



The Ice Cream Prize
The Asia Foundation - Let's Read
Sorn Srey Nuch





Sita and San loved to draw with their grandfather. He let them use all of the pens and colored pencils he used when he was an architect.

Sita liked licking an ice cream cone while she drew. It helped her think up the best new inventions.

Her brother San kept his paper clean and neatly lined up his pencils while he drew. It helped him think up the best new inventions.



"I could do this all day!" Sita said to her grandfather as she juggled a dripping ice cream cone in one hand and a couple of pens in the other.

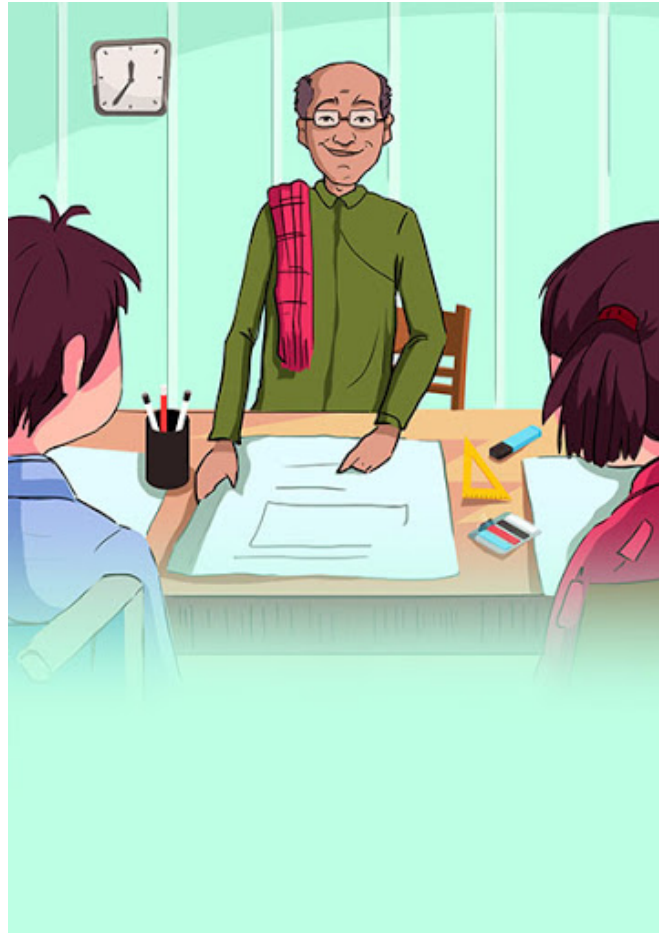
"Maybe you should do one thing at a time!" San said with a laugh as colorful drips spread across Sita's paper. "People might think you've invented a slime machine!"



"No way!" said Sita, pointing to her drawing. "It's clearly a kite!"

"Maybe a kite made out of jelly beans!" said San. "How is that supposed to fly? A real kite needs to be practical, like my super stunt kite."

"Sure, but your super kite looks super boring," smirked Sita.



Grandfather rustled his newspaper.

"Would you two be interested in this? The Three Scoops Ice Cream company is having a design contest for their new store."

"Amateur architects wanted..." read San. "Design inside and outside of building...must be environmentally friendly, use green design...bold and creative designs required!" "And, the most important part, the winner

receives free ice cream for a year!" added Sita.



The two siblings immediately started drawing out ideas. Sita dreamed up a colorful building in the shape of an ice cream cone, with sprinkles and a cherry on the roof. San envisioned an efficient floor plan to maximize the number of people who could fit in the shop and chose bamboo for flooring, since it was a renewable building material.



"Grandfather, what do you think?" Sita asked.
"I'm going to mail it to the contest right now. I think I can win."

"No, you won't," interrupted San, as he handed their grandfather his floor plan. "How are you supposed to get inside that building?"



Their grandfather carefully reviewed both designs with his keen architect's eye.



"Sita, your design is eye-catching, which the ice cream company will love," he said.

"But I think the building might fall over if it's built on the tip of an ice cream cone."



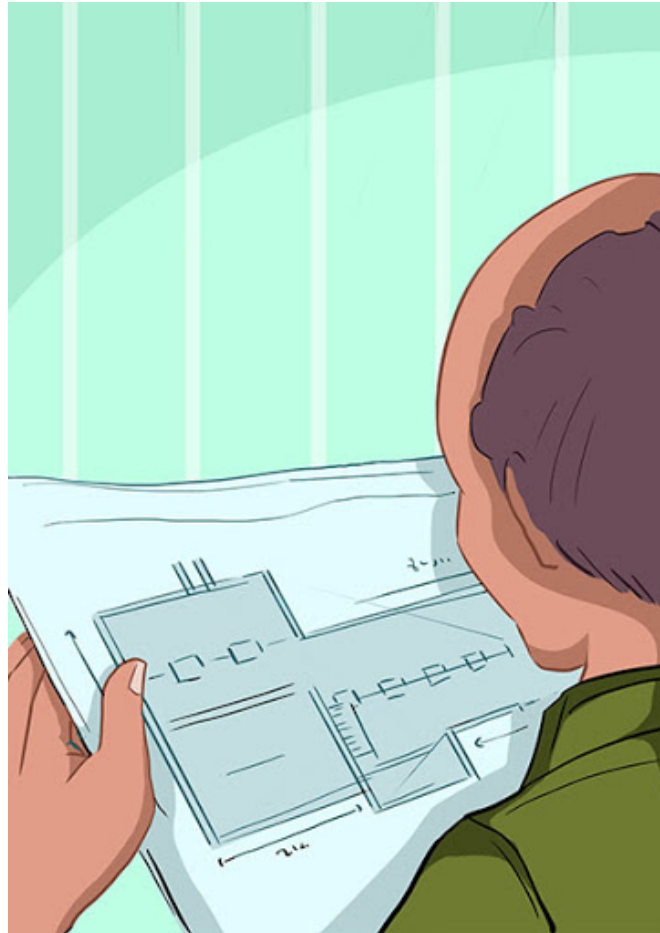
"And, San, the company will be happy to have so many customers, but they need to have an enjoyable experience while they are there. It will take a lot of electricity to keep the shop cool with so many people inside, and adding air-conditioning doesn't fit the green design."



Sita and San got back to work on their designs. Sita didn't like the idea of changing the shape of her beautifully drawn shop, but an ice cream cup shape seemed to be a good alternative. There would be stairs leading up to the entrance of the whipped cream roof!



San didn't like the idea of modifying his perfectly thought out floor plan, though he could create openings for a natural breeze to cool the inside and move part of the waiting line outside. Adding a cover to shade the front of the store would make the customers more comfortable as they waited.



San handed his new drawing to Grandfather before his sister this time.

"Here's the winning entry," San exclaimed. "I'll go get an envelope."



Once again, Grandfather studied each drawing, side by side. He mumbled a couple of "ahh's" and a few "hmm's".

"The awnings you drew in the front do look nice," interjected Sita. "But it's still a boring building."



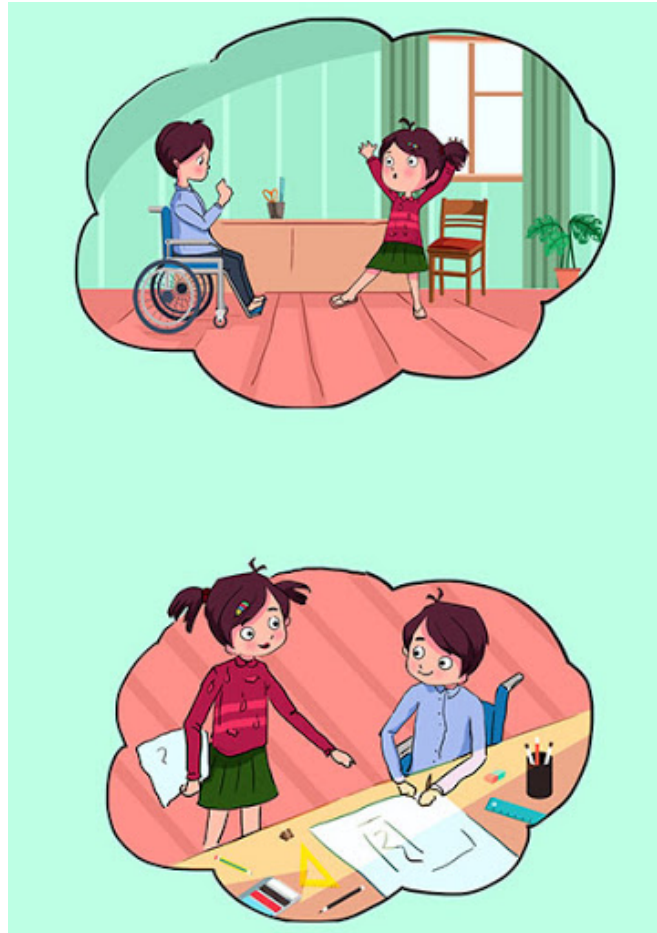
"Both of these drawings are much better, and they're both great ideas," Grandfather said. "But an architect's job is to design structures that are both safe and enjoyable for those who use them," he continued. "Each of you has a piece of that puzzle but neither of you has the solution."



Sita wanted to scream! "I just want to draw fun ideas," she said.

San turned red with frustration. "I can't fit everything in there," he cried.

"It's a puzzle," said their grandfather.



Sita and San sat quietly looking at all of the drawings.

Finally, San spoke up, "If you remove the stairs, you can place the door at the bottom. Then it will be easy for everyone to go inside for ice cream."

Sita added, "If you add built-in booths that look like cherries, you can make the shop more fun and exciting for the visitors."

They scooted together and looked for more

ways each could improve their designs using the other's ideas.

San changed his floor plan to make it round, to match the ice cream cup Sita had drawn.

Sita added San's awnings and breeze openings to her building.



It didn't take long for them to realize they could put their best ideas together into one amazing design!



After hours of hard work, many drawings, and a couple of arguments, Sita and San handed their combined design to their grandfather. He studied the colorful drawing of the outside and the detailed, environmentally friendly floor plan of the inside.

"Being an architect means working on a design until it meets all of the client's needs. It requires a lot of time. Together, the two of you have done a wonderful job to accomplish that!"



Sita and San carefully folded their plan into an envelope and sent it off.

"How should we celebrate?" Grandfather asked.

"More ice cream!" the two shouted.





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Original Story

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