

7

Fair Play

Premchand

SUMMARY OF THE LESSON

Part I

Jumman Shaikh and Algu Chowdhry were good friends. Both were respected in the village for their good friendship. Jumman had an old aunt. She had some property. Jumman got her property transferred in his name. He promised to look after her till her last breath. But in a year or two, Jumman and his wife started ill-treating the aunt. They insulted her when they offered her food.

The aunt wanted to cook her food separately. She demanded a monthly allowance. Jumman said 'no' to her shamelessly.

The aunt went to every house in the village to explain her case and get support. But nobody sided with her. Some laughed at her. Even Algu hesitated to support her. He dared not go against his friend. At this, the aunt requested him to come to the *panchayat* at least.

Part II

The Panchayat was held under a banyan tree. Jumman asked his aunt to nominate the head Panch. She named Algu Chowdhry. Jumman felt happy. He hoped to get a favourable decision from his friend. But Algu heard the voice of his conscience. He told Jumman either to pay monthly allowance or return the property to his aunt. This decision broke all relations between the two friends.

Part III

Jumman made up his mind to take revenge. He got that chance soon. Algu had sold his bullock to Samjhu Sahu. The animal died because of Sahu's ill-treatment. So, he refused to pay the money to Algu. Now, Algu decided to refer the case to the

Panchayat. So, the *Panchayat* was held for a second time. At the Panchayat, Sahu nominated Jumman to act as head Panch. Jumman was a changed person now on that seat. He gave the decision in favour of Algu. He announced that Samjhu Sahu should pay Algu the price of the bullock.

Algu shouted with joy. The two became good friends again. They agreed on one point. 'The voice of the Panch is the voice of God'. The Panch can do no wrong.

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

WORKING WITH THE TEXT

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A. Match the sentences under I with those under II.

I

1. Jumman and Algu were the best of friends.
2. Jumman's aunt transferred her property to him.
3. The aunt decided to appeal to the *panchayat*.
4. Algu was unwilling to support the aunt.
5. Jumman was very happy to hear Algu's name as head *Panch*.

II

1. He believed that his friend would never go against him.
2. She wanted justice.
3. In the absence of one, the other took care of his family.
4. The condition was that he would be responsible for her welfare.
5. The bond of friendship between him and Jumman was very strong.

Ans.

I	II
1. Jumman and Algu were the best of friends.	In the absence of one, the other took care of his family.
2. Jumman's aunt transferred her property to him.	The condition was that he would be responsible for her welfare.
3. The aunt decided to appeal to the <i>panchayat</i> .	She wanted justice.

4. Algu was unwilling to support the aunt.	The bond of friendship between him and Jumman was very strong.
5. Jumman was very happy to hear Algu's name as head Panch.	He believed that his friend would never go against him.

B. Who says this to whom and why?

1. "My wife knows best how to run the house."

Ans. Jumman speaks these words to his aunt. He wanted to get rid of his aunt. He did not want to give her any allowance.

2. "But is it right, my son, to keep mum and not say what you consider just and fair?"

Ans. The old aunt says these words to Algu Chowdhry. Algu was unwilling to give his judgement against his best friend.

3. "What have you to say in your defence?"

Ans. Algu said these words to Jumman when he occupied the seat of the head *panch*. He was keen to do justice.

4. "I can't pay you a penny for the wretched beast you sold me."

Ans. Sahu said this to Algu Chowdhry. Algu had sold his bullock to Samjhu Sahu. The bullock died because Sahu overworked and underfed the animal. When Algu demanded his money, Algu dishonestly refused to pay him a penny.

5. "Victory to the *panchayat*. This is justice."

Ans. Jumman was the head *panch*. He could easily give his verdict against Algu. But the seat of *panch* made him fair and just. He asked Sahu to pay the money to Algu. At this Algu shouted with joy and welcomed the fair judgement.

C. Answer the following questions.

1. "Then the situation changed." What is being referred to? (2)

Ans. The situation changed after the transfer of property. Jumman forgot his promise to look after his old aunt. He as well as his wife began to ill-treat her.

2. When Jumman's aunt realised that she was not welcome in his house, what arrangement did she suggest? (3)

Ans. Jumman's aunt could not bear insults any more. She wanted to cook her food separately. She demanded monthly allowance from her nephew.

3. What was the villagers' reaction when the aunt explained her case to them? (4)

Ans. The old woman went to several villagers to explain her case and get their support. But some showed sympathy, and some laughed at her. A few advised her to make peace with Jumman.

4. Why was Jumman happy over Algu's nomination as head *Panch*? (6)

Ans. Algu and Jumman were fast friends. So Jumman hoped to get the verdict in his favour. Naturally he felt happy when the aunt named Algu to act as head *Panch*.

5. "God lives in the heart of the *Panch*", the aunt said. What did she mean? (6)

Ans. The aunt meant that a person in the seat of a judge becomes fair and just like God. He is not guided by his personal likes and dislikes. He can not do any injustice. He is God's representative.

6. What was Algu's verdict as head *Panch*? How did Jumman take it? (7, 8)

Ans. Algu heard the case and gave a fair judgement. He asked Jumman either to pay a monthly allowance to his aunt or transfer the property in her name. Jumman was stunned. He became Algu's enemy. He decided to take revenge on Algu.

7. Algu found himself in a tight spot. What was his problem? (9)

Ans. Algu sold his bullock to Samjhu Sahu, a cartman. Sahu promised to pay the price within a month. But during this period he took so much work from the animal that it died. Sahu became dishonest. He refused to pay the money.

8. Why was Algu upset over Jumman's nomination as head *Panch*? (12, 13)

Ans. Algu was upset because Jumman was already annoyed with him. So he thought Jumman would take his revenge.

9. What was Jumman's verdict as head Panch? How did Algu take it? (14, 15)

Ans. Jumman's verdict was that Sahu had to pay the price of bullock to Algu. Because when Sahu purchased the bullock from Algu it was hale and hearty. This was a genuine decision. Algu took it happily and said it was victory of *panchayat*.

10. Which of the following sums up the story best?

- (i) "I also know that you will not kill your conscience for the sake of friendship."
- (ii) "Let no one deviate from the path of justice and truth for friendship or enmity."
- (iii) "The voice of the Panch is the voice of God."

Give a reason for your choice.

Ans. I think the second statement sums up the story best.

The person in the seat of a judge becomes fair and just.

WORKING WITH LANGUAGE

(Page 92)

A. Replace the italicised portion of each sentence below with a suitable phrase from the box. Make necessary changes, wherever required.

look after swallow make it up keep mum go into
ease one's conscience as ill luck would have it
a tight spot take chances my heart sank

1. The best way to avoid an unnecessary argument is to *remain silent*.
2. *Unfortunately*, the train I was trying to catch was cancelled.
3. He has been told not to *take risks* while driving a car through a crowded street.
4. The patient needs to be properly *taken care of*.
5. Why don't the two of you *end your quarrel* by shaking hands?
6. I was in a *difficult situation* till my friends came to my rescue.

7. When I saw a pile of dirty dishes, I *felt very disappointed*.
8. I will *examine* the matter carefully before commenting on it.
9. They criticised him in the meeting but he *accepted without protest* all the criticism.
10. It will *free me from worry* to know that I had done nothing wrong.

- Ans.**
1. The best way to avoid an unnecessary argument is to *keep mum*.
 2. *As ill luck would have it*; the train I was trying to catch was cancelled.
 3. He has been told not to *take chances* while driving a car through a crowded street.
 4. The patient needs to be properly *looked after*.
 5. Why don't the two of you *make it up* by shaking hands?
 6. I was in a *tight spot* till my friends came to my rescue.
 7. When I saw a pile of dirty dishes, my heart *sank*.
 8. I will *go into* the matter carefully before commenting on it.
 9. They criticised him in the meeting but he *swallowed all the criticism*.
 10. It will *ease my conscience* to know that I had done nothing wrong.

B. Look at the following phrases and their meanings. Use the phrases to fill in the blanks in the sentences given below.

set up — put in place or start
set aside — save or keep for a particular purpose
set down — write or record
set out — start on a journey
set in — begin and seem likely to continue

1. Why don't you _____ your ideas on paper?
2. A fund has been _____ for the soldiers' families.

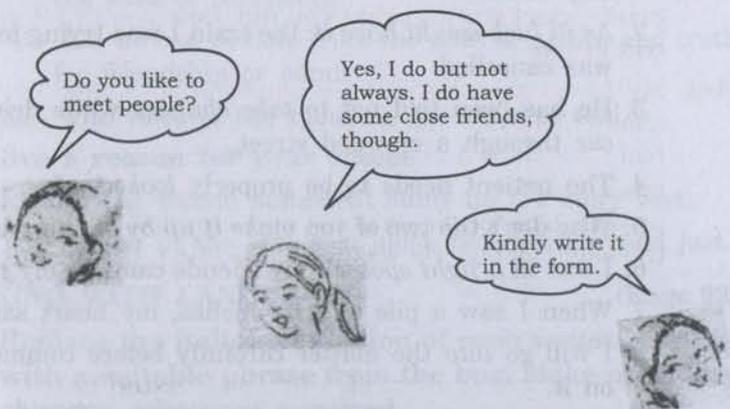
3. We should _____ a little money every month.
4. You should buy some woollens before winter _____.
5. They _____ on the last stage of their journey.

Ans. 1. set down 2. set up 3. set aside
4. sets in 5. set out

SPEAKING AND WRITING

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A. Look at the following pictures. One asks a question, the other answers it. Then the answer is noted in a form as shown below.



Questions	Yes/No	Additional Response
1. Do you like to meet people?	Yes I do, but not always.	I do have some close friends, though.
2. Do you like the area you live in?	No, I don't.	But I have no choice.

B. Work in small groups. Ask your partner the questions given below. If possible, ask him/her a reason for saying Yes or No. Then tick Yes/No, whichever is proper.

1. Do you have a separate room for sleep and study? Yes/No
2. Would you prefer to live in a joint family? Yes/No

3. Do you get on with people? Yes/No
4. Do you like the area you live in? Yes/No
5. Do you find the place overcrowded? Yes/No
6. Do you use public transport? Yes/No
7. Would you like a vehicle of your own? Yes/No
8. Do you like reading? Yes/No
9. Would you like to be a teacher/doctor/engineer/architect? Yes/No

Ans. Do it yourself.

C. Now that you have completed the above project, write a brief report stating what you did, how you did it and the conclusion.

Ans. My friend answered all my questions in a free and frank manner. He said that he would be happy to have a separate room for sleep and study. He preferred to live in a joint family. He loved to meet people and he liked the locality he lived in. The locality was not over-crowded. He didn't mind travelling by bus. He was fond of reading. His ambition was to be an architect.

DICTATION

Your teacher will speak the words listed below. Write against each a word of opposite meaning.

Examples: liquid solid

hard soft

1. old _____
2. wet _____
3. open _____
4. blunt _____
5. forget _____

Ans. 1. new 2. dry 3. closed
4. sharp 5. remember