

SUMMARY OF THE LESSON

Taro was a young woodcutter. He lived with his parents on a lonely hillside. Though he worked very hard, he earned very little money. So the family was very poor.

One evening Taro and his parents were sitting in their hut. A cold strong wind was blowing. Taro's father wished he had a cup of *sake* to warm him. Taro could not buy that expensive drink for his old father. He became very sad. He decided to work harder than before.

Next morning he went to the forest early. He felt tired working by noon. His mouth was dry. He felt thirsty. Suddenly he heard the sound of rushing water. He had never seen a stream there before. He ran to the waterfall behind a rock. He put the water to his lips. It tasted like *sake*.

Taro quickly filled his pitcher with that water. At home the old father found the liquid tasty as well as heart warming. He began to dance. He offered a cup of *sake* to an old lady and also told her the story of that magic waterfall. She spread the news in the village.

So many villagers took a sip of the *sake*. Next morning they went to that waterfall with jars and pitchers. But they were disappointed. To them the water tasted like ordinary cold water. They cursed Taro and looked for him to punish him. But Taro saved his life cleverly.

The story of Taro and his magic waterfall reached the Emperor of Japan. He called Taro and rewarded him for his goodness and his service to his old parents. He named the city's best fountain after Taro. He wanted all children to respect and obey their parents.

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

WORKING WITH THE TEXT

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A. Answer the following questions.

1. Why did Taro run in the direction of the stream? (5)

Ans. Taro ran in the direction of the stream because he was thirsty. Secondly, he had never before heard the sound of falling water in that area.

2. How did Taro's father show his happiness after drinking *sake*? (7)

Ans. *Sake* gave warmth as well as energy to the old man. Taro's father stopped shivering and started dancing. In this way, he showed his happiness.

3. Why did the waterfall give Taro *sake* and others water? (12)

Ans. The waterfall obliged Taro and changed water into *sake*. The reason was that he was a thoughtful son. He served his old parents sincerely. *Sake* was the reward for his goodness. Other people were just greedy. So they got only plain water.

4. Why did the villagers want to drown Taro? (10, 11)

Ans. The villagers went to the waterfall to collect *sake*. But they got only plain cold water. They thought that Taro had tricked them. So they looked for Taro to punish him.

5. Why did the Emperor reward Taro? (13)

Ans. The Emperor of Japan rewarded Taro for being good and kind towards his parents. This was Emperor's way to encourage all children to respect, obey and serve their parents.

B. Mark the right item.

1. Taro earned very little money because

(i) he didn't work hard enough.

(ii) the villagers didn't need wood.

(iii) the price of wood was very low.

2. Taro decided to earn extra money

- (i) to live a more comfortable life.
- (ii) to buy his old father some sake.
- (iii) to repair the cracks in the hut.

3. The neighbour left Taro's hut in a hurry because

- (i) she was delighted with the drink.
- (ii) she was astonished to hear Taro's story.
- (iii) she wanted to tell the whole village about the waterfall.

Ans. 1. (iii) 2. (ii) 3. (iii)

WORKING WITH LANGUAGE

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A. Strike off the words in the box below that are not suitable.

Taro wanted to give his old parents everything they needed. This shows that he was

thoughtful	hardworking	loving	honest
considerate	trustworthy	efficient	kind

Ans. honest, trustworthy, efficient

B. 1. "This made Taro sadder than ever."

'This' refers to

- (i) a strong wind that began to blow.
 - (ii) Taro's father's old age.
 - (iii) Taro's inability to buy expensive sake for his father.
- (Mark the right item.)

2. "This, said the emperor was to encourage all children to honour and obey their parents."

'This' refers to

- (i) the most beautiful fountain in the city.
- (ii) rewarding Taro with gold and giving the fountain his name.
- (iii) sending for Taro to hear his story.

(Mark the right item.)

Ans. 1. (iii) 2. (ii)

C. Arrange the words below in pairs that rhyme.

Example: young - lung
money - sunny

young	sad	money	chop	lung	last
wax	could	bad	sound	axe	wood
way	stop	sunny	fast	round	day

Ans. sad - bad could - wood
chop - stop sound - round
last - fast way - day
wax - axe

D. 1. Fill in the blanks with words from the box.

lonely	little	hard	young
thoughtful	delicious	beautiful	

A _____ woodcutter lived on a _____ hillside. He was a _____ son who worked _____ but earned _____ money. One day he saw a _____ waterfall hidden behind a rock. He tasted the water and found it _____.

Ans. A *young* woodcutter lived on a *lonely* hillside. He was a *thoughtful* son who worked *hard* but earned *little* money. One day he saw a *little* waterfall hidden behind a rock. He tasted the water and found it *delicious*.

2. Find these sentences in the story and fill in the blanks.

- (i) This made Taro _____ than ever. (3)
- (ii) He decided to work _____ than before. (3)
- (iii) Next morning Taro jumped out of bed _____ than usual. (4)
- (iv) He began to chop even _____. (4)
- (v) Next morning, Taro started for work even _____ than the morning before. (10)

Ans. (i) sadder (ii) harder (iii) earlier
(iv) faster (v) earlier

SPEAKING AND WRITING

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A. Speak the following sentences clearly but as quickly as you can learn them by heart.

- (i) How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck would chuck wood.
- (ii) Betty bought a bit of butter, but the bit of butter was a little bitter so she bought some better butter to make the bitter butter better.

Ans. Do it yourself in the classroom.

B. 1. The story 'Taro's Reward' shows that Taro is thoughtful, hardworking and also wise. Read aloud the parts of story that show these qualities in Taro.

- Ans.** (i) ... for he was a *thoughtful* son and wanted to give his old parents everything they needed. (Para 1)
- (ii) Though he worked very *hard*, he earned very little money. (Para 1)
- (iii) But Taro had been *wise* enough to slip behind a rock (Para 11)

2. (i) Like Patrick in the story 'Who did Patrick's Homework', Taro is helped by magic. Do you believe in magic? What are the magical things that happen in these stories?
- (ii) Which story do you like better, and why? Do you know such stories in other languages? Discuss these questions in class.

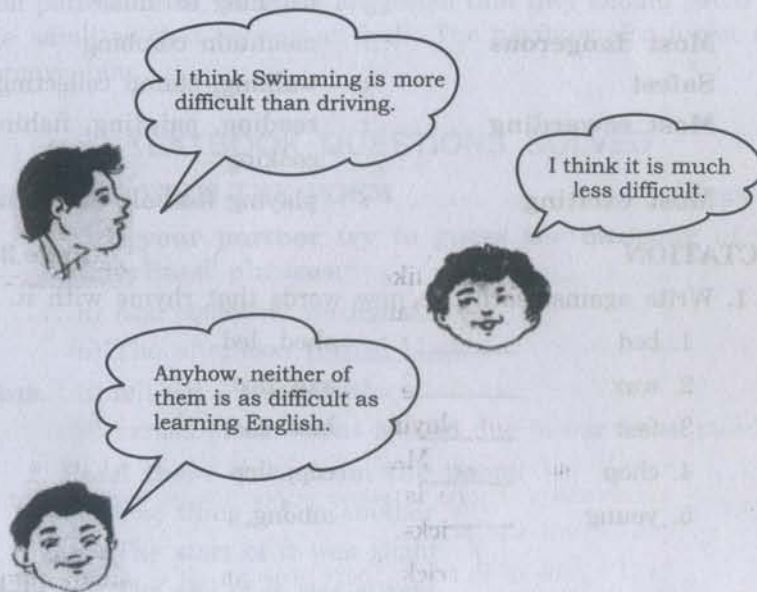
Ans. (i) My parents say there is no such thing as magic. It is all a matter of playing tricks. But I agree with the elders only partly. Magic is not all sleight of hand or mesmerism. There is some supernatural agency that carries out the tricks.

In the case of Patrick, there was an elf or small man. He was not one like us. In the case of Taro, there appears a waterfall behind the rocks. Secondly, its water tasted like *sake*. These were magical things.

- (ii) Truly speaking, I like both the stories because both are interesting and educative. Secondly, both have a touch of magic. Still, Patrick's story is better than Taro's. Patrick learns to do homework unknowingly.

3. Now write a paragraph or two about these two stories, comparing them.

Ans. *Who did Patrick's Homework* is, in my opinion, better than 'Taro's Reward'. Patrick hated homework. He played hockey and basketball instead. This was something quite natural. All children find doing homework boring and dull. Taro, on the other hand, was a thoughtful, wise and hardworking boy. He was just the opposite of Patrick. Even God favours and rewards such a boy. A magical waterfall gave him an intoxicating drink for his old father. Both the stories teach us lessons.

C. 1. Listen to these children. What are they talking about?

Ans. The three boys are talking about their problems. One finds swimming more difficult than driving. The second disagrees with his view. He thinks that swimming is much less difficult

than driving. But the third boy says that learning English is much more difficult than swimming and driving.

2. **Work in groups. Come to some agreement on each of the activities given below. Decide which is the most interesting, dullest, most dangerous, safest, most rewarding, most exciting.**

cooking	fishing	playing football
knitting	dancing	listening to music
reading	sewing	mountain climbing
walking	swimming	learning languages
painting	watching TV	stamp collecting

- Ans. The dullest activities** : knitting, sewing, learning languages
- Most interesting** : dancing, watching TV, listening to music
- Most dangerous** : mountain climbing
- Safest** : walking, stamp collecting
- Most rewarding** : reading, painting, fishing, cooking
- Most exciting** : playing football, swimming

DICTATION

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1. Write against each two new words that rhyme with it.

1. bed _____ shed, led
2. wax _____ axe, fax
3. fast _____ last, cast
4. chop _____ cop, flop
5. young _____ among,

□□□

★ The Quarrel

Eleanor Farjeon

SUMMARY OF THE POEM

One day the sister quarrelled with her brother. The reason was very petty. But they shouted at each other. The quarrel was mild at first. But it became strong in the end. Both claimed that they were right.

They began to hate each other. They did not talk to each other till evening. Then suddenly the brother realised his mistake. He decided to make up with the narrator. He walked up to her, and patted on her back. He suggested that they should patch up. He admitted that he was at fault. The narrator also forgot and forgave him.

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

WORKING WITH THE POEM

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1. **With your partner try to guess the meaning of the underlined phrases:**

- (i) And somehow we fell out.
- (ii) The afternoon turned black.

- Ans.** (i) fell out – quarrelled.
- (ii) turned black – was spoiled due to our tense mood.

2. **Read these lines from the poem:**

- (i) One thing led to another
- (ii) The start of it was slight
- (iii) The end of it was strong
- (iv) The afternoon turned black
- (v) Thumped me on the back.

Discuss with your partner what these lines mean.

- Ans.** (i) We went on arguing. One thing led to another.
- (ii) The beginning or the cause of the quarrel was minor/petty.
- (iii) The quarrel ended on a very bitter note. We started hating each other.
- (iv) The quarrel spoiled our mood. The afternoon became unbearably bad.
- (v) Patted on the back in a friendly manner.

3. Describe a recent quarrel that you have had with your brother, sister or friend. How did it start? What did you quarrel about? How did it end?

Ans. Somesh is my best friend. But one day our relationship turned sour suddenly. He did not come to my birthday party. I lost temper, so did he. He remained tense and unhappy for a couple of days. Both of us were eager to patch up. And we did it in a dramatic manner. We came face to face in the school tuck shop. We shook hands, felt sorry and promised to renew our friendship as earlier.