

SUMMARY OF THE LESSON

Every child is capable of doing big things. He can become a hero in the area of his interest. What is needed most is to discover his talent or aptitude. Hafeez is a living example of such a hero.

Hafeez Contractor is today India's leading architect. But he was unhappy and careless at school. He loved doing things and hated mechanical learning. He used to have terrible dreams about appearing for a maths examination in which he knew nothing at all. When he reached the third standard, he lost interest in studies. He took interest in games and playing practical jokes on others. He passed all the school exams by using unfair means.

But, later, one sentence spoken to him by his Principal changed his life. He was in the 11th standard then. The Principal said that Hafeez was a good student, but had little interest in studies. He (the principal had taken care of him till that day but now he could no longer take care of him He should study hard. Only sports won't take him far. He took his final examination. He could never get more than second class.

No doubt he was pulled up by his teachers at school. He received a caning every week for not doing homework or for his bad behaviour. Caning did hurt him badly, but he forgot about it soon when he was in playground. Every Saturday he went to see a movie. He was the leader of a gang of boys and took part in going fights. He used to open his textbooks only on the day just before exams.

How then he could become an architect? Hafeez told the interviewer that he wanted to join the army or the police force. But his mother told him to do his graduation first. So he joined

Jaihind College in Bombay. There he studied French for seven years without learning anything. He later learnt this language from his cousin, an architect's wife.

It so happened that Hafeez saw somebody drawing a window detail. He told the man that the window won't open. He had a bet and he won it. His cousin's husband asked him to design a house and he did it. He then asked Hafeez to join architecture. And Hafeez got first position in the entrance test in that college of architecture. He thinks that all his qualities grew from what he used to play and do during school.

He admitted frankly that he was bad at languages. He was also poor in maths. Gifted boys are said to be poor in learning. Class toppers often do very ordinarily later on. He himself could sketch on the spot. He judged the taste of a client from his way of talking and eating. Hafeez always hated maths. But now as an architect he loves that subject.

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

COMPREHENSION CHECK

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1. What did Hafeez Contractor have nightmares about?

Ans. A nightmare is a bad dream or haunting fear. Hafeez had nightmares about mathematics examination.

2. What did the Principal say to him, which influenced him deeply?

Ans. The Principal told Hafeez that he was a good student but he never studied. His mother had worked hard to bring him up. It was the time now to rise to the occasion and study.

3. "..... that year I did not step out into the field." What was he busy doing that year?

Ans. He was busy studying books that year.

4. (i) What 'distraction' did Hafeez Contractor create one day?

(ii) Would you have liked to participate in the 'distraction' had you been with him?

Ans. (i) For one whole hour he along with his friends played 'Chor-police'.

(ii) I would have avoided such distraction for fear of the teacher. Moreover, it was completely a wastage of time.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

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1. Hafeez Contractor wanted to join the police force. Why didn't he?

Ans. Hafeez wanted to join the police force, but his mother advised him to do his graduation first. So he joined Jaihind College in Mumbai.

2. In the architect's office, Hafeez Contractor was advised to drop everything and join architecture. Why?

Ans. It happened quite by chance. One day he saw somebody drawing a window design. He pointed out that the drawing was wrong, and the window would not open. And he was proved right. His cousin's husband was surprised. He asked him to design a house and he did that. After that he told Hafeez to leave everything and join architecture.

3. (i) What was Mrs. Gupta's advise to Hafeez Contractor?

(ii) What made her advise him so?

Ans. (i) When he was in the second or third standard, one of his teachers Mrs Gupta saw his sketches and advised him to become an architect when he grew up.

(ii) She advised him so on seeing his fine sketches.

4. How did he help fellow students who had lost a button?

Ans. When a fellow student lost a button while playing or fighting, Hafeez would cut a button for him from chalk, using a blade.

5. Which rules did he break as a school boy?

Ans. As a school boy, he never studied, until his 11th class. He always copied to pass the examination.

6. (i) **What is Hafeez Contractor's definition of Mathematics?**
- (ii) **How would you want to define Mathematics? Do you like the subject?**

Ans. (i) According to Hafeez Contractor, Maths is a combination of putting designs, construction, psychology and sociology together and making sketch from all that.

(ii) Mathematics is the best branch of science, but it is a bit difficult to be good in this subject. However, I like this subject.

EXERCISE

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Answer the following Questions:

1. **It is likely that someone who is original and intelligent does not do very well at school? Should such a learner be called a failure? If not, why not?**

Ans. A learner who is original and intelligent may appear to be a failure at school, but the chances of his doing well in later life are bright.

2. **Who, in your view, is an 'unusual' learner?**

Ans. An unusual learner can be a genius in any subject. He will be different from the rest.

3. **What can schools do to draw out the best in unusual learners? Suggest whatever seems reasonable to you.**

Ans. School should stop treating all the learners as ordinary. They should not follow old mechanical methods of teaching. They should try to discover the hidden talent in each learner and encourage him to do his best developing it.