What's in the Book?

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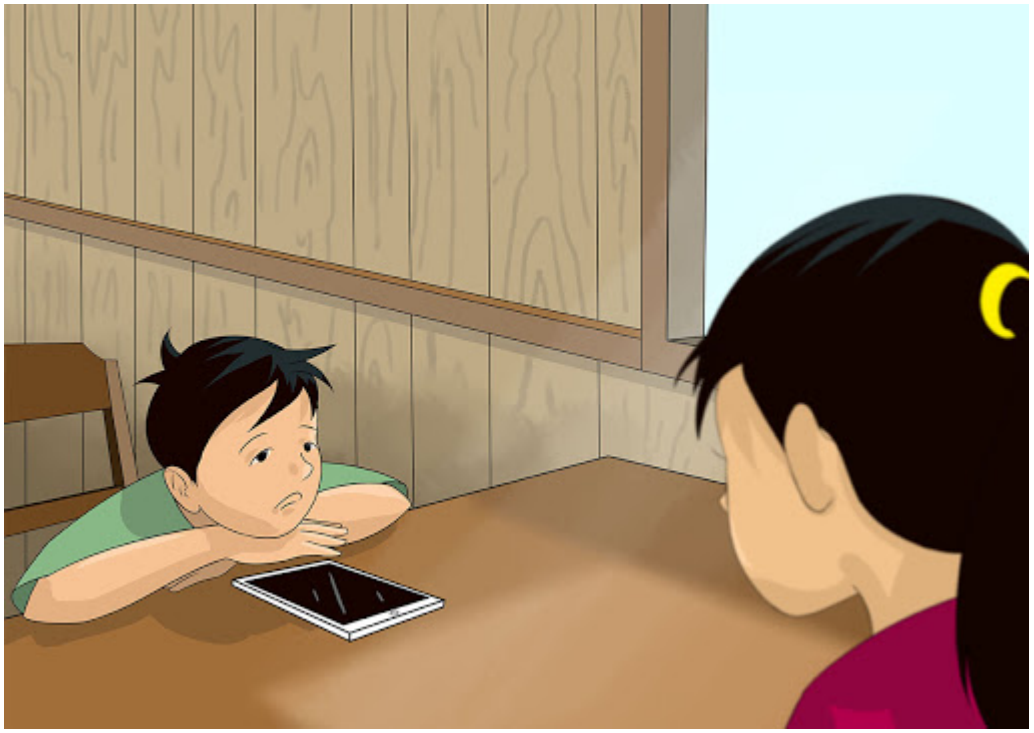
Let's Read

The Asia Foundation

Vitou loved playing with his computer tablet. But while he was playing one day, he noticed his sister, Vatey, preparing to study. His father often set up competitions between them and there was another one that night. He didn’t want her to win!

Vitou went inside to see what she was reading. 'What are we competing in tonight?' Vitou asked her. 'We won't be playing sports this time. Tonight Dad is going to ask us about things we've learned in books. I might beat you for once!' she replied.



Vitou was worried. He has been playing games on his tablet so often that he had not studied lately.

When their father came home that night, he told them it was time for the competition. Vitou and Vatey sat down together. Vatey answered several questions correctly. But Vitou did not get any right!

Finally, their father said, 'Vitou, here is the last question. What is the shape of Earth?' Vitou was not sure, but tried to answer. 'The shape of the earth is … is … I don't know!' Vitou's father shook his head sadly. 'You should do more studying, Vitou. Do you know the answer, Vatey?'

Vatey replied with a smile, ’I remember, Dad! The earth has a round shape.” That night, Vatey won the competition!

The next day, Vitou asked Vatey how she knew so many answers. ’From books!’ she replied. ’If you want to know the answers from the competition last night, just read what is in this book.’

Vitou thought about what Vatey suggested. If he spent more time reading then he would not be able to play games on his tablet. But if he did not read, then he would lose the next competition to his sister!

Vitou decided to put his tablet into a drawer and find some books to read. But he did not know which one to choose!

Vitou saw that Vatey was reading a science book. So he decided to try one too. Surely he could finish it in one afternoon.

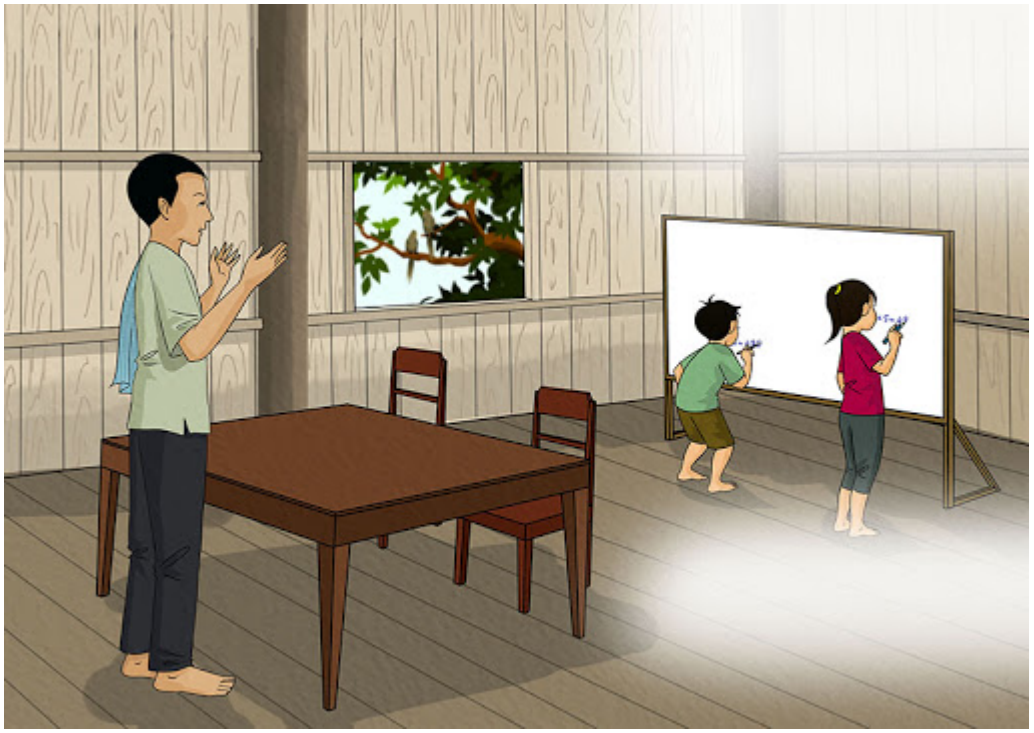
But after reading a bit, Vitou fell asleep and began snoring. He had read so quickly through so many pages that his dreams were full of creatures that looked like strange combinations of each other!

When Vitou woke up, he tried to return to reading. But there were so many pages and so much information! How would he ever finish and remember it all?

He saw Vatey was no longer reading. 'Did you finish the book already, Vatey?' he asked in surprise. 'How do you read so much and remember everything?' 'Not yet,' she answered. 'But I have finished the pages I decided to read today. Then tomorrow I will read a few more. If I read a few pages each day, I can learn a lot and not get confused!'

Vitou decided to try this idea himself. He read a few pages every day, and every day he learned something new! By the end of the week he had no problem with putting away his tablet and getting out a book. He read books on science, history, and math. It was fun!

Soon it was time for another competition. Vitou knew he was ready this time!



Dad explained that this competition would be in math. Vitou and Vatey rushed to the board to begin. Who would win this time?

’Congratulations, Vitou!’ said his dad after he got the final answer correct. ’You have won the most improved student award this week!’ Vitou was so proud of himself. So was Vatey! That evening, Vitou and Vatey were already reading again. They couldn’t wait for the next competition!

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