

SUMMARY OF THE LESSON

It was the season for Hilsa-fish. The fishermen caught a lot of them. They sold them in the market. The prices, they said, were down. This news was discussed by all householders. They were amazed that the fish came to such a low price.

In the palace also the courtiers discussed the matter. A courtier showed the king a big fish he had caught. The king lost his temper. The courtier became silent and sad. The king realised his mistake. He told that even Gopal couldn't stop anyone from talking about Hilsa. Gopal protested. He said he could do that. The king then challenged him to bring a big fish to the palace without anyone asking a word about it.

Since Gopal accepted the challenge, he started working accordingly. He became half-shaven and covered himself with ash. When his wife asked him the reason about his peculiar look, he said that he was dressing up to buy a Hilsa fish. His wife thought he had gone mad.

Gopal bought the Hilsa and started walking towards the palace. A child cried that the man was comical. Another called him a mad man. The third mistook him for a mystic. But no one talked about the fish.

Gopal reached the court. He told the guards that he wanted to see the king. They didn't allow him to enter. Gopal began dancing and crying loudly. They reported the matter to the king. The king ordered to bring him to the court. Gopal introduced himself before the king. The king asked him why he was dressed up in that fashion.

Gopal explained that when he was coming to the palace not a single man spoke about Hilsa-fish. Everyone got attracted towards

his peculiar look. They didn't mind the fish. The king remembered the challenge he had thrown to Gopal. He congratulated Gopal on his achieving the impossible.

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

WORKING WITH THE TEXT

(Page 42)

Answer the following questions:

1. Why did the king want no more talk about the hilsa-fish?

Ans. The king was very much fed up with the common talk about the hilsa fish.

2. What did the king ask Gopal to do to prove that he was clever?

Ans. The king asked Gopal to buy and bring a huge hilsa to the palace without anyone asking him about it.

3. What three things did Gopal do before he went to buy the hilsa-fish?

Ans. Gopal half shaved his face, smeared ash on his body and put on rags before he went to buy the hilsa-fish.

4. How did Gopal get inside the palace to see the king after he had bought the fish?

Ans. At first the gatekeeper would not let Gopal in. Gopal began to dance and cry. The king heard the noise and asked the guard to bring the noisemaker before him.

5. Explain why no one seemed to be interested in talking about the hilsa-fish which Gopal had bought?

Ans. Gopal's outfit and his peculiar look were such that no one bothered about the hilsa-fish he had bought.

6. Write 'True' or 'False' against each of the following sentences.

(i) The king lost his temper easily.

(ii) Gopal was a mad man.

(iii) Gopal was a clever man.

(iv) Gopal was too poor to afford decent clothes.

(v) The king got angry when he was shown to be wrong.

Ans. (i) False (ii) False (iii) True (iv) False (v) False.

WORKING WITH LANGUAGE

(Page 42)

1. Notice how in a comic book, there are no speech marks when characters talk. Instead what they say is put in a speech "bubble". However, if we wish to repeat or 'report' what they say, we must put it into reported speech.

Change the following sentences in the story to reported speech. The first one has been done for you.

(i) How much did you pay for that hilsa?

The woman asked the man how much he had paid for that hilsa.

(ii) Why is your face half-shaven?

Gopal's wife asked him

(iii) I accept the challenge, Your Majesty.

Gopal told the king

(iv) I want to see the king

Gopal told the guards

(v) Bring the man to me at once.

The king ordered the guard

Ans. (ii) why his face was half-shaven.

(iii) that he accepted the challenge.

(iv) that he wanted to see the king.

(v) to bring the man to him at once.

2. Find out the meaning of the following words by looking them up in the dictionary. Then use them in sentences of your own.

challenge	mystic	comical
courtier	smearing	

Ans. Challenge : a call to fight No country can challenge the fact that man is more dangerous than any other animal.

Mystic : occult, having spiritual power	A mystic is a person who can reach truth beyond human understanding.
Comical : amusing	Wearing the straw hat, she looked comical.
Courtier : an assistant of a king at court	The king and his courtiers were fools.
Smearing : spreading grease or paint.	The saint smeared ash on his body.

PICTURE READING (Page 44)

1. Look at the pictures and read the text aloud.

See NCERT Textbook Pages 44-45

2. Now ask your partner questions about each picture.

- (i) Where is the stag?
- (ii) What is he doing?
- (iii) Does he like his antlers (horns)?
- (iv) Does he like his legs?
- (v) Why is the stag running?
- (vi) Is he able to hide in the bushes?
- (vii) Where are the hunters now?
- (viii) Are they closing in on the stag?
- (ix) Is the stag free?
- (x) What does the stag say about his horns and his legs?

- Ans.**
- (i) The stag is by the side of a pond.
 - (ii) He is going to drink water. He sees the reflection of his horns in water.
 - (iii) Yes, he feels proud of his beautiful horns.
 - (iv) No, he laments that his legs are very thin and ugly.
 - (v) The stag is running on seeing the hunters.
 - (vi) No, he is not able to hide in the bushes because of his horns.
 - (vii) The hunters are now close in on the stag.
 - (viii) Yes, they are closing in on the stag.
 - (ix) Yes, the stag is free.

- (x) He realises his folly. He has been proud of his horns but they could have caused his death. He was ashamed of his long, ugly legs. But they saved him.

3. Now write the story in your own words. Give it a title.

Ans. A stag in the forest was thirsty. He went to a pond. He saw the reflection of his beautiful horns in water. He felt proud of them. Then he looked at his legs. He felt ashamed of his thin and ugly legs.

Just then he saw some hunters coming towards him. He ran for life. His horns were caught in the branches. He escaped somehow because his thin, ugly legs helped him run beyond the hunters' reach. He realised his foolishness. He had felt proud of his horns which could have caused his death. On the other hand, his legs which he was ashamed of, saved him.

Title – The Foolish Stag

4. Complete the following word ladder with the help of the clues given below.

See NCERT Textbook Page 47

Clues

1. Mother will be very _____ if you don't go to school.
2. As soon as he caught _____ of the teacher, Mohan started writing.
3. How do you like my _____ kitchen garden? Big enough for you, is it?
4. My youngest sister is now a _____ old.
5. Standing on the _____, he saw children playing on the road.
6. Don't make such a _____. Nothing will happen.
7. Don't cross the _____ till the green light comes on.

- Ans.**
- | | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------|---------|
| 1. cross | 2. sight | 3. tiny | 4. year |
| 5. roof | 6. fuss | 7. street | |

★ The Shed

Frank Flynn

SUMMARY OF THE POEM

There is a small room for storing things. It is in one end of the garden. It is not used regularly as its door is locked. It has cobwebs over the door. The iron joints of the door are rusty. They make a creaking sharp sound when the wind blows. The narrator is curious to open the door one day to see what is stored there.

On one side of the shed is an old window covered with dust. It has three glass panes which are cracked. The narrator thinks that someone is looking at her whenever she goes that way. She plans to look through that window one day into the room.

Her brother tells her that there is a ghost in the store room. It hides under the old wooden floorboards. He tries to frighten her. He tells her that she must never try to enter that room because the ghost will attack her and break her head. But the girl is brave enough. She is determined to look into the shed.

She knows that her brother is a liar. There is no ghost in the shed. It is only a hiding place for him. Nobody is looking out at her. Nobody makes noises. Even the spider has gone from the web. So the narrator makes up her mind to walk into that shed. But she is not in a hurry to execute her plan.

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

WORKING WITH THE POEM

(Page 49)

1. Answer the following questions.

- (i) Who is the speaker in the poem?
- (ii) Is she/he afraid or curious, or both?

(iii) What is she/he planning to do soon?

(iv) "But not just yet..." suggests doubt, fear, hesitation, laziness or something else. Choose the word which seems right to you. Tell others why you chose it.

Ans. (i) A little girl is the speaker in the poem.

(ii) She/he is both afraid and curious.

(iii) She/he is planning to look into the shed soon one day.

(iv) Her words suggested her hesitation and fear. She is afraid of the ghost and the strange noise. But she doubts whether her fears are true or not. But she dares not take the chance soon.

2. Is there a room in your house or a house in your neighbourhood/locality where you would rather not go alone, and never at night? If there is such a place and a story to go with it, let others hear all about it.

Ans. Yes, there is an old storehouse in a corner of my compound. It is cut off from the main building. Once this outdoor house was used by the servant. Since he left, the room is locked most of the time. It has no electric light. The lone window is also closed. All unwanted things are thrown in it. I dare not go into the store because of spiders and rats.

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