



BOTCHAN

NATSUME SOSEKI

A1
YOUNG ADULT READERS

ACTIVITIES

Put these irregular verbs in the correct form.

I **1** _____ (to take) the train to Kobe, then the boat from Kobe to Shikoku.

Our boat **2** _____ (to be) very big. A man **3** _____ (to come) in a small boat to the big boat.

We all **4** _____ (to get in). I was first. The man did not have his shirt. It was hot! The sun was very strong. The water was like a mirror.

I **5** _____ (to find) the train station and **6** _____ (to buy) my ticket. It was very cheap. The train was very small.

I **7** _____ (to get off) after five minutes. That is why the ticket was cheap, I **8** _____ (to think).



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TEST YOURSELF

What do you know about Botchan, his friends and family?

NAME	LIKE BOTCHAN?	OTHER INFORMATION
Botchan's mother		
Botchan's father		
Botchan's brother		
Old servant, Kiyō		
Botchan's neighbours		
Local farmer		



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TEST YOURSELF

NAME	LIKE BOTCHAN?	OTHER INFORMATION
Botchan's mother	No	Told Botchan to study and work hard to have money. She died when Botchan was very young
Botchan's father	No	Didn't want to leave Botchan any money when he died. always angry with Botchan
Botchan's brother	No	Botchan and his brother fought every day. Once Botchan cut his brother;
his brother studied English and wanted to work in a company	Red Shirt	has a high voice like a girl
Old servant, Kiyo	Yes	Loves Botchan; tries to help him
Botchan's neighbours	No	Botchan was a bully
Local farmer	No	The rice in his field died because Botchan stopped the water; the farmer was very angry
Art teacher	wears a thin western coat over his kimono; comes from Tokyo	Clown



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FOCUS ON...

An important part of London will close



A museum in London dedicated to novelist Sōseki Natsume, who spent two years in the British capital, plans to close in September 2017 due to financial difficulties amid declining visitors. In 2017 marks 150 years since Sōseki's birth, and the Sōseki Museum will finally close its doors after more than 30 years because of this anniversary. The museum is located in the city's Clapham district in South London, across the street from one of the lodging houses where Sōseki stayed while in the British capital between 1900 and 1902. It has more than 2,000 items related to Sōseki including a copy of a 1901 census by the Public Record Office

of Britain that lists his name and photographs of the district at the time of his stay. Sōseki was sponsored by the Japanese government to study the English language and British literature during his visit to the country. The museum is open three days a week between February and September. The number of visitors has kept dropping and the revenue from its £4 (¥640) entrance fee cannot pay the museum's maintenance costs, they say. Sōseki described the two years he spent in London as "the most unpleasant years of my life," as he suffered from depression because of the solitude and poverty he experienced while he was in Britain. However, the torment became the basis of later efforts such as novels *Kokoro* (The Heart), *Botchan* (Little Master) and *Wagahai wa neko de aru* (I am a Cat) after returning to Japan, becoming one of the most popular and relevant novelists of the Meiji Era (1868-1912).

Sōseki's novels remain famous and his life is still studied by academics. He was also an authority on British literature and a composer of haiku poetry.