

SUMMARY OF THE LESSON**I**

One afternoon, Mridu went to her aunt Rukku Manni's house. She went there to meet her cousins Lalli, Ravi and Meena. Ravi dragged her to the backyard. There inside a torn football lay a very small kitten, drinking milk. Meena said they had found the creature outside the gate that morning. But it was kept secret. Amma had a fear that Paati would go away if she knows about the cat in the house. Ravi had succeeded by tact in getting a little milk for the kitten. The children named it Mahendran.

It was a fine breed of cat. Ravi gave a detailed account of the cat's family and relatives. He said the cat was the descendant of the Mahabalipuram Rishi-Cat. Meena and Mridu smiled at his cooked up story.

The cat was frightened to hear Ravi's sound. He fled from his place. Lalli was learning to play the violin. She wasn't doing well, although the music master was trying his best to make her learn.

II

Mridu went up to the window. She saw Lalli sitting with her violin. In front of her there was the bony music teacher. He had a mostly bald head. He was wearing a gold chain around his neck, and a diamond ring on his hand.

A beggar came at the gate. The mother told Ravi to send him away. She was chatting with Tapi. The beggar's voice irritated her. She complained that he was coming there every day.

The beggar was already in the garden. He had spread a piece of cloth under the neem tree. He leant against the tree trunk, waiting for the alms. Ravi told him sternly to go away.

The beggar sat up and sighed. He told that he would go away after taking some rest. The tar had melted on the hot road and his bare feet had got blisters. The children got sympathetic towards him. Mridu asked Meena and Ravi if they had got an old pair of slippers in the house. Ravi went to search. Mridu noticed a pair of chappals in the verandah. These were shabby-looking but sturdy. He gave it to the old man to wear and asked him never again to come back. The beggar blessed the children. He pushed his feet into the slippers and left in a hurry.

The music-teacher searched for his chappals in the verandah. He said his slippers were brand new and expensive also. Rukku Manni came there with Paati. She rightly guessed that it was the mischief played by the children. She was upset and angry.

She went indoors and brought Gopu Mama's new chappals and gave them to the music-master. She apologised to the master on behalf of her son, Ravi. The music master's eyes lit up with joy. He put them on and called children naughty monkeys. The mother didn't like Ravi being called a monkey.

She went inside the house. She thanked God that Gopu Mama's chappals were there. But she laughed to think how much upset would he be on his return. She declared that she would take all the blame on herself.

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

COMPREHENSION CHECK (Page 22)

1. What is the secret that Meena shares with Mridu in the backyard?

Ans. The secret that Meena shares with Mridu is the news of finding a kitten. It was kept in the backyard.

2. How does Ravi get milk for the kitten?

Ans. Ravi gets milk under the pretext that he will drink it because he is hungry. He even drinks some milk to show. Then he comes to the kitten with the tumbler and pours milk into the coconut shell.

3. Who does he say the kitten's ancestors are? Do you believe him?

Ans. He says that the kitten's ancestors are the Pallava kings of the Mahabalipuram Rishi-Cat. I don't believe his story.

4. Ravi has a lot to say about M.P. Poonai. This shows that

(i) he is merely trying to impress Mridu.

(ii) his knowledge of history is sound.

(iii) he has a rich imagination.

(iv) he is an intelligent child.

Which of these statements do you agree/disagree to?

Ans. I agree to (i) he is merely trying to impress Mridu and (ii) he has a rich imagination.

5. What was the noise that startled Mridu and frightened Mahendran?

Ans. A 'kreeching' sound from the window startled Mridu and frightened Mahendran.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

(Page 28)

1. The music master is making lovely music. Read aloud the sentence in the text that expresses this idea.

Ans. The music master's notes seemed to float up and settle perfectly into the visible tracks of the melody.

2. Had the beggar come to Rukku Manni's house for the first time? Give reasons for your answer.

Ans. No, it was not the first visit of the beggar to Rukku Manni's house. She tells Tapi, "He has been coming here everyday for the last week."

The beggar also admits, "I have kept my body and soul together on their generosity for a whole week."

3. "A sharp V-shaped line had formed between her eyebrows." What does it suggest to you about Rukku Manni's mood?

Ans. It suggests that she was getting angry.

WORKING WITH THE TEXT

(Page 29)

1. Complete the following sentences :

(i) Ravi compares Lalli's playing the violin to

(ii) Trying to hide beneath the tray of chillies, Mahendran

- (iii) The teacher played a few notes on his violin, and Lalli
- (iv) The beggar said that the kind ladies of the household
- (v) After the lesson was over, the music teacher asked Lalli if

Ans. (i) a railway train which is derailing.

(ii) tipped a few children over himself.

(iii) stumbled behind him poorly.

(iv) had helped him with food for a whole week.

(v) she had seen his chappals.

2. Describe the music teacher, as seen from the window.

Ans. The music teacher was bony and bald headed. He had an old fashioned tuft on his head and a gold chain round his thick neck. He wore a diamond ring on his hand.

3. (i) What makes Mridu conclude that the beggar has no money to buy chappals?

(ii) **What does she suggest to show her concern?**

Ans. (i) The large blisters on the beggar's bare feet made Mridu conclude that he had no money to buy chappals.

(ii) She suggests that an old pair of chappals should be given to him.

4. "Have you children... she began, and then, seeing they were curiously quiet, went on more slowly "seen anyone lurking around the verandah?"

(i) **What do you think Rukku Manni really wanted to ask?**

(ii) **Why did she change her question?**

(iii) **What did she think had happened?**

Ans. (i) Rukku Manni really wanted to ask the children if they had hidden the chappals.

(ii) She changed her question because she thought it was children's mischief.

(iii) She thought that children had given it to someone.

5. On getting Gopu Mama's chappals, the music teacher tried not to look happy. Why?

Ans. On getting a gift of new chappals the music teacher was really happy. But he did not try to show it. He did not want to expose his greed.

6. On getting a gift of chappals, the beggar vanished in a minute. Why was he in such a hurry to leave?

Ans. The beggar knew that the children had given him slippers without seeking the permission of the elders. He feared that the slippers might be taken back from him. So he left the house in a hurry.

7. Walking towards the kitchen with Mridu and Meena, Rukku Manni began to laugh. What made her laugh?

Ans. Rukku Manni laughed to think how Gopu Mama would react to know that his slippers had been given away to the music master.

WORKING WITH LANGUAGE

(Page 30)

1. Read the following sentences.

(a) If she knows we have a cat, Patti will leave the house.

(b) She won't be so upset if she knows about the poor beggar with sores on his feet.

(c) If the chappals do fit, will you really not mind?

Notice that each sentence consists of two parts. The first part begins with 'if'. It is known as if-clause.

Rewrite each of the following pairs of sentences as a single sentence. Use 'if' at the beginning of the sentence.

(a) Walk fast. You'll catch the bus.

If you walk fast, you'll catch the bus.

(b) Don't spit on the road. You'll be fined.

If you spit on the road, you'll be fined.

(i) Don't tire yourself now. You won't be able to work in the evening.

SPEAKING AND WRITING

(Page 31)

1. Discuss in small groups

- If you want to give away something of your own to the needy, would it be better to ask your elders first?
- Is there someone of your age in the family who is very talkative? Do you find her/him interesting and impressive or otherwise? Share your ideas with others in the group.
- Has Rukku Manni done exactly the same as the children? In your opinion, then, is it right for one party to blame the other?

2. Read the following :

- A group of children in your class are going to live in a hostel.
- They have been asked to choose a person in the group to share a room with.

They are asking each other questions to decide who they would like to share a room with.

Ask one another questions about likes/dislikes/preferences/habits/personal characteristics. Use the following questions and sentence openings.

(i) What do you enjoy doing after school?

I enjoy...

(ii) What do you like in general?

I like....

(iii) Do you play any game?

I don't like....

(iv) Would you mind if I listened to music after dinner?

I wouldn't....

(v) Will it be all right if I...?

It's fine with me....

(vi) Is there anything you dislike, particularly?

Well, I can't share....

(vii) Do you like to attend parties?

Oh, I...

- (ii) Study regularly. You'll do well in the examination.
 (iii) Work hard. You'll pass the examination in the first division.
 (iv) Be polite to people. They'll also be polite to you.
 (v) Don't tease the dog. It'll bite you.

Ans. (i) If you tire yourself now, you won't be able to work in the evening.

(ii) If you study regularly, you'll do well in the examination.

(iii) If you work hard, you'll pass the examination in the first division.

(iv) If you are polite to people, they'll also be polite to you.

(v) If you tease the dog, it'll bite you.

2. Fill in the blanks in the following paragraph.

Today is Sunday. I'm wondering whether I should stay at home or go out. If I(i)..... (go) out, I(ii)..... (miss) the lovely Sunday lunch at home. If I.....(iii).....(stay) for lunch, I(iv)..... (miss) the Sunday film showing at Archana Theatre. I think I'll go out and see the film, only to avoid getting too fat.

Ans. (i) go (ii) shall miss (iii) stay (iv) shall miss

3. Complete each sentence below by appropriately using any one of the following.

if you want to/ if you don't want to/if you want him to

(i) Don't go to the theatre

(ii) He'll post your letter

(iii) Please use my pen

(iv) He'll lend you his umbrella

(v) My neighbour, Ramesh, will take you to the doctor

(vi) Don't eat it

Ans. (i) If you don't want to (ii) If you want him to

(iii) If you want to (iv) If you want him to

(v) If you want him to (vi) If you don't want to

(viii) Would you say you are...?

I think....

- Ans.** (i) I enjoy watching T.V. or playing table-tennis.
 (ii) I like playing badminton in general.
 (iii) I don't like playing hockey or football.
 (iv) I wouldn't mind it at all.
 (v) It's fine with me to see a movie on the computer.
 (vi) Well, I can't share my towel with anybody.
 (vii) Oh, I love to attend birthday parties.
 (viii) I think I won't be a fool to say so.

□□□

★ The Rebel

D.J. Enright

SUMMARY OF THE POEM

A rebel is a person who always disagrees with you. He likes to do the opposite of what everyone loves to do. When everyone has short hair, the rebel sports long hair. When everybody lets his hair grow long, the rebel cuts his hair short. When others in the class talk, the rebel keeps silent. But when others are all quiet, the rebel breaks this silence. When other boys go to school in uniforms, the rebel puts on colourful clothes. When other boys are in fancy dress, the rebel's dress is simple. If others are dog lovers, the rebel prefers cats. But in the company of cat lovers, he praises dogs. When everybody longs for sunlight, the rebel longs for rain. When others go to the meeting, the rebel stays at home and reads books. When everybody agrees, the rebel disagrees. The rebels are necessary because they help us look at life differently. But this practice will not suit everyone.

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

WORKING WITH THE POEM

(Page 34)

1. Answer the following questions:

- (i) If someone doesn't wear a uniform to school, what do you think the teacher will say?
- (ii) When everyone wants a clear sky, what does the rebel want most?
- (iii) If the rebel has a dog for a pet, what is everyone else likely to have?
- (iv) Why is it good to have rebels?
- (v) Why is it not good to be a rebel oneself?
- (vi) Would you like to be a rebel? If yes, why? If not, why not?

- Ans.** (i) The teacher will call him/her careless and disobedient, a rule-breaker.
- (ii) On a clear day, the rebel longs most for the rain.
- (iii) In that case everyone else is likely to have cats as pets.
- (iv) It is good to have rebels because they help us see the other side of the situation.
- (v) It is not good to be a rebel oneself because people in general don't like such a person.
- (vi) I would like to be a rebel in order to understand an issue better. But I won't disagree with others or go all out against the common practice simply for the sake of proving my own wisdom. Nobody likes such a habitual critic or rebel.

2. Find in the poem an antonym (a word opposite in meaning) for each of the following words.

- (i) long
- (ii) grow
- (iii) quietness
- (iv) sober
- (v) lost

- Ans.** (i) short (ii) cut (iii) disturbance
(iv) fantastic (v) find

3. Find in the poem lines that match the following. Read both one after the other.

- (i) The rebel refuses to cut his hair.
- (ii) He says cats are better.
- (iii) He recommends dogs.
- (iv) He is unhappy because there is no sun.
- (v) He is noisy on purpose.

- Ans.** (i) The rebel lets his hair grow long.
(ii) The rebel expresses a preference for cats.
(iii) The rebel puts in a good word for dogs.
(iv) The rebel regrets the absence of sun.
(v) The rebel creates a disturbance.