

Chapter 4.4: The Height of the Ridiculous

WARMING UP [PAGES 169 - 170]

Warming Up | Q 1 | Page 169

The teacher writes incomplete sentences on the board. He/She asks the students to complete them in their notebooks.

- (a) Today, I am happy because_____.
- (b) Today after the class, I wish_____.
- (c) Tomorrow, I feel that_____.
- (d) I want to laugh because_____.
- (e) Today, the class seems to be cheerful about_____.

SOLUTION

- 1. Today I am happy because my grandparents are coming for a holiday
- 2. Today after the class. I wish to eat an ice cream
- 3. Tomorrow, I feel that I will go for a movie.
- 4. I want to laugh because I am very happy
- 5. Today. the class seems to be cheerful about the forthcoming football match.

Warming Up | Q 2 | Page 169

The teacher writes an incomplete sentence and asks the students to complete it in a funny way.

SOLUTION

For example,

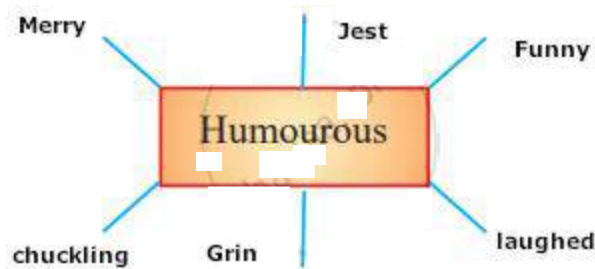
- 1. Mother gave me cheese but the cat ate it.
- 2. I went to the market and bought an elephant

Warming Up | Q 3 | Page 170

Give the words related to:



SOLUTION



Warming Up | Q 4 | Page 169

Pick out the word from the given box and write it in the correct columns below.

jump, narrow, cable, live, queen, butter, tree, kitten, van, yellow, dale, happy, night, printer, star, sober, paper, cloud, pearl, within, bike, began, slender.

Here the focus is not on the spellings but the pronunciation of the words.

Words with one syllable	Words with two syllables

SOLUTION

Words with one syllable	Words with two syllables
Jump, live, queen, van, dale, night, star, cloud, pearl bike	arrow, cable, butter, kitten, yellow, happy, printer, sober, paper, within, began, slender

Warming Up | Q 5.a) | Page 170

Count the syllables and underline the appropriate number in the box.

Elephant
1 2 3

SOLUTION

elephant
1 2 <u>3</u>

Warming Up | Q 5.b) | Page 170

Count the syllables and underline the appropriate number in the box.

mirror
1 2 3

SOLUTION

mirror
1 <u>2</u> 3

Warming Up | Q 5.c) | Page 170

Count the syllables and underline the appropriate number in the box.

bus
1 2 3

SOLUTION

bus
<u>1</u> 2 3

Warming Up | Q 5.d) | Page 170

Count the syllables and underline the appropriate number in the box.

kangaroo
1 2 3

SOLUTION

kangaroo
1 2 <u>3</u>

Warming Up | Q 5.e) | Page 170

Count the syllables and underline the appropriate number in the box.

rough
1 2 3

SOLUTION

rough
<u>1</u> 2 3

Warming Up | Q 5.F) | Page 170

Count the syllables and underline the appropriate number in the box.

insect
1 2 3

SOLUTION

insect
1 <u>2</u> 3

Warming Up | Q 5.g) | Page 170

Count the syllables and underline the appropriate number in the box.

telephone
1 2 3

SOLUTION

telephone
1 2 <u>3</u>

Warming Up | Q 5.h) | Page 170

Count the syllables and underline the appropriate number in the box.

monkey
1 2 3

SOLUTION

monkey
1 <u>2</u> 3

Warming Up | Q 5.i) | Page 170

Count the syllables and underline the appropriate number in the box.

bucket
1 2 3

SOLUTION

bucket
<u>1</u> 2 3

Warming Up | Q 5.j) | Page 170

Count the syllables and underline the appropriate number in the box.

biscuit
1 2 3

SOLUTION

biscuit
1 <u>2</u> 3

Warming Up | Q 6 | Page 170

Write the names of any five of your friends and mention the number of syllables in each name.

SOLUTION

Name	Number of syllables
Rohan	2
Namrata	3
Poonam	2
Jai	1
Nilima	3

ENGLISH WORKSHOP [PAGES 172 - 173]**English Workshop | Q 1 | Page 172**

Find out expressions from the poem that indicate funny moments.

For example, I laughed as I would die.

SOLUTION

1. was all upon the grin
2. The grin grew broad
3. And shot from ear to ear
4. He read the third; a chuckling noise
5. The fourth; he broke into a roar
6. The fifth; his waistband split;
7. The sixth; he burst five buttons off;
8. And tumbled in a fit.

English Workshop | Q 2 | Page 172

Order of sequence:

Arrange the following reactions in their proper order, as per the poem.

- (a) His waistband split
- (b) The grin grew broad.
- (c) Sleepless eye.
- (d) Was all upon the grin.
- (e) He broke into a roar.
- (f) He burst five buttons off

SOLUTION

1. Was all upon the grin
2. The grin grew broad
3. He broke into a roar
4. His waistband split
5. He burst five buttons
6. Sleepless eye

English Workshop | Q 3 | Page 172

Form pairs and find out the various rhyming words in the poem and two of your own. Complete the following table.

Words	Rhyming words	
	From the poem	More of your own
1. ear		
2. within		
3. man		
4. split		
5. way		
6. him		

7. die		
8. mood		

SOLUTION

Words	Rhyming words	
	From the poem	More of your own
1. ear	Hear	fear, dear
2. *within	Grin	sin, bin
3. man	Can	fan, ran
4. split	Fit	knit, lit
5. way	Pay	Way, ray
6. him	Limb	Dim, rim
7. die	I	Fly, shy
8. mood	Good	Food, wood

English Workshop | Q 4 | Page 173

Match the lines with the Figures of Speech.

Lines	Figures of Speech
1. In wondrous merry mood	Tautology
2. They were so queer, so very queer.	Alliteration
3. And saw him peep within	Onomatopoeia
4. The grin grew broad.	Repetition
5. And shot from ear to ear.	Hyperbole
6. He broke into a roar.	Repetition
7. Ten days and nights with sleepless eye	Transferred Epithet

SOLUTION

Lines	Figure of speech
1. In wondrous merry mood	Tautology Inversion
2. They were so queer, so very queer.	Repetition
3. And saw him peep within	hyperbole
4. The grin grew broad.	Alliteration
5. And shot from ear to ear.	Hyperbole
6. He broke into a roar.	Onomatopoeia
7. Ten days and night with sleepless eye	Transferred Epithet

English Workshop | Q 5 | Page 173

Copy any two stanzas of the poem in the lines below. Using a coloured pen underline the stressed syllables in each line and put a stress-mark (') over each.

SOLUTION

Stressed words from 1st and 2nd Stanzas:

Wondrous, thought, exceedingly, queer, die, way, I

I wr'ote s'ome li'nes once a time

In w'ondrous 'merry 'mood

And thought as usual 'men wo'uld say

They were exce'eding go'od

They were so que'er, so very que'er

I la'ughed as I would d'ie

Albe'it, in the general way,

a sober man am 'I

English Workshop | Q 6 | Page 173

Complete the lines of the poem by choosing proper pairs of rhyming words and make it meaningful.

We returned home late, one _____,
In the window, there glowed a _____. Burglars !! was our very
first _____;
For defence, sticks 'n stones we _____. "Let's grab the loot
and _____,"
was uttered soft, by _____.
The door we softly _____,
And then we were truly _____.
Oops! Before, outside, we'd _____, The television had been
left _____.
(run, shocked, gone, night, sought, on, someone, thought, light, unlocked)

SOLUTION

We returned home late, one. Night
In the window, there glowed a light
Burglars!! was our very first thought
For defence, sticks 'n stones we sought
"Let's grab the loot and run
was uttered soft, someone
The door we softly we unlocked
Oops! Before, outside, we'd gone
The television had been left on

English Workshop | Q 7 | Page 173

Form groups in your class and together compose a short humorous poem. Use jokes, experiences, etc. and convert it to a poetic form. Write and decorate it on chart-paper and put it up in your class, in turns.

SOLUTION

Students Do it your own

English Workshop | Q 8 | Page 173

Go through the poem and write an appreciation of the poem in a paragraph format.

SOLUTION

The poem 'The Height of the Ridiculous' by Oliver Wendell Holmes is a humorous poem written for enjoyment. with plenty of funny expressions. The main purpose of the poet is to simply entertain his audience. The rhyme scheme of the poem is ab cb. There are many figures of speech, like Hyperbole, Tautology, Onomatopoeia, Alliteration, etc. but the one that stands out is Transferred Epithet. In the

line Ten days and nights, with sleepless eye' the adjective 'sleepless' should be for the man and not for the eye. This is a humorous poem. The special feature of the poem are the expressions that indicate funny moments. The reader forms a mental picture and enjoys the poem. My favorite line is 'The sixth, he burst five buttons.' I like this line because I can imagine the way the man must have been laughing till he burst the buttons on his coat. I like the poem because it is a light Simple and entertaining poem.

English Workshop | Q 9 | Page 173

Project :

Reading a poem.

Arrange the poetry reading competition. Select the poem of your choice.

- Read the poem silently.
- Repeat the reading of the poem.
- Focus on the pauses, stresses, intonation etc.
- Pay attention to the proper pronunciations.

SOLUTION

Do it yourself.