

The Rats' Feast

Pre-reading Activities

Question 1:

Opinion Poll

We usually don't accept new people / things / ideas easily in our lives. Suppose your favourite teacher is transferred to another school and you have to accept a new one. Discuss with your partner and express your opinions in the given form. Report to the class and check your responses to each of the statements.

Answer:

	Statements	Agree	Disagree	Can't say
i.	We should accept him/her without comparing with previous teacher.	✓		
ii.	We will form our opinions from his/her appearance.		✓	
iii.	We will recognize his/her personality within a brief span.			✓
iv.	We must be polite in our attitude.	✓		
v.	We will accept him/her as he/she is.			✓
vi.	We will give more and more time to know him/her.	✓		
vii.	We will not consider it seriously.		✓	
viii.	Just from his/her talking we will come to know about his/her personality.	✓		

Question 2:

Personality

Look at the following characteristic features of a personality. Which one of them you would like to see in your teacher? Discuss with your partner and put the features in two boxes: desirable and undesirable. You may add some of your own.

Dictatorial **Studious** **Partial** **Strictly disciplined**

Subjective **Loving** **Co-operative** **Friendly**

Talkative **Objective** **Caring** **Sharing**

Answer:

Desirable Qualities
i. Co-operative
ii. Studious
iii. Loving
iv. Friendly
v. Objective
vi. Caring
vii. Sharing

Undesirable Qualities
i. Partial
ii. Dictatorial
iii. Strictly disciplined
iv. Subjective
v. Talkative

Passage 1

उतारा १

मराठी भाषांतर:

उंदरांची मेजवानी

मुले म्हणाली, “हे अतिशय अयोग्य आहे. आम्ही नवीन शिक्षकांच्या हाताखाली शिकणार नाही.” संस्कृतचे नवीन शिक्षक येणार होते, त्यांचे नाव कालीकुमार तर्कालंकार होते.

सुट्टी संपली होती आणि मुले रेल्वेगाडीने शाळेला परतत होती. एका खोडकर मुलाने अगोदरच नव्या शिक्षकाचे नाव बदलले होते आणि त्यांना चिडवण्यासाठी “काळ्या भोपळ्याचे बलिदान” असे पद जुळवले होते. हे पद मुले सामूहिकरित्या जोरजोरात लयबद्धपणे म्हणत होती.

अडखोला स्थानकात एक वृद्ध गृहस्थ गाडीच्या डब्यात चढले. त्यांच्याजवळ एक गादीची वळकटी, कापडाने झाकलेली दोन-तीन मातीची भांडी, एक पत्र्याची पेटी आणि काही गाठोडी होती. बिच्चुन नावाचा, एक दंगेखोर (व्रात्य) मुलगा त्यांच्यावर खेकसला, “मठ्ठ माणसा, इथे जागा नाही दुसऱ्या डब्यात जा.”

त्यावर ते वृद्ध गृहस्थ म्हणाले, “संपूर्ण गाडी गच्च भरलेली आहे, दुसरीकडे कोठेही जागा नाही. मी इकडच्या एका कोपऱ्यात बसून राहीन आणि तुम्हांला सगळ्यांना अजिबात त्रास देणार नाही.” त्यांनी आपली जागा रिकामी केली व गादीची वळकटी बाहेर काढून एका कोपऱ्यात उलगडली आणि तेथे जाऊन बसले.

त्यानंतर त्यांनी मुलांना विचारले, “मुलांनो, तुम्ही कोठे आणि कशासाठी जात आहात?” बिच्चुनने प्रत्युत्तर दिले – “अंत्यसंस्कार करण्यास जात आहोत.”

वृद्ध गृहस्थाने विचारले, “कोणाचे अंत्यसंस्कार?”

त्यावर उत्तर आले, “काळा भोपळा ताजी मिरची,” आणि मुलांनी तालबद्धपणे पदघोष सुरू केला.

असनसोल येथे गाडी थांबली आणि ते वृद्ध गृहस्थ अंधोळ करण्यासाठी थोडावेळ खाली उतरले. जेव्हा ते गृहस्थ परत आले तेव्हा बिच्चुन म्हणाला, “तुम्ही या डब्यातून निघालात तर फार बरे होईल, महाशय.”

“का?”

“येथे सगळीकडे उंदीर आहेत...”

“उंदीर? काय सांगता काय?”

“त्यांनी तुमच्या मातीच्या भांड्यांचे काय केले आहे ते पाहा.”

दोन मातीच्या भांड्यांतील मिठाई फस्त झाल्याचे त्या वृद्ध गृहस्थांनी पाहिले.

“ते उंदीर तुमच्या गाठोड्यातील वस्तूसुद्धा घेऊन पळाले.” त्या गाठोड्यात काही पिळलेले आंबे होते.

वृद्ध गृहस्थ हसले आणि म्हणाले, “गरीब बिचारे उंदीर ! ते फारच भुकेले असले पाहिजेत.”

“अरे नाही.” बिच्चुन म्हणाला, “ते असेच आहेत, जरी भुकेले नसले तरीही ते खातच असतात.”

मुलांनी हास्याचा गडगडाट केला आणि म्हणाली, “इथे जर आणखी काही असते, तर त्यांनी तेही अधाशीपणे खाऊन टाकले असते.” तेव्हा ते गृहस्थ म्हणाले, “यात सगळा माझाच दोष आहे. मला जर माहीत असते, की या गाडीत एवढे उंदीर आहेत तर मी आणखी जास्त प्रमाणात खायला आणले असते.”

एवढ्या खोड्या करूनही वृद्ध गृहस्थ रागावले नाहीत हे पाहून मुले खरेतर निराश झाली. त्यांना रागाने भडकलेले पाहायला मुलांना मजा वाटली असती.

A1. Factual Reading

Question 1:

Read the passage in about 10 minutes and write your responses whether you ‘agree’ or ‘disagree’.

Answer:

	Statements	Agree	Disagree
i.	Bichkun was a rowdy boy.	✓	
*ii.	There were many rats on the train.		✓
*iii.	The boys were very quiet in the journey.		✓
*iv.	Mr Tarkalankar treated the boys very patiently.	✓	

Question 2:

Glance quickly through the passage again and choose the correct alternatives and write your responses.

i. The new Sanskrit teacher _____

- a. Bichkun b. Kalikumar

Answer:

- b. Kalikumar

ii. The sacrifice of the Black pumpkin _____

- a. rhyme b. chorus

Answer:

- a. rhyme

iii. Bichkun was the name of _____

- a. gentleman b. a boy

Answer:

- b. a boy

iv. The sweets were actually eaten by _____

- a. boys b. rats

Answer:

- a. boys

Question 3:

Glance through the passage and match column A with column B.

	Column 'A'		Column 'B'
i.	Adkhola station	a.	black pumpkin fresh chilli
ii.	Bichkun	b.	a rowdy boy
iii.	Mr. Dundle Head	c.	the train pulled up at
iv.	Asansol	d.	an elderly gentleman boarded the train

Answer:

(i – d) , (ii – b), (iii – a), (iv – c)

Question 4:

Find the speaker

Who said the following?

i. "No room here..."

ii. "The whole train is packed."

iii. "Whose last rites?"

iv. "Black Pumpkin Fresh Chilli."

Answer:i. Bichkun ii. The old man

iii. The old man iv. Bichkun

Question 5:

Glance through the passage and say whether the following statements are True or False.

- i. The students refused to study under the new teacher.
- ii. Mr. Kalikumar Tarkalankar was the new Geography teacher.
- iii. The vacation was not yet over.
- iv. At Adkhola station, an elderly gentleman boarded the train.
- v. An elderly gentleman had with him a bedroll.
- vi. He had with him a sack and an umbrella.
- vii. The whole train was empty.

Answer:

- i. True ii. False
- iii. False iv. True
- v. True vi. False
- vii. False

Question 6:

Name the following with reference to the passage.

- i. The subject that the boys refused to study under the new teacher.
- ii. The rhyme made by a naughty boy and repeated in chorus.
- iii. The station where the elderly gentleman boarded the train.
- iv. The station where the old man got down to have bath.

Answer:

- i. Sanskrit
- ii. 'The sacrifice of the Black pumpkin'
- iii. Adkhola
- iv. Asansol

Read the passage from line (1 to 33) on page (9, 10) of your textbook and answer the following questions.["It's so unfair!" said.....

.....lose his temper.]

A2. Understanding the Passage

Question 1:

Find sentences as a proof for the following statements.

- i. The boys didn't want the old man in the compartment.
- ii. The train was overcrowded.

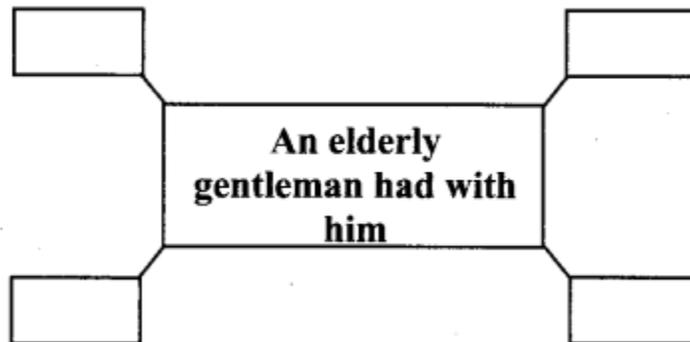
- iii. The old man was a gentleman.
- iv. The children were mischievous.

Answer:

- i. "No room here, Mr Dundle head, go to another compartment."
- ii. "The whole train is packed, there's no room anywhere."
- iii. "The whole train is packed, there's no room anywhere. I'll sit in this corner and won't trouble you at all."
- iv. "Black Pumpkin Fresh Chilli," came the reply the boys started chanting the rhyme.

Question 2:

Complete the Web.



Answer:

- i. a bedroll
- ii. two-three earthen pots
- iii. a tin trunk
- iv. a few bundles

Question 3:

Read the sentences and choose the correct answer.

- i. The name of the rowdy boy was _____.
 - a. Kalikumar
 - b. Bichkun
 - c. Black Pumpkin

Answer:

- b. Bichkun

- ii. The boys were returning to school by the _____.
 - a. bus
 - b. plane
 - c. train

Answer:

- c. train

- iii. An elderly gentleman boarded the train at _____.
 - a. Adkhola
 - b. Tarkalankar
 - c. Dundle

Answer:

a. Adkhola

iv. The new teacher was going to teach _____.

a. Maths b. Art

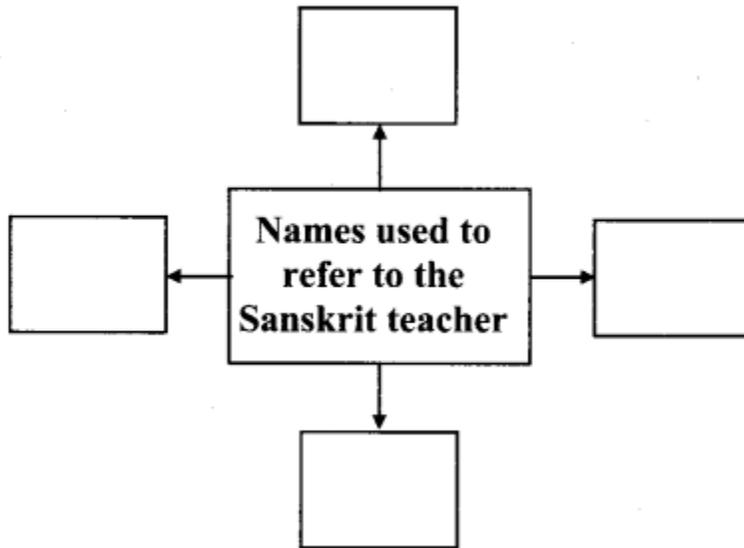
c. Sanskrit

Answer:

c. Sanskrit

Question 4:

Complete the following web for the various names used for the Sanskrit teacher.



Answer:

i. New teacher

ii. New Sanskrit teacher

iii. Kalikumar Tarkalankar

iv. Black pumpkin

A3. Meaning from the Text

Question 1:

Look at the sentences given below with a word in a box. Now select the appropriate word from the list given below that best explains the meaning of the word given in the box. One is done for you.

stopped, protected, ended, everywhere, unfolded, left

- e.g. The vacation was **over** – ended
- i. He **rolled out** his bed.
- ii. The train **pulled up** at Asansol.
- iii. There are rats **all over**.
- iv. The old man **got down** briefly to have a bath.
- v. The table was **covered with** cloth.

Answer:

- i. unfolded ii. stopped
iii. everywhere iv. left
v. protected

Question 2:

Choose the correct words from the passage for the following meanings.

- i. Made of clay
ii. A number of things tied together
iii. Enough space
iv. Got up and left the seat
v. Very hungry
vi. Tricks that are played as a joke

Answer:

- i. earthen ii. bundles
iii. room iv. vacated
v. famished vi. pranks

Question 3:

Match the following words with their correct meanings.

	Column 'A'		Column 'B'
i.	naughty	a.	gentleman
ii.	elderly	b.	boy
iii.	earthen	c.	pumpkin
iv.	a black	d.	pots

Answer:

- (i – b), (ii – a), (iii – d), (iv – c)

Question 4:

Find a proper word for the following explanation from the passage.

- i. express unwillingness =
- ii. behaving badly =
- iii. respond sharply and quickly =
- iv. singing together in a group =

Answer:

- i. refuse ii. rowdy
- iii. retorted iv. chanting

A4. Language Study

Do as directed.

Question 1:

“It’s so unfair !” said the boys.

(Write the sentence selecting the correct option)

- i. The boys exclaimed that it was very unfair.
- ii. The boys exclaimed that it is very unfair.
- iii. The boys said that, that was very unfair.

Answer:

- ii. The boys exclaimed that it is very unfair.

Question 2:

The boy said, “We refuse to study under the new teacher.”

[Choose the correct alternative (indirect speech)]

- i. The boy said that he refuse to study under the new teacher.
- ii. The boy said that he was refused to study under the new teacher.
- iii. The boy said that they refused to study under the new teacher.

Answer:

- iii. The boy said that they refused to study under the new teacher.

Question 3:

A naughty boy had already changed the name of the teacher. (Change the voice)

Answer:

The name of the teacher had already been changed by a naughty boy.

Question 4:

The boys roared with laughter.

(Frame a ‘Wh’ question to get the underlined part as an answer)

Answer:

Who roared with laughter?

Question 5:

He vacated the seat.

[Choose the correct alternative (voice)]

- i. The seat is vacated by him.
- ii. The seat was vacated by him.
- iii. The seat will be vacated by him.

Answer:

- ii. The seat was vacated by him.

Question 6:

Complete the following indirect speech.

- i. He asked the boys, "Where are you going?"

He asked the boys _____ .

Answer:

He asked the boys where they were going.

- ii The old man said, "The whole train is packed."

The old man said _____ .

Answer:

The old man said that the whole train was packed.

A5. Personal Response

Question 1:

What do you think of the elderly gentleman in the story?

Answer:

I think that the elderly gentleman in the story had an adjusting nature. He maintained his cool even when the boys played various pranks on him. He overlooked the mischief of the boys and treated them well.

Question 2:

Do you enjoy making fun of elderly people?

Answer:

I don't enjoy making fun of elderly people. They are older in age and are more knowledgeable and experienced than me. So, I treat them with respect and try to help them in every possible manner.

Question 3:

How would you feel if you were insulted by other fellow passengers on a train journey?

Answer:

I would not like it if I were insulted by other fellow passengers on a train journey. I would feel sad and I would try to find out the reason for their misbehavior. I would be patient and calm and I would politely ask them to behave.

Question 4:

The behaviour of the boys was right or wrong. Write your opinion.

Answer:

According to me, the behaviour of the boys was wrong. They were naughty and mischievous and they made fun of an elderly person, which was incorrect. Irrespective of who he was, they should have treated him with respect and should have helped him.

Passage 2

उतारा २

मराठी भाषांतर:

वर्धमान स्थानकावर गाडी एक तास थांबणार होती. त्यांना गाडी बदलावी लागणार होती. वृद्ध गृहस्थ मुलांना म्हणाले, “मी तुम्हांला आणखी जास्त त्रास देणार नाही. मी या गाडीच्या दुसऱ्या डब्यामध्ये एखादी जागा मिळवीन.”

“नाही, नाही. तुम्ही आमच्याबरोबरच प्रवास कराल. तुमच्या गाठोड्यात काही शिल्लक राहिले असेल, तर त्याच्यावर आम्ही मिळून लक्ष ठेवू म्हणजे काहीही बेपत्ता होणार नाही.” तेव्हा ते सदगृहस्थ म्हणाले, “ठीक आहे, मुलांनो. तुम्ही या गाडीत चढा, मी एका मिनिटात आलोच.”

ते गाडीत चढले आणि थोड्याच वेळात त्या वृद्ध गृहस्थांसोबत एक मिठाई विकणारा माणूस त्यांच्या खिडकीपाशी आपली गाडी ढकलत आला. त्याने प्रत्येकाच्या हातावर एक मिठाईचे पाकीट ठेवले आणि म्हणाला, “या वेळी उंदरांना भूक लागणार नाही.” मुलांनी आनंदाने जल्लोष केला आणि उड्या मारायला सुरुवात केली. आंबे विकणारा आंब्याची पेटी घेऊन आला ज्यामुळे त्यांच्या मेजवानीत आंब्यांची भर पडली.

मुले त्या सदगृहस्थांना म्हणाली, “आम्हांला सांगा, तुम्ही कोठे आणि कशासाठी जात आहात?”

ते म्हणाले, “मी नोकरी बघण्यासाठी जात आहे, जेथे कुठे मला योग्य नोकरी मिळेल, तेथे मी गाडीतून उतरेन.”

मुलांनी विचारले. “तुम्ही काय व्यवसाय करता?”

ते गृहस्थ म्हणाले, “मी संस्कृत विषयाचा शिक्षक आहे.”
यावर सगळ्यांनी टाळ्या वाजवल्या आणि म्हणाले, “जर असे
असेल, तर तुम्ही आमच्या शाळेत आलात तर फार छान होईल.”
“शाळेचे व्यवस्थापक माझी नेमणूक का करतील?” मुले म्हणाली
“त्यांना करावीच लागेल. आम्ही त्या काळा भोपळा ताजी
मिरचीला आमच्या जवळपास पाऊलही ठेवू देणार नाही.”
“तुम्ही माझ्यासाठी गोष्टी अवघड करत आहात. जर तुमच्या
शाळेच्या सचिवांना मी आवडलो नाही तर?
“त्यांना तुम्हांला पसंती दर्शवावीच लागेल. नाहीतर आम्ही
सर्वजण शाळा सोडून देऊ.”
“खूपच छान. मुलांनो, तुम्ही मला तुमच्या शाळेत घेऊन चला.”
गाडी स्थानकात आली. तेव्हा खुद्द सचिवच तेथे प्रतीक्षा
करत होते. त्या वृद्ध गृहस्थांना पाहून ते म्हणाले, “श्री. तर्कालंकार
साहेब, आपले स्वागत असो ! तुमची राहायची सोय झाली आहे.”
असे म्हणून ते त्यांना नमस्कार करण्यासाठी खाली वाकले.

A1. Factual Reading

Question 1:

State whether the following statements are True or False. Correct the false statements.

- The old gentleman was on the look out for his relative.
- The old gentleman was an English teacher.

Answer:

- False. The old gentleman was on the look out for a job.
- False. The old gentleman was a Sanskrit teacher.

Question 2:

Read the passage in about 10 minutes and write your responses whether you ‘agree’ or ‘disagree’.

Answer:

	Statements	Agree	Disagree
*i.	The story is about a teacher and students.	✓	
*ii.	The gentleman was the teacher of English.		✓
*iii.	The boys were ready to leave the school if the gentleman was not appointed as their teacher.	✓	
iv.	The secretary did not know who Mr. Tarkalankar was.		✓

Question 3:

Glance quickly through the passage again and choose the correct alternatives from the one's given below.

i. At _____, the train was to stop for an hour.

- a. Bardhaman b. Adkhola

Answer:

- a. Bardhaman

ii. The old man was accompanied by _____.

- a. the boys
b. the sweet vendor

Answer:

- b. the sweet vendor

iii. The boys let out a _____ and started jumping about.

- a. hurrah b. a sigh

Answer:

- a. hurrah

*iv. The name of the secretary _____

- a. Tarkalankar
b. not mentioned

Answer:

b. not mentioned

Question 4:

Glance through the passage and match column A with column B.

	Column 'A'		Column 'B'
i.	Kalikumar Tarkalankar	a.	a packet of sweets
ii.	Sweet vendor	b.	bent down to touch the teacher's feet
iii.	The boys	c.	the new Sanskrit teacher
iv.	The Secretary	d.	let out a hurrah

Answer:

(i – c), (ii – a), (iii – d), (iv – b)

Read the passage from line (34 to 65) on page (10,11) of your textbook and answer the following questions.

[At Bardhaman the train.....

.....bent down to touch his feet.]

A2. Understanding the Passage

Question 1:

Find sentences as a proof for the following statements.

- i. The old man was generous.
- ii. Mr. Tarkalankar wanted a job.
- iii. The boys wanted Mr. Tarkalankar to be their Sanskrit teacher.
- iv. The Secretary respected Mr. Tarkalankar.

Answer:

- i. He handed everyone a packet of sweets, saying, "This time the rats won't go hungry."
- ii. "I'm on the look out for a job," said he. "I'll get off wherever I find a suitable one."
- iii. They all clapped and said, "In that case, it will be great to have you in our school."
- iv. And he bent down to touch his feet.

A3. Meaning from the Text

Question 1:

Look at the sentences given below with a word in a box. Now select the appropriate word from the list given below that best explains the meaning of the word given in the box.

screamed, showing excitement, leaned, enter

- i. You **get on** the train.
- ii. The boys **let out** a hurrah.
- iii. The boys started **jumping about.**
- iv. He **bent down** to touch his feet.

Answer:

- i. enter
- ii. screamed
- iii. showing excitement
- iv. leaned

Question 2:

Write from the passage words that mean the following.

- i. a separate chamber inside a train
- ii. person selling things on cart
- iii. to go along with someone, as a company
- iv. area near the place referred to

Answer:

- i. compartment
- ii. vendor
- iii. accompanied
- iv. neighbourhood

A4. Language Study

Do as directed.

Question 1:

They got on the train. (Add a question tag)

Answer:

They got on the train, didn't they?

Question 2:

The boys said to the gentleman, "Tell us where you are going?"(Rewrite in indirect speech)

Answer:

The boys told the gentleman to tell them where he was going.

Question 3:

You are making things hard for me.(Rewrite in Present Perfect Tense)

Answer:

You have made things hard for me.

Question 4:

All of us will leave the school.(Rewrite as a negative sentence)

Ans: None of us will stay in the school.

A5. Personal Response

Question 1:

How do you react when a new teacher is introduced to you for a particular subject?

Answer:

When a new teacher is introduced for a particular subject, I would be very curious to learn from him/her. I would eagerly wait for the first lecture and be attentive in the class. I would be positive in my attitude to accept the new teacher.

Additional Questions for Practice

Question 1:

Read the story again and after discussing with your partner answer the following questions. Take help of the clues provided.

i. Answer in only one word or a phrase.

a. For whom did the boys compose a rhyme? (Find the person)

Answer:

The boys composed a rhyme for their new Sanskrit teacher, Mr. Kalikumar Tarkalankar.

b. Where did an elderly gentleman board the train? (Find the place)

Answer:

An elderly gentleman boarded the train at Adkhola station.

c. What did the old gentleman see? (Find the thing)

Answer:

The old gentleman saw that all the sweets in his two pots had been polished off.

d. What were added to the feast? (Find the thing)

Answer:

A basket of mangoes were added to the feast.

e. Who bent down to touch the feet of Mr. Tarkalankar? (Find the Person)

Answer:

The Secretary of the school bent down to touch the feet of Mr. Tarkalankar.

ii. Answer in just two or three sentences.

a. Describe in short the appearance of the elderly gentleman.

Answer:

The gentleman looked old in appearance and had a kind smile.

b. Why did the old man board in the boys' compartment? (Find the reason)

Answer:

The whole train was packed. There was no room anywhere. He saw a vacant seat in the boys' compartment. So, he boarded their compartment and sat on the vacant seat.

c. What made the boys feel disappointed? (Find the reason)

Answer:

The boys played various pranks to trouble the old man. Despite that, he did not lose his temper. So, the boys were disappointed on seeing that the old man was not getting angry.

d. Who accompanied the old man and what did he give to the boys? (Find the Person)

Answer:

A sweet vendor accompanied the old man to their window pushing his cart. He gave a packet of sweets to each boy.

iii. Write in brief now.

a. Who do you think are the 'rats' and what is their 'feast'?

Answer:

According to me, the 'rats' are the school boys in the compartment of the 1 train. Their 'feast' is the sweets in the earthen pots, covered with a cloth and ripe mangoes in the bundle that belonged to the elderly gentleman

Question 2:

Reading a story

Your teacher will ask any one of you to read the story aloud. Get ready. While reading aloud take care of the following.

Sound Speed of reading

Pronunciation Stress and intonation

Meaningful group of words Pauses

Understanding

[Students are expected to attempt the above activity on their own.]

Question 3:
Expressions

Find out as many expressions as you can from the text for the following persons.

i. The new Sanskrit teacher

a. _____ b. _____

ii. The Boys

a. _____ b. _____

iii. Bichkun

a. _____ b. _____

iv. The Secretary

a. _____ b. _____

Answer:

i. a. an old man ‘

b. the elderly gentleman

ii. a. the children

b. the rats

iii. a. a rowdy boy

b. a naughty boy

iv. name or expressions are not mentioned in the text.

Question 4:
Ordering Sentences

Glance through the story again and arrange the following sentences in order of their occurrence in the story. You may discuss with your partner and decide.

i. An elderly gentleman boarded the train.

ii. The boys ate up all sweets from the pots of the old man.

iii. The boys were prepared not to let Mr. Tarkalankar set foot in the school.

iv. The boys were returning to school after the vacation.

v. The old gentleman arranged a feast of sweets and mangoes for the boys.

vi. The gentleman wished that if he had known about rats, he would have brought more sweets.

vii. The boys had made up their mind not to study under the new Sanskrit teacher.

viii. The old man got down to take a bath.

ix. A naughty boy had made a rhyme by changing the name of the new Sanskrit teacher.

x. The boys wished that the old man would join their school as Sanskrit teacher.

xi. The secretary welcomed Mr. Tarkalankar by touching his feet.

Answer:.

i. The boys had made up their mind not to study under the new Sanskrit teacher.

ii. The boys were prepared not to let Mr. Tarkalankar set foot in the school.

iii. The boys were returning to school after the vacation.

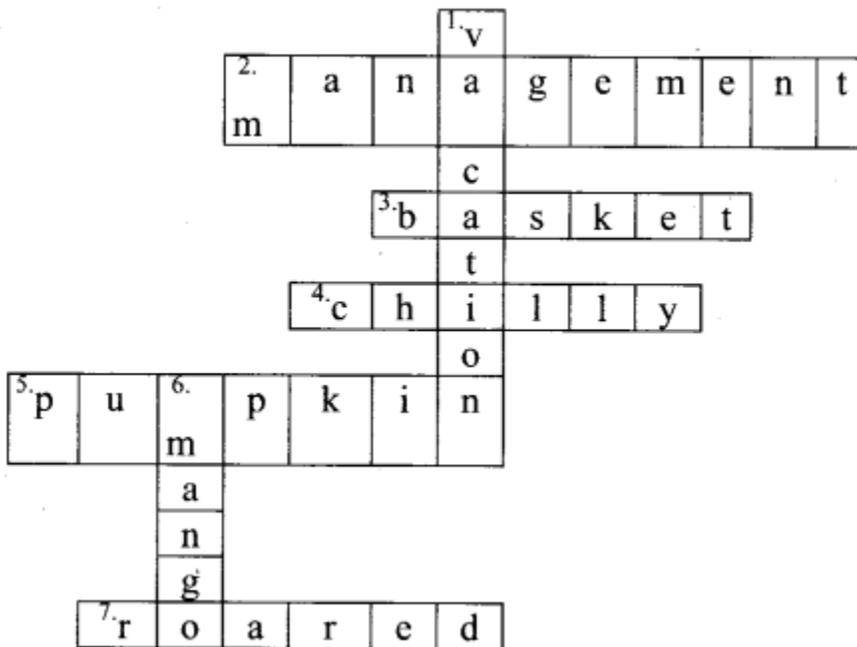
iv. A naughty boy had made a rhyme by changing the name of the new Sanskrit teacher.

v. An elderly gentleman boarded the train.

vi. The old man got down to take a bath.

vii. The boys ate up all sweets from the pots of the old man.

Answer:



Question 6:

Translation skill

Your younger brother/sister wants to know the story.
'The Rats' Feast'.

Translate it in your mother tongue for him/her.

[Students are expected to answer this question on their own.]

Question 7:

Opposites

Use a dictionary to find the opposites of the following words and rewrite.

- i. efficient ii. probable
- ii. determinate iv. attractive
- iii. obedient vi. conventional

Answer:

- i. inefficient ii. improbable
- iii. indeterminate iv. unattractive
- v. disobedient
- vi. unconventional

Question 8:

Using words

Replace the underlined expressions with the words from Activity 12.

- i. It's highly not probable that anybody will agree.

Answer:

It's highly improbable that anybody will agree.

ii. Being short and overweight it looks not pleasant to look at the figure.

Answer:

Being short and overweight it looks unattractive to look at the figure.

iii. 'How can you not follow and refuse my orders,' said the officer.

Answer:

'How can you be disobedient and refuse my orders,' said the officer.

iv. In the light of the energy crisis we will have to be in search of not the same type of methods.

Answer:

In the light of the energy crisis we will have to be in search of unconventional methods.

V. My friend could not get the job as he was found not fit to do the work.

Ans:

Answer:

My friend could not get the job as he was found inefficient to do the work.

Question 9:

Direct and Indirect

i. Look at the following sentences and discuss the responses with your partner. Write down your observations.

a. "It's so unfair!" said the boys.

• What are the words said by the boys?

Ans: It's so unfair

• How are the words said by the boys, written?

Ans: The words said by the boys are written in inverted commas.

b. The boys exclaimed that it was very unfair. Discuss

• What differences do you observe in the sentences 'a' and 'b'?

Answer:

In sentence 'a', the actual words spoken by the boys are written in inverted commas. In sentence 'b', the words spoken by the boys are reported and the inverted commas are not used in this sentence.

• What is the change in the tense?

Answer:

In sentence 'a', the present tense is used.

In sentence 'b', the past tense is used.

• What is the change in the punctuation marks?

Answer:

There are inverted commas and an exclamation mark in sentence 'a'. There are no

inverted commas and no exclamation mark in sentence 'b'. There is a full stop at the end of the sentence.

- What new words are added in the place of underlined word in sentence 'a'?

Answer:

The word 'exclaimed' is used in sentence 'b' in place of the word 'said' in sentence 'a'.

- Are the words spoken by the boys used as they were in sentence 'a' and why?

Answer:

No, the words spoken by the boys are not used as they were in sentence 'a'. In sentence 'b', the actual words spoken by the boys are not mentioned, rather they are reported.

- Why and when is it essential to make a change of this type?

Answer:

It is essential to change a sentence into indirect speech when we are reporting to a third person about what was said in the past. This change is made to avoid confusion of who said the words and when they were said.

ii. Now, find the sentences of this type from the story and change them as done here. Check with the help of the following checklist for the expected changes.

Answer:

a. The old man said, "The whole train is packed." (Direct)

The old man said that the whole train was packed. (Indirect)

b. Bichkun said, "It'll be better if you move out of this compartment." (Direct)

Bichkun said that it would be better if he moved out of that compartment. (Indirect)

c. The gentleman said, "It's all my fault." (Direct)

The gentleman said that it was all his fault. (Indirect)

d. The gentleman said, "I won't trouble you any more." (Direct)

The gentleman said that he wouldn't trouble them any more. (Indirect)

e. He said, "I'm a Sanskrit teacher." (Direct)

He said that he was a Sanskrit teacher. (Indirect)

iii. Now, look at the following sentences and discuss the changes in sentence 'a' and 'b' with the help of your partner and teacher. Note the changes with the help of a checklist.

a. "Whose last rites are you performing?" said the old man.

b. The old man asked whose last rites they were performing.

Checklist

- Use of proper reporting word

Answer:

The reporting verb 'asked' is used for the question.

- Change in the tense

Answer:

The present tense is changed to the past tense in sentence 'b'.

- Change in personal pronouns

Answer:

In sentence 'a', the personal pronoun

'you' in the second person is used because it is a direct address made to the boys. In sentence 'b', personal pronoun 'they' in the third person is used to refer to the boys.

- Change in an adverb

Answer:

There are no adverbs in the sentences.

- Change in the punctuation marks Ans: In sentence 'a', a question mark is used. In sentence 'b', no question mark is used; instead, a full stop is used at the end of the sentence.

Removal of punctuation marks

Answer:

The inverted commas- and question mark used in sentence 'a' are removed in sentence 'b'.

iv. There are many sentences of this type in the story. Write sentences of this type and then convert them as in the sentence 'b'.

Answer:

a. The boys said to the gentleman, "Where are you going?" (Direct)

The boys asked the gentleman where he was going. (Indirect)

b. He asked, "Why would the management engage me?" (Direct)

He asked why the management would engage him. (Indirect)

Question 10:

Traveler reports

Imagine that you were one of the travelers on the train in the compartment of the boys. You have listened to the complete dialogue between the children and the teacher. Report all the happenings. Consider the changes expected in the tense, personal pronouns, etc.

Answer:

I was visiting my native place. I boarded the train and found a group of boys returning to school after their vacation. They were talking about how unfair it was to have a new Sanskrit teacher. They refused to study under him. One of the boys, who was naughty, had already changed the name of the teacher and made a rhyme called, "The sacrifice of the Black Pumpkin." They were repeating this in a chorus.

At Adkhola station, an elderly gentleman boarded the train with his luggage (bedding, earthen pots, bundles, etc.) A rowdy boy called Bichkun shouted at him and told him to go to another compartment. The old man said that the train was packed and there was no room anywhere. He said that he would sit in a corner and not trouble them at all. He then vacated the seat and settled down in a corner. When he asked the boys where they were going, Bichkun said that they were going to perform the last rites of their new Sanskrit teacher, whom they had named Black Pumpkin Fresh Chilli.

When the train stopped at Asansol, the old man got down to have a bath. When he returned, Bichkun told him to move out of that compartment as there were rats all over the place. The old gentleman saw that all the sweets he was carrying in two pots, were polished off. The old man smiled and said that the poor rats must have been famished. The boys roared with laughter and said that the rats would eat even if they were not hungry and would have devoured more sweets if there had been more. The old man blamed himself and said that if he had known there were so many rats on the train, he would have brought more sweets. Despite all these pranks, the old man was not angry and as a result, the boys were rather disappointed.

At Bardhaman, the train was to stop for an hour. They had to change the train. The old man offered to move into another compartment but the boys did not allow him. They said that they would watch his bundle and see that nothing would go missing. The gentleman told the boys to get in the train and that he would be back in a minute. In a short while, a sweet vendor accompanied by the old man came to their window, pushing his cart. He gave each boy a packet of sweets saying that the rats would not go hungry now. The boys let out a hurrah and started jumping around. Then came a mango seller along with his basket of mangoes, which were added to the feast. The boys asked the gentleman where he was going and why. The gentleman replied that he was on the look out for a job and would get off wherever he would find a suitable one. They asked him about his occupation. He said that he was a Sanskrit teacher. The boys were happy. They told him that they would love to have him in their school. The old man doubted whether the management would engage him. The boys said that the management would surely engage him because they would not let Black Pumpkin Fresh Chilli set foot in the neighbourhood. The old man asked what if the Secretary didn't like him. The boys said that he would have to or they would all leave the school. The old man then agreed and told them to take him to their school.

The train arrived at the station. The Secretary of the school himself was waiting. Seeing the old man, he welcomed him and said that his rooms were ready. Then, he bent down to touch his feet. The boys were surprised and shocked to find that the old man was none other than Mr. Tarkalankar, their new Sanskrit teacher, himself.

Question 11:

Admitting your guilt

Imagine you are one of those naughty boys in the train. You realized that Kalikumar is joining your school as a new Sanskrit teacher. You felt sorry for what you did and now you want to say sorry. Develop an imaginary dialogue between you and Kalikumar.

You may begin as:

You : Good morning, sir.

Kalikumar : Yes, Good morning. What is it?

You : Can I have a word with you?

Kalikumar : Of course, go ahead.

You : _____

Kalikumar : _____

Ans:

Myself : Good morning, sir.

Kalikumar : Yes, Good morning. What is it?

Myself : Can I have a word with you?

Kalikumar : Of course, go ahead.

Myself : Sir, I want to say something about

Kalikumar : Something about what? I think we met for the first time in the train yesterday, right?

Myself : Yes, Sir. I am really sorry on behalf of my friends for our behaviour. We shouldn't have troubled you in such a manner.

Kalikumar : What do you mean by 'such a manner'?

Myself : Sir, we behaved rudely and played pranks on you. We also polished off all the sweets that you were carrying.

Kalikumar : I know. You were very indecent and rude.

Myself : Yes, Sir. We have realized our mistake. We didn't know who you were. We should have respected your age.

Believe us, Sir, we were just having fun. But when we came to know that you were our Sanskrit teacher, we were even more ashamed of our behaviour.

You were so patient with us and you didn't lose your temper. Please excuse us.

Kalikumar : It's alright. I am happy that you have realized your mistake.

I forgive you. I know you are all good boys and will never misbehave with anyone in the future.

Myself : I promise, Sir. We will not disappoint you. Thank you.

Question 12:

Retelling the story

In the story 'The Rats' feast' a naughty boy, Bichkun wanted to narrate his experience in the train to his parents. Working in pairs/groups, rewrite the story as Bichkun would narrate it. You may use following points but they are in jumbled order.

i. Handed packets of sweets with mangoes

ii. Old man got down

iii. Boys were returning to school

iv. Recognized new Sanskrit teacher

v. The old man boarded the train

vi. Didn't lose his temper

You may begin the story as follows:

"We all seven boys boarded the train. While returning to school, all of us got the news that a new teacher _____

Language support

• You may use starters like:

o I thought

o We were disappointed

o He didn't bother about

o He gave us

• Use the past tense.

- Use short sentences.
- Make use of dialogues.
- Select words properly.
- Take pauses where essential.
- Pay attention to intonation.

Answer:

“Seven of us boarded the train. While returning to school, we got the news that a new teacher was appointed for Sanskrit. We were unwilling to accept him. We named the new teacher ‘Red Pumpkin Fresh Chilli’. We made up a rhyme in his name and began repeating aloud in chorus.

Then, an elderly gentleman boarded our compartment at Adkhola station. We were rude to him and told him to find a place in some other compartment. He said that he would sit in the corner and not trouble us. He had bedding, earthen pots and a few bundles as his luggage. He got down at Asansol station to have a bath.

At this time, we took out the sweets from the pots and polished them off. When he returned, we told him that there were rats all over the place and that they had emptied the contents of the pots and the bundle of ripe mangoes.

He was very calm and did not lose his temper. We thought that he would become angry, but we were disappointed. We had to change the train at Bardhaman station. The old gentleman said that he would change the compartment, but we did not let him go. Instead, we assured him that we would watch his bundles.

The old man asked us to enter the train and left for a while. He returned with a sweet vendor and gave a packet of sweets to each one of us. Then came a mango-seller and the mangoes were added to the feast. We now asked the old man about him. He said that he was a Sanskrit teacher and was on the lookout for a job.

We invited him to join our school as we had decided not to allow Black Pumpkin Fresh Chilli to set foot in the neighbourhood. We assured him that the Secretary would appoint him and if he didn't, we would all leave the school. When the train arrived at the station, we saw the Secretary of our school waiting. He welcomed the old gentleman and bent down to touch his feet. We realized at that time that the man whom we had troubled a lot was none other than Mr. Tarkalankar, our new Sanskrit teacher. We were very ashamed of our behaviour.”