

CHAPTER – 3

Taro's Reward

❖ WORKING WITH THE TEXT

Q. 1 A

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

Answer:

Taro was working harder than usual on that morning and was very thirsty. Besides, there were no waterfall in that part of the forest so the sound of running water surprised Taro and that is why he ran in the direction of the stream.

Q. 1 B

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

Answer:

Taro's father was very happy to be able to drink sake as it is a mouth-watering drink. One swig of the drink made his frail body warm and he was very happy. So, he took a little twirl to show his happiness after drinking sake.

Q. 1 C

Why did the water fall give Taro sake and others water?
(12)

Answer:

Taro was a hardworking and kind person apart from being thoughtful; other villagers were selfish and greedy. That is why the waterfall gave Taro sake and others water.

Q. 1 D

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

Answer:

The villagers assumed Taro had tricked them when they could get only water from the waterfall instead of sake as they had expected. At this, they were furious. That is why the villagers wanted to drown Taro.

Q. 1 E

Why did the Emperor reward Taro? (13)

Answer:

Taro was a dutiful son towards his parents and also a very kind person. The Emperor rewarded Taro to endorse these values.

Q. 2 A

Taro earned very little money because

- A. he didn't work hard enough.
- B. the villagers didn't need wood.
- C. the price of wood was very low.

Answer:

Taro was a hardworking person who loved his parents. But as the price of wood was low, he never earned much. This led to his poverty.

Q. 2 B

Taro decided to earn extra money

- A. to live a more comfortable life.
- B. to buy his old father some sake.
- C. to repair the cracks in the hut.

Answer:

Taro's father was an old and very feeble man. He suffered heavily during the winter season. A drink of 'sake' is very warming in the cold. So the old man wondered of the expensive drink since they were poor and couldn't buy even a little. Taro was hardworking and kind; so he wanted to buy his father a drink of 'sake'.

Q. 2 C

The neighbor left Taro's hut in a hurry because

- A. she was delighted with the drink.
- B. she was astonished to hear Taro's story.
- C. she wanted to tell the whole village about the waterfall.

Answer:

The said waterfall suddenly started to give 'sake' instead of water to Taro. Since 'sake' was a very tasty and expensive drink, the villager wanted to spread the news.

❖ WORKING WITH LANGUAGE

Q. 1

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, kind, considerate and loving.

thoughtful	hardworking	loving	honest
considerate	trustworthy	efficient	kind

Answer:

This shows that he was thoughtful, kind, considerate and loving

Q. 2 A

“This made Taro sadder than ever.”

‘This’ refers to

- A. a strong wind that began to blow.
- B. Taro’s father’s old age.
- C. Taro’s inability to buy expensive sake for his father.

(Mark the right item.)

Answer:

Taro loved his parents very much and wanted to provide them with a comfortable living in their old age. However, as he was very poor, he was unable to buy the pricey drink of sake for his father as per the old man’s wish. This made Taro very unhappy.

Q. 2 B

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

‘This’ refers to

- A. the most beautiful fountain in the city.
- B. rewarding Taro with gold and giving the fountain his name.
- C. sending for Taro to hear his story.

Answer:

Taro was a dutiful son and took as good care of his parents as he could. The Emperor wanted to uphold these values and instill them in the children. That is why he rewarded Taro with gold and gave the fountain his name.

Q. 3

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

Answer:

The rhyming words are:

sad – bad

chop – stop

last – fast

wax – axe

could – wood

sound – round

way – day

sunny – money

young – lung

Q. 4 A

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 _____ water fall hidden behind a rock. He tasted the water and found it _____.

Answer:

- (i) young
- (ii) lonely
- (iii) thoughtful
- (iv) hard
- (v) little
- (vi) beautiful
- (vii) delicious

Q. 4 B

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

1. This made Taro _____ than ever. (3)
2. he decided to work _____ than before. (3)
3. Next morning. Taro jumped out of bed _____ than usual. (4)
4. He began to chop even _____. (4)
5. Next morning, Taro started for work even _____ than the morning before. (10)

Answer:

- (1) sadder
- (2) harder
- (3) earlier

(4) faster

(5) earlier

❖ SPEAKING AND WRITING

Q. 1

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.

Answer:

Student do yourself.

Q. 2 A

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.

Answer:

The parts of the story that show that Taro is thoughtful, hardworking, and also wise are-

- Though he worked very hard, he earned very little money. This made him sad, for he was a thoughtful son and wanted to give his old parents everything they needed.
- ‘How do I get a little sake for my poor old father?’ He decided to work harder than before.
- he began to chop even faster, thinking of the extra money he must earn to buy the sake to warm the old man’s bones.
- Taro quickly filled the pitcher he had with him and hurried home.
- Next morning, Taro started for work even earlier than the morning before.
- Taro had been wise enough to slip behind a rock when he saw how things were going. He was nowhere to be found.

Q. 2 B

(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 question in class.

Answer:

(i) No, I do not believe in magic.

In the story 'Taro's Reward', the unknown stream in the forest starts giving Taro sake instead of water. Sake is a delicious and very expensive drink that Taro's father wished he could have. Taro was so thoughtful, considerate, and kind that he wanted to work harder than usual. That is why the magical stream reward Taro by giving him the sake that he wanted to earn. On the other hand, in 'Who Did Patrick's Homework', the elf that appeared, taught Patrick to be a organised, disciplined, and responsible person in the pretext of helping him with his homework.

(ii) I like 'Who Did Patrick's Homework' better than 'Taro's Reward' because in the previous story, the boy Patrick was initially a lazy person and did not want to do his homework himself. The elf then taught him the value of work and discipline in life. This important and positive change in his personality makes this story more interesting than the latter one.

Yes, I know such a story in another language, namely in Bengali.

Q. 2 C

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

Answer:

I know the story 'The Honest Woodcutter' in Bengali.

There was a very poor woodcutter, who had only one axe made of iron. One day, while he was cutting wood right on the bank of a river, his axe fell in the water. He was crestfallen as that axe was the tool for his livelihood and started crying bitterly. Suddenly, a Goddess came out of the water and asked him the reason behind his sorrow.

After hearing his answer, the Goddess showed him a golden and a silver axe respectively. When he denied the ownership of those two axes, the Goddess finally gave him his axe. She also gave him the other two axes as a reward for his honesty in the face of dire poverty.

In 'Taro's Reward' too, the honest and hard work of Taro earns him the happiness that he deserves. Despite his financial conditions, he looked after his parents the best he could and always wanted to do more. This speaks of

his character that has both compassion and a caring nature.

Q. 3 A

Listen to these children. What are they talking about?



Answer:

These children are talking about the level of difficulty of swimming, driving and learning English.

Q. 3 B

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

Answer:

The most interesting- stamp collecting, painting, learning languages

Dullest- knitting, sewing, cooking

Most dangerous- mountain climbing,

Safest- watching TV

Most rewarding- listening to music, reading, walking, fishing

Most exciting- swimming, playing football, dancing

❖ DICTATION

Q. 1

Your teacher will speak the words given below. Write against each two new words that rhyme with it.

1. bed _____
2. wax _____
3. fast _____
4. chop _____
5. young _____

Answer:

1. bed red shade
2. wax tax lax
3. fast blast dust
4. chop shop flop
5. young stung clung

❖ THE QUARREL – WORKING WITH THE POEM

Q. 1

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

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

Answer:

(i) Fell out means to quarrel or disagree with somebody on an issue.

(ii) Here turned black means due to the quarrel with his sibling the kid had a bad mood during the afternoon.

Q. 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.

Answer:

(i) In the poem *The Quarrel*, the kids started to quarrel with one another on a trivial matter. Then they lost focus and moved completely off the topic.

(ii) Like in any case, two siblings started quarreling about petty things. It started as a paltry dispute between the two and was some mild issue.

(iii) What started out as a mere tiff was blown out of proportions by the childish behaviour of the siblings. So the 'end of it was strong'.

(iv) Due to the quarrel between the two siblings, the mood was glum; and a bad mood made the afternoon seem bleak.

(v) The kid's brother gave him a goodhearted slight punch on the back. This suggests the camaraderie the two brothers share.

Q. 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?

Answer:

It was a bright Sunday morning in early October. I was very happy that I did not have much homework from

school and was feeling like drawing, which is my favourite pass time. After breakfast as I was gathering the drawing book, crayons and other necessary things, my sister suddenly came up to me and demanded my color pencils saying she wanted to draw too. I know it for a fact that she hates crayons because she once told me elders never use them. She has also been using watercolor for at least four years now. But when I told her all these, she countered me saying she just felt like using color pencils as the day reminded her of her senior school years. Then again, I was the first one to think about drawing that morning; so I must have a go with the colors. This time she took it a step further and said she thought about drawing the previous night too. Now that was not fair, how can someone know if the morning will be bright? I became angry and called her bluff and she started shouting that I was a bad kid. This trouble went on for another hour when our father came back from Sunday market with fresh vegetables and supplies. He asked us to wash and peel each of the vegetables we could. My sister knew how to do it but she cut her finger earlier and I never knew how to do it. However, both of us wanted to help. So, she started instructing me and I did as much as I could. During all these, we eventually forgot about our earlier disagreement and finally did the drawings sharing those crayons and were laughing at our earlier stupidity.