tell the truth?
- 7 Was it easy for Botchan to trust Kiyo?
- 8 Did Badger the tell boys to go to class immediately?

- a Yes, he did.
- b Yes, they were.
- c Yes, it was.
- d No, he didn't.
- e No, they didn't.
- f Yes, he did.
- g No, it wasn't.
- h Yes, he did.



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TEST YOURSELF

What do you know about the teachers at Botchan's school?

Name and job	Description	Nickname	What Botchan thinks
School Principal		Badger	
head teacher			has a high voice like a girl
Mr. Koga, English teacher			
Mr. Hotta			
Mathematics teacher	a big man; has strange hair; does not look at Botchan's certificate;		
laughs; is Botchan's boss; is often angry but is a good man			
Another teacher		-	-
Art teacher			Botchan doesn't like this man's clothes "Western is western and Japanese is Japanese"; Botchan does not like him



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TEST YOURSELF

Name and job	Description	Nickname	What Botchan thinks
School Principal	has big moustache and big eyes; laughs	Badger	is an important man, and he knows it!
Botchan thinks he is strange			has a high voice like a girl
head teacher	important man, has a certificate from Imperial University;		
wears a red shirt	Red Shirt	has a high voice like a girl	
Mr. Koga, English teacher	has a very white face; he is a big man	Squash	people with white faces are often thin; Botchan thinks Mr. Koga ate too much squash
Mr. Hotta			
Mathematics teacher	a big man; has strange hair; does not look at Botchan's certificate;	-	-
laughs; is Botchan's boss; is often angry but is a good man	Porcupine	Hotta is like a porcupine; Botchan thinks he is strange; doesn't like him at first	Botchan doesn't like this man's clothes "Western is western and Japanese is Japanese"; Botchan does not like him
Another teacher	likes to talk a lot and asked many questions	-	-
Art teacher	wears a thin western coat over his kimono; comes from Tokyo	Clown	Botchan doesn't like this man's clothes "Western is western and Japanese is Japanese"; Botchan does not like him



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FOCUS ON...

SŌSEKI AS A ROBOT

Nishogakusha University is getting a new professor, an android version of literary giant Natsume Sōseki that will teach classes in commemoration of the opening of the 140-year-old institution in 2017.

2016 also marks the centennial of the death of the novelist who studied Chinese literature at the private university in Tokyo.

In cooperation with Hiroshi Ishiguro, a robotics researcher at Osaka University, the university plans to have the Sōseki robot read the author's own works, as well as some Chinese poems.

"It's often said that high school students today don't read books," said Kaori Echigoya, a spokeswoman for the university. "We appreciate Japanese language education. By duplicating Sōseki through the support of professor Ishiguro, we would like to increase interest in reading and literature among students."

Besides, to make the android appear as real and lifelike as possible, the team building it is using a death mask of the novelist that belongs to the Asahi Shimbun newspaper. For this reason, the university scanned the mask to create a three-dimensional image of his face.

