Grade 3 Lesson 1 Vignette 3:

The Essence of Kindness and the Boy Who Liked Sweets

Baha’u’llah was the essence of kindness. In even the smallest of gestures He reflected the infinite love that God has for every one of His creatures. Perhaps you know that, in the later years of Baha’u’llah’s life, His beloved Son Abdu’l-Baha rented the Mansion of Bahji for His Father. Now, every Friday the believers would gather there to attain the presence of Baha’u’llah. They would stay all day, using the lower rooms of the house, while Baha’u’llah’s family occupied the upper floor. One of the believers, only a boy of four or five at the time, had a very special encounter there, indeed. At noon, when all the grown-ups were resting during the midday heat, he happened to wander off by himself, making his way to the upper floor of the Mansion, where he entered a large hall. Ambling about, he eventually came to a room in which food was stored. What do you think he saw there? A bag filled with sugar cubes. Without thinking, he took a few and put them in his mouth. Then he took some more and left the storeroom. Back in the hall, he suddenly froze in his tracks. There was Baha’u’llah pacing back and forth. He slowly approached the little boy and looked at his hands. And how do you think He treated this boy who had done something naughty? He led the boy towards a large table in the middle of the hall, picked up a plate of candies, and offered him one. “It seems you like sweets,” Baha’u’llah said. “Enjoy! Goodbye. And may God protect you.”