

The Ashes that Made Trees Bloom

Chapter 4

Ques 1:

The old farmer is a kind person. What evidence of his kindness do you find in the first two paragraphs?

Ans:

In the first paragraph it is written that the old farmer treated the dog like his own child. He will feed the dog small pieces of fish with their own chopsticks and offer boiled rice to him as much as he wanted. The second paragraph says that to provide food to the birds, the old farmer will often turn up the surface of the ground. Both these instances proved that the old man was a kind person.

Ques 2:

What did the dog do to lead the farmer to the hidden gold?

Ans:

The dog came running towards the farmer. It kept his paws against his legs and with its head it kept on directing towards a spot behind him. The old man initially ignored the dog, but it kept on whining and running to and from until the farmer followed it to the spot.

Ques 3:

1. How did the spirit of the dog help the farmer first?

2. How did it help him next?

Ans:

1. The spirit of the dog came in the farmer's dream and first asked him to chop the pine tree and make mortar and hand-mill out of it. With the mortar and mill it gave the farmer heaps of gold.

2. The dog's spirit again came in the farmer's dream for the second time and told the farmer to collect the ash of the mortar and the mill and sprinkle it on the withered trees and they will blossom.

The farmer did this in front of the daimio (the landlord) and was awarded with lavish gifts.

Ques 4:

Why did the daimio reward the farmer, but punish his neighbour for the same act?

Ans:

The farmer had sprinkled the ash over the withered cherry tree and it blossomed. Daimio was pleased seeing the miracle and he rewarded the farmer. His neighbour poured the ash over the cherry tree, but nothing happened to the tree.

Fine particles from the ash entered the eyes of the daimio and his wife. They began to sneeze and cough.

This spoiled the splendour of the procession and so the neighbour was punished by man of the landlord.

Working with Language

Ques 1:

Read the following conversation.

Ravi: What are you doing?

Mridu: I'm reading a book.

Ravi: Who wrote it?

Mridu: Ruskin Bond.

Ravi: Where did you find it?

Mridu: In the library.

Notice that 'what', 'who', 'where', are Ques words. Ques that require information begin with Ques words. Some other Ques words are 'when', 'why', 'where', 'which' and 'how'.

Remember that

What asks about acting, things etc.

Who asks about people.

Which asks about people or things.

Where asks about place.

When asks about time.

Why asks about reason or purpose.

How asks about means, manner or degree.

Whose asks about possessions.

Read the following paragraph and frame Ques on the italicised phrases.

Anil is in school. I am in school too. Anil is sitting in the left row. He is reading a book. Anil's friend is sitting in the second row. He is sharpening his pencil. The teacher is writing on the blackboard. Children are writing in their copybooks. Some children are looking out of the window.

Ans:

1. Where is Anil?
2. Which row he is sitting in?
3. What is he doing?
4. Where is Anil's friend sitting?
5. What is his friend doing?
6. Who is writing on the blackboard?
7. What are some children doing?

Ques 2:

Write appropriate Ques words in the blank spaces in the following dialogue.

Neha: did you get this book?

Sheela: Yesterday morning.

Neha: is your sister crying?

Sheela : Because she has lost her doll.

Neha: room is this, yours or hers?

Sheela: It's ours

Neha: do you go to school?

Sheela: We walk to the school. It is nearby.

Ans:

When, Why, Whose, How

Ques 3:

Fill in the blanks with the words given in the box.

how	what	when
where	which	

1. **My friend lost his chemistry book. Now he doesn't know to do and to look for it.**
2. **There are so many toys in the shops. Neena can't decide one to buy.**
3. **You don't know the way to my school. Ask the policeman to get there.**
4. **You should decide soon to start building your house.**
5. **Do you know to ride a bicycle? I don't remember and I learnt it.**

6. "You should know to talk and to keep your mouth shut," the teacher advised Anil.

Ans:

1. what, where,
2. which
3. how
4. when
5. how, when, where
6. when, where

Ques 4:

Add im- or in- to each of the following words and use them in place of the italicised words in the sentences given below.

patient	proper	possible
sensitive	competent	

1. The project appears very difficult at first sight but it can be completed if we work very hard.
2. He lacks competence. That's why he can't keep any job for more than a year.
3. "Don't lose patience. Your letter will come one day," the postman told me.
4. That's not a proper remark to make under the circumstances.
5. He appears to be without sensitivity. In fact, he is very emotional.

Ans:

1. impossible
2. incompetent
3. impatient
4. improper
5. insensitive

Ques 5:

Read the following sentences.

It was a cold morning and stars still glowed in the sky.

An old man was walking along the road.

The words in italicised are articles. 'A' and 'an' are indefinite articles and 'the' is the definite article. 'A' is used before a singular countable noun. 'An' is used before a word that begins with a vowel.

- | | | |
|------------|----------------|-----------|
| • a boy | • an actor | • a mango |
| • an apple | • a university | • an hour |

Use a, an or the in the blanks.

There was once play which became very successful. famous actor was acting in it. In play his role was that of aristocrat who had been imprisoned in castle for twenty years. In..... last act of play someone would come on stage with letter which he would hand over to prisoner. Even though aristocrat was not expected to read letter at each performance, he always insisted that letter be written out from beginning to end.

Ans:

- (i) a (ii) A (iii) the
(iv) an (v) a (vi) the
(vii) the(viii) the (ix) a
(x) the (xi) the (xii) the
(xiii) the

Ques 6:

Encircle the correct article.

Nina was looking for (a/the) job, After many interviews she got (a/the) jobs he was looking for.
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A: Would you like (a/an/the) apple or ' (a/an/the) banana?

B: I'd like (a/an/the) apple, please.

A: Take (a/an/the) red one in (a/an/the) fruit bowl. You may take (a/an/the) orange also, if you like.

B: Which one?

A: (A/An/The) one beside (a/an/the) banana.

Ans:

(A) an, a (B) an (A) the, the, an (B) – (A) The, the

Speaking and Writing

Ques 1:

Put each of the following in the correct order. Then use them appropriately to fill in the blanks in the paragraph that follows. Use correct punctuation marks.

- English and Hindi/both/in/he writes
- and only / a few short stories/many books in English/in Hindi
- Is/my Hindi / than my English/much better

Ravi Kant is a writer and Of course, he is much happier writing in English than in Hindi. He has written I find his books a little hard to understand

Ans:

1. he writes both in English and Hindi
2. many books in English and only few short stories in Hindi
3. My Hindi is much better than my English

Comprehension Check

Ques 1:

Why did the neighbours kill the dog?

Ans:

The neighbours killed the dog in anger. They have expected the dog to help them get a treasure, but the dog had rather taken them to a foul smelling dead kitten.

Ques 2:

Mark the right item.

1. The old farmer and his wife loved the dog
 - (a) because it helped them in their day-to-day work.
 - (b) as if it was their own baby.
 - (c) as they were kind to all living beings.
2. When the old couple became rich, they
 - (a) gave the dog better food.

(b) invited their greedy neighbours to a feast.

(c) lived comfortably and were generous towards their poor neighbours.

3. The greedy couple borrowed the mill and the mortar to make

(a) rice pastry and bean sauce.

(b) magic ash to win rewards.

(c) a pile of gold.

Ans:

1. (b) as if it was their own baby.

2. (c) lived comfortably and were generous towards their poor neighbours.

3. (c) a pile of gold.

Very Short Answer Type Quess

Ques 1:

What did the kind farmer do with the money he made from the gold?

Ans:

The kind farmer bought a piece of land, hosted a feast for his friends and helped his poor neighbours.

Ques 2:

How did the daimios reward the kind farmer?

Ans:

The daimio was pleased seeing the magic of the withered cherry tree bursting into a blossom. So he rewarded the kind farmer with many gifts.

Ques 3:

What did the leader of the van do with the kind old man?

Ans:

The leader of the van allowed the old man to remain seated at the cherry tree considering him to be very old.

Ques 4:

Why did the wicked couple drop their tools?

Ans:

The wicked couple found the foul smell of the dead kitten unbearable so they dropped their tools.

Ques 5:

How did the wicked couple behave with the dogs passing by their house?

Ans:

The wicked couple always used to kick and scold the dogs passing by their house.

Ques 6:

What preparations did the kind old couple make for the New Year?

Ans:

For the New Year the old couple planned to make rice pastries and bean sauce.

Ques 7:

How was the wicked farmer punished for his greed?

Ans:

The wicked farmer was killed brutally by the daimio's men and was thus punished for his greed.

Short Answer Type Quess

Ques 1:

How did the kind old couple treat their dog?

Ans:

The old couple treated the dog as their own child. The old farmer had created a cushion made of blue crepe for the dog. During the meals they used to feed the dog plenty of rice and tidbits of fish from their own chopstick.

Ques 2:

Describe the change the cherry tree underwent after the kind old poured a pinch of ash over it.

Ans:

It was winter season and the cherry tree in the old couple's garden didn't have leaves. The old man sprinkled a pinch of the ashes and blossoms sprouted out of it. Pink flowers came on it and their fragrance filled the air.

Ques 3:

How did the dog repay to his masters?

Ans:

The dog made his masters rich by giving them gold coins. His masters became prosperous with it and bought a piece of land.

He then asked them to collect the ashes which had the power to sprout blossoms of a withered tree. This magic was seen by the daimio and rewarded the old couple for this magic.

Ques 4:

What happened when the wicked old farmer sprinkled ash over the cherry tree?

Ans:

When the wicked farmer sprinkled the ash over the cherry tree it didn't bring in a change on it. The fine particles from the ash entered the eyes of daimio and his wife. They began to cough and sneeze. All the lavishness of the procession was spoiled.

Long Answer Type Quess

Ques 1:

Explain three ways in which the dog helped his master.

Ans:

The dog when he was alive guided his master to a heap of gold. After his death he asked his master to prepare a mortar and a mill from the woods of the pine tree.

While making the rice pastries and bean sauce during the New Year using the mortar and the mill, the kind old couple again found the dough to be turned into gold coins and gold dripping out from every drop of the sauce.

The dog then asked the master to collect the ashes of the mortar and mill and sprinkle over the withered trees. The withered trees sprouted into blossom immediately with the magic.

Ques 2:

The wicked farmer wanted to be rich like his neighbour. What happened every time when he tried to do so?

Ans:

First time when the neighbour tried to be rich, all he got was a foul smelling dead kitten.

In their second attempt the old couple got heap of worms from the dough of rice pastry and the bean sauce. In the third attempt the old man failed to create magic with the ashes. He spoiled daimio's procession and was killed by his men as a punishment.

Value Based Quess

Ques 1:

Why do you think we should be kind towards animals?

Ans:

Animals are also living beings like us. They can't speak like us but still can feel the love and emotions. Some animals like dog and horse are very faithful to human beings. We should be kind towards them.

It is good to offer our leftover food to the street dogs because they guard our homes. Chapattis should be offered to homeless cows. In winter we should keep bowls of water for the birds. Injured animals like pigeons, cats and dogs should be taken to veterinary doctors by us.

Ques 2:

One should not be greedy. Why do you think so?

Ans:

We should feel contented about what we have. We should strive hard to earn things but not be greedy. Our greed makes us to do many things which are not good or ethical.

We should make just demands that can be fulfilled easily and must make our earnings in honest means. Our greed can turn us into corrupt and dishonest human beings and must restrain ourselves from becoming that. Our needs should be limited and our wishes should be in control.