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Golu Grows a Nose

Rudyard Kipling

SUMMARY OF THE LESSON

It was a time when the elephant had no trunk. Golu was a baby elephant. He had only a bulgy nose. He 'could only move it from side to side. But he couldn't pick up things with it.

He was full of questions. He asked his aunt, the ostrich why she didn't ever fly like other birds. He asked his tall uncle, the giraffe why his skin has spots. He asked the hippopotamus why his eyes were always red. Finally, he asked the monkey why melons tasted like melons.

One day Golu asked the mynah bird what the crocodiles always had for dinner. The bird directed him to the Limpopo river to find out. Taking a lot of sugarcanes, bananas and melons, he went to the great river. He met a python, and put his question and got no reply.

Golu moved on the river bank when he saw a log of wood. It was really the cunning crocodile. Golu put his question to him. He told that he would give the reply in his ear. It caught Golu by the nose, and told that today he would eat the elephant. It started dragging him hard into the stream.

Golu cried for help. The python came and coiled fast round Golu's stomach. Both pulled very hard. At each pull Golu's nose grew longer and longer. He was free at last.

In two days his nose grew cool but it did not shrink. Instead, it turned into a trunk. However, it proved to be very advantageous. Golu first hit a stinging fly dead with his trunk. Then he plucked the grass and put it into his mouth. The trunk enabled him to dig up some mud and throw it on his head. He thanked the python for its help.

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

EXERCISE

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Answer the following questions:

1. Whom does Golu ask, "Why don't you ever fly like other birds?"

Ans. Golu asks the ostrich why it doesn't fly like other birds.

2. Which uncle of Golu had red eyes?

Ans. Golu's huge uncle hippopotamus had red eyes.

3. Golu's relatives did not answer his questions because

(i) they were shy.

(ii) the questions were too difficult.

(iii) Golu was a naughty boy.

Ans. (ii) The questions were too difficult.

4. Who advised Golu to go to the Limpopo river?

Ans. The mynah bird advised Golu to go to the Limpopo river.

5. Why did Golu go to the river?

Ans. Golu went to the Limpopo river to find out what the crocodile had for dinner.

6. The crocodile lay on the bank of the Limpopo river. Golu thought it was

(i) a living crocodile

(ii) a dead crocodile

(iii) a log of wood

Ans. (iii) a log of wood.

7. What did the crocodile do to show that it was a real crocodile?

Ans. The crocodile shed its 'false tears' to show that it was a real one.

8. "Come here, little one, and I'll whisper the answer to you". The crocodile said this because

(i) he couldn't stand up.

(ii) he wanted to eat Golu.

(iii) Golu was deaf.

Ans. (ii) he wanted to eat Golu.

9. Who helped Golu on the bank of the river?

Ans. The python helped Golu on the river bank. He saved Golu's life from the crocodile.

10. Name two things the elephant can do with his trunk, and two he cannot.

Ans. Two things the elephant can do with his trunk are:

(i) The elephant can keep away flies.

(ii) He can pull up things from below and take it to his mouth.

Two things that the elephant can't do with his trunk are:

(i) He can't use it as a leg.

(ii) He can't see with it.

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