

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## The Boy Who Drew Cats

In a small village in ancient Japan, there lived a young boy named Taro. Unlike other children who enjoyed playing outdoors, Taro had a deep passion for drawing cats. His fascination with cats was so intense that he spent most of his days indoors, filling scroll after scroll with intricate cat illustrations.

Taro's family was concerned about his obsession and urged him to take up more practical hobbies, like farming or fishing. But Taro couldn't resist the allure of his beloved cats. He had a natural talent for capturing their likeness with his brush and ink.

One day, Taro's family decided to send him to a nearby Buddhist temple to become a priest's apprentice. They hoped that a life of devotion and meditation would help him overcome his unusual fascination with cats. Taro agreed to go, but he carried his passion for drawing cats with him to the temple.

At the temple, Taro diligently studied Buddhist scriptures and practiced meditation. However, he couldn't suppress his desire to draw cats. During his meditation sessions, he would often doodle feline figures on the margins of his texts.

One night, as Taro was sleeping in the temple, a monstrous cat yokai (a supernatural creature) entered the temple grounds. The yokai was enormous, with fiery eyes and sharp fangs. It terrorized the temple, causing chaos and destruction. The monks tried to fend it off, but their efforts were in vain.

Taro, awakened by the commotion, grabbed his brush and ink and rushed to confront the monstrous cat. With unwavering determination, he drew a circle of cats on the temple floor, each cat more intricate than the last. As he finished the final cat, he placed his brush at the center, drawing a kotodama (a word of power) to seal the yokai's evil spirit.

As the kotodama glowed, the monstrous cat let out a terrifying scream before vanishing into thin air. Taro's incredible artwork had banished the malevolent yokai from the temple.

The monks and villagers were astounded by Taro's bravery and his ability to use his passion for drawing cats to save the temple. From that day forward, they embraced his unique talent, and Taro continued to create his intricate cat drawings. His art not only brought joy to those around him but also protected the temple from any future threats.

