

ISSUN-BOSHI

Issun-boshi is a famous Japanese folk hero. (You can call him Little One Inch, if you'd like.) His mother was an ordinary old woman who really wanted a child. She and her husband were very pleased to have Issun-boshi, but he never grew taller than one inch high. Issun-boshi had a very happy childhood, filled with fun and adventures, but he still wanted to make something of his life. He went off to the capitol city and was appointed by the government to guard one of the princesses. That was a good choice because then Issun-boshi saved her from a terrible Oni! (Onis are Japanese monsters.) He was rewarded for his success with the magical Mallet of Luck. Of course, the princess used it to make Issun-boshi a full-sized person, and they got married and lived happily ever after.

We don't have too many princesses or Onis around right now, but we could still use some superheros. What great deed might Issun-boshi do in the modern world?

Challenge: What could a miniature person do to help the people in your town?

Time: Part One: You will have 4 minutes to decide on a task that Issun-boshi could do for your own unique community today and to create an explanation of that possible contribution.

Part Two: You will have 1 minute to present your solution to the appraisers.

Materials: a sheet of paper and a pencil (for planning your solution only)

Scoring: up to 15 points for the usefulness of Issun-boshi's task
up to 40 points for the integration of information about your town into the presentation
up to 25 points for the effectiveness of the presentation
up to 20 points for positive teamwork