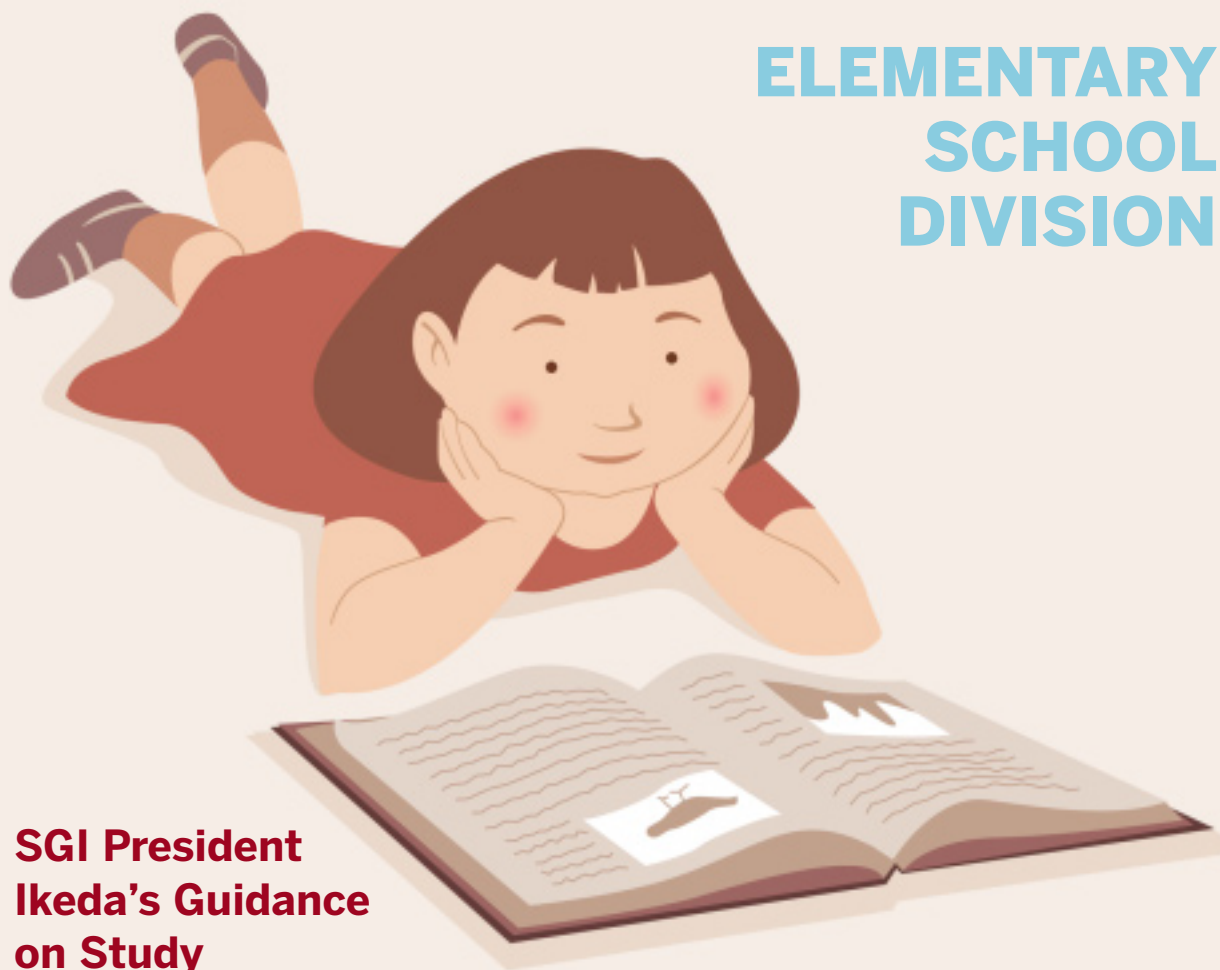


To submit articles, experiences, photos and artwork to *Friends for Peace*, please e-mail ffp@sgi-usa.org.

FRIENDS for Peace

OCTOBER 2
2009

Experiences,
Inspiration
and Fun for the
Elementary
School Division



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DIVISION

Buddhist Learning Review

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SGI President Ikeda's Guidance on Study

“Exert yourself in the two ways of practice and study. Without practice and study, there can be no Buddhism. You must not only persevere yourself; you must also teach others. Both practice and study arise from faith. Teach others to the best of your ability, even if it is only a single sentence or phrase” (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 1, p. 386).

“When faith deepens, practice and study progress, and when practice and study progress, faith deepens. Through this chain of cause and effect, our lives are filled with benefit that can vanquish (overcome) the negative and bring forth the positive; we are assured of true happiness and can accumulate everlasting good fortune” (Sept. 8, 2006, *World Tribune*, p. 7).



“I became what I am today because I encountered a great mentor, [second Soka Gakkai president] Josei Toda, during my youthful days. I studied seriously under him, fought through every difficulty and wholeheartedly received training. I ask you, my successors, to

challenge yourselves in every endeavor, including your studies and extracurricular activities, with the spirit of a lion king by resonantly chanting Nam-myoho-renge-kyo, the supreme Law of life underlying the vast universe. Please grow into magnificent leaders of wisdom who can contribute greatly to society” (Message to the 2009 SGI-USA FNCC Family Conference).



“I hope you will all become people who can wholeheartedly, honestly say of your youth that you read as much as you could and gave your all to your studies!” (*Faith into Action*, p. 63).



“Let’s read *The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin* regularly. Even just a little is fine. Even a single sentence. Just opening it is a start. At any rate, let’s strive to read Nichiren Daishonin’s writings. It’s important to have the spirit to study *The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, to open it up. Even if you forget what you’ve read, something profound will have been engraved in the depths of your life” (*Faith into Action*, p. 168).



“Nothing great is achieved without serious effort. There is no easy road to learning. Study so hard that you surprise everyone. That tremendous effort will become a wonderful, noble, fulfilling memory

of your youth. It will be a proud medal of honor.

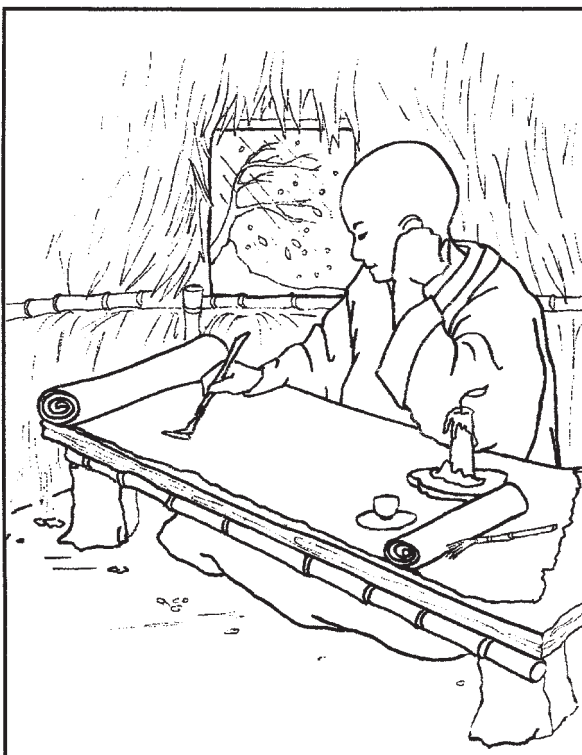
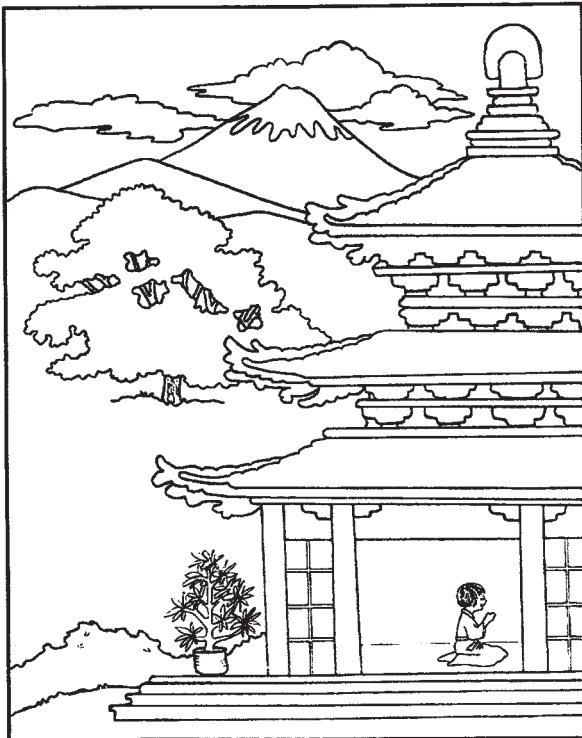
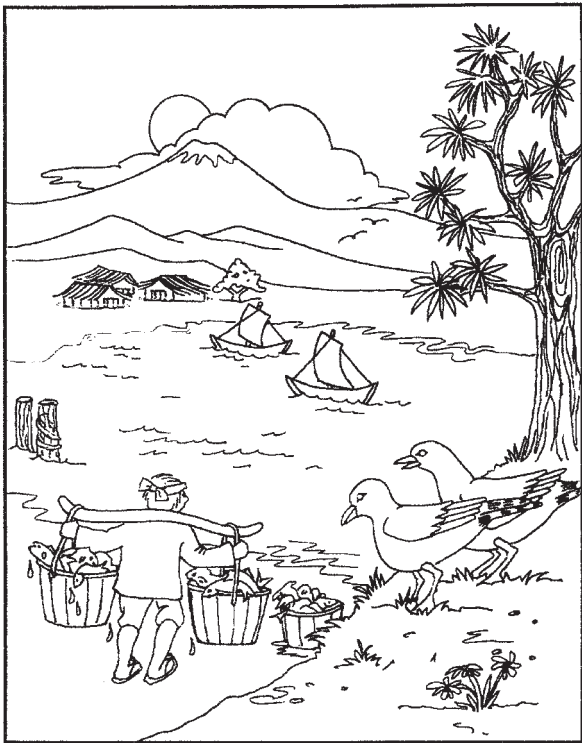
It is your right as a human being to cherish a dream of what you would like to do—something that is just right for you—and then it is your obligation to continue to challenge yourself to achieve it. ...

We are now living in the information age. If you do not continue to study throughout your life, you will soon be left behind” (*The Way of Youth*, pp. 67–68).



“As long as we continue to study *The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin* and put its teachings into practice, we will definitely never become deadlocked” (*Faith into Action*, p. 166).

You can color these pages from the *Life of Nichiren Daishonin Coloring Book*



2009 Elementary School Division

Buddhist Learning Review

Do your best, and see how much you've learned! ESD Learning Review materials can be found at www.sgi-usa.org/youth/esd.

SECTION 1: Life of Nichiren:

(Circle the letter for the best answer to the questions below)

1. Nichiren prayed to be the _____ man in Japan.

- A) most handsome
- B) richest
- C) wisest
- D) nicest

2. Nichiren was the first person to _____.

- A) walk on the moon
- B) teach others to chant
Nam-myoho-renge-kyo
- C) study the Lotus Sutra
- D) write a letter

3. For the last part of his life, Nichiren lived _____.

- A) over the river and through the woods
- B) at Mount Minobu
- C) in a pineapple under the sea
- D) in a galaxy far, far away

4. What happened on the beach at Tatsunokuchi? _____.

- A) Soldiers swam in the ocean
- B) There was a picnic
- C) Nichiren recited poetry
- D) A comet scared the soldiers

5. Nichiren's father was _____.

- A) a fisherman
- B) a banker
- C) in a band
- D) the prime minister of Japan

6. Sado Island is _____.

- A) a water park in Japan
- B) where Nichiren lived in a tiny hut
- C) where Nichiren was born
- D) a new ride at Disneyland

7. What did Nichiren do to help people understand Buddhism? _____.

- A) Blogged on the Internet
- B) Went on the Oprah show
- C) Wrote letters
- D) Taught at Soka University

8. What did Nichiren create to help all people for all eternity? _____.

- A) Chocolate
- B) The Gohonzon
- C) The Wii
- D) The SGI

SECTION 2: Writings of Nichiren:

(These are the titles of three letters that Nichiren wrote. Using the number for each of these titles, fill in the blanks for the statements below. You will use each number more than once, and some statements will have more than one number in the answer.)

1) The Dragon Gate	2) Letter to Misawa	3) Winter Always Turns to Spring
---------------------------	----------------------------	---

9. In this letter, we learn about carp trying to climb a waterfall. _____

10. This letter was written to Nanjo Tokimitsu. _____

11. This letter encourages us to face our challenges. _____

12. The name of the person who received this letter appears in the title. _____

13. This letter was written to a woman whose husband had died. _____

14. Nichiren wrote this letter from Mt. Minobu. _____

(Match these quotations to the correct letter from Nichiren)

15. "I, Nichiren, have long been aware of all this and therefore know how difficult it is for an ordinary person ... to become a Buddha in this lifetime." _____

16. "Those who believe in the Lotus Sutra are as if in winter, but winter always turns to spring." _____

17. "Nor have we ever heard of a believer in the Lotus Sutra who turned into an ordinary [unenlightened] person." _____

SECTION 3: Concepts: (Use this list of words to answer the questions below.)

absolute	obstacles	darkness	SGI-USA	mentor
actual	resistance	doubt	documentary	relative
benefits	Buddha nature	others	faith	Soka

18. Of the three proofs, this one has to do with what has been written. _____

19. This is the most important of the three proofs. _____

20. This kind of happiness comes from inside and isn't changed by what is going on around us. _____

21. This kind of happiness is based on getting or having stuff, and it changes all the time. _____

22. This kind of spirit reminds us that everyone has a Buddha nature. _____

23. These are the things we have to overcome to reach our goals. _____

24. This is a feeling that something is not true. _____

25. The devil king isn't a real person. It is an idea that stands for our own fundamental _____.

26. Of faith, practice and study, this part is about our belief in Nichiren Buddhism. _____

27. When we practice, we practice for ourselves and who else? _____

28. When something tries to move forward, it first meets with this. _____

29. Along with fundamental darkness, we also have this inside of us. _____

30. This is our Buddhist organization. _____

31. Another name for teacher. _____

32. When we practice Nichiren Buddhism, we get these good things. _____

“You are like a mountain concealing a precious gem. Precious gems start out buried underground. If they are not mined, they’ll stay buried. And if they aren’t polished once they’ve been dug out, they will remain forever in the rough. What a shame it would be to end your life without having uncovered your inner jewel. So when parents or teachers tell you to study hard, they are saying, in effect, by plunging into any area that interests you, you can unearth the jewel in your life and find satisfaction in making it sparkle” (SGI President Ikeda, *The Way of Youth*, p. 90).

JUST FOR FUN

Can you reach these jewels buried in the mountain?



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ESD Buddhist Learning Review Answer Key—No peeking till you’re done!

- 1. C 2. B 3. B 4. D 5. A 6. B 7. C 8. B 9. 1 10. 1 11. 1 12. 3 13. 3 14. 1 15. 2 16. 3 17. 3 18. documentary 19. actual 20. absolute 21. relative
- 22. Soka 23. obstacles 24. doubt 25. darkness 26. faith 27. others 28. resistance 29. Buddha nature 30. SGI-USA 31. mentor 32. benefits