

Chapter 5: A Battle to Baffle

WARMING UP [PAGE 98]

Warming up | Q 1 | Page 98

Form suitable groups and discuss the following.

You have heard/read stories of Akbar and Birbal, Tenali Raman, Mulla Nasruddin.

Recollect and write down the names of those stories. Pick out those aspects of a story that you find a common in all their stories.

1. Humour
2. Supernatural event
3. Wisdom
4. Suspense
5. Magic
6. Beauty of Nature
7. Wit
8. Play upon words
9. Sadend
10. Violence

SOLUTION

The common aspect found in their stories: humor. supernatural events, wisdom, suspense, magic, the beauty of nature, wit and play upon words

Warming up | Q 2 | Page 98

Use a dictionary and find the differences in the following terms related to 'Drama'.

1. A Play
2. One-act Play
3. Skit
4. Mime
5. Farce
6. Opera
7. Tragedy
8. Comedy

SOLUTION

A play	A dramatic work staged in a theatre in front of an audience.
One-act Play	A play that has only one act.
Skit	A short funny play that makes a joke of something.
Mime	A type of theatre using no words but only movements of the hands and body and facial expressions.

Farce	A humorous play in which the characters become involved in unlikely and complicated situations. Uses physical humour and silliness.
Opera	A dramatic work in one or more acts in which all characters communicate through song and the story is told through song put to music.
Tragedy	A play dealing with tragic events and having an unhappy ending.
Comedy	A play characterized by humour; has a happy or cheerful ending.

ENGLISH WORKSHOP [PAGES 1 - 104]

English workshop | Q 1 | Page 103

Read the following word and use them in sentence of your own.

Renown, defiance, exiled, predicament, diffident, benign

SOLUTION

Renown	The Chief Guest at our annual function was a man of great renown.
defiance	In an act of defiance, the little girl threw away the expensive toy.
exiled	The Prince was exiled by his stepmother for 10 years.
predicament	The king turned to his minister to get him out of the predicament.
diffident	The new teacher was so diffident that she could not control the students.
benign	The lioness had a benign look on her face as she watched her cubs playing.

English workshop | Q 2 | Page 103

Read the following phrase and use them in a sentence of your own in proper form.

- To voice something
- a tight corner
- to outwit
- to concede defeat

SOLUTION

To voice something	The mother wanted to voice her fears but could not do so.
a tight corner	Birbal could always manage to get himself out of a tight corner.
to outwit	Birbal could outwit all the ministers in the palace.

to concede defeat	The Captain had to concede defeat when his army began to turn back.
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English workshop | Q 3 | Page 103

Pick out dialogues of Tenali Raman which prove that he had the following qualities.

- Wit and wisdom
- Self-confidence
- Politeness
- Humility

SOLUTION

- Wit and wisdom:** So this is the 'tila-kashta-mahisha-bandhana'
- Self-confidence:** Let us begin by discussing the merits of 'tila-kashtamahisha-bandhana'.
- Politeness:** I am at your service, Your Highness. Your wish is my command.
- Humility:** Your words of praise are my greatest reward, your Highness.

English workshop | Q 4. (a) | Page 103

Answer the following question in short.

What was Pundit Shahane's claim as a scholar?

SOLUTION

Pundit Shahane's claim as a scholar was that he had mastered all the scriptures.

English workshop | Q 4. (b) | Page 103

Answer the following question in short.

Why did Pundit Shahane visit Vijaynagar?

SOLUTION

Pundit Shahane visited Vijaynagar to challenge the knowledge of all the Pundits in the kingdom.

English workshop | Q 4. (c) | Page 103

Answer the following question in short.

What do you learn about Pundits of Vijaynagar?

SOLUTION

The Pundits of Vijaynagar were frightened and nervous when their knowledge was challenged. They were insecure and did not have confidence in themselves.

English workshop | Q 4. (d) | Page 1

Answer the following question in short.

What punishment did the emperor threaten the Pundits with?

SOLUTION

The punishment that the Emperor threatened the Pundits with was that they would be exiled from Vijaynagar.

English workshop | Q 4. (e) | Page 103

Answer the following question in short.

Why was Tenali Raman summoned to the court?

SOLUTION

Tenali Raman was summoned to the court to find a solution to the predicament.

English workshop | Q 4. (f) | Page 103

Answer the following question in short.

On what condition did Tenali Raman agree to take up the challenge?

SOLUTION

The condition put forward by Tenali Raman was that when Pundit Shahane arrived the next day, everybody had to accept and honour him (Tenali Raman) as the Chief Pundit, for one day.

English workshop | Q 4. (g) | Page 103

Answer the following question in short.

Why was Tenali Raman taken to the court in a palanquin?

SOLUTION

Tenali Raman probably wanted to impress and frighten Pundit Shahane, and hence he went to the court in a palanquin.

English workshop | Q 4. (h) | Page 103

Answer the following question in short.

How did Tenali Raman outwit Pundit Shahane?

SOLUTION

Tenali Raman put his hands on a huge bundle next to him and pretended that it contained the scriptures 'tila-kashtamahisha-bandhana' and he wanted to discuss its merits. He was in fact, only mentioning what the bundle contained. However, the Pundit thought he was referring to some scriptures that he had never even heard of, and hence could not discuss its merits. He immediately gave up. Thus, Tenali Raman outwitted him.

English workshop | Q 4. (i) | Page 103

Answer the following question in short.

What did the bundle in silken cloth contain?

SOLUTION

Tenali Raman made his entry to the Emperor's Court in a palanquin, with two pundits following him and carrying a huge bundle in silken cloth.

English workshop | Q 4. (j) | Page 103

Answer the following question in short.

Explain the significance of the title.

SOLUTION

The theme of the skit is the challenge to see whether TenaH Raman could outwit the proud Pundit Shahane. This was the 'battle'. The way to win this battle was to 'baffle' (confuse) the Pundit. Hence, the title 'A Battle to Baffle' is apt.

English workshop | Q 5 | Page 103

Fill in the elements that you find in the drama script of 'A Battle to Baffle.' Characters:

- Background Scene :
- Crisis :
- Steps taken to resolve the crisis :
- Climax :
- The end :

SOLUTION

- **Characters:** Krishnadevaraya, Mantriji, Tenali Raman, Pundit Shahane, 8-10 other courtiers/ministers/scholars.
- **Background Scene:** Krishnadevaraya's Courtroom. The Emperor is seated on his throne. Courtiers/ministers/scholars are seated in two rows facing one another and discussing softly.
- **Crisis:** A great scholarly Pundit, Pundit Shahane, has challenged the knowledge of the Pundits of Vijaynagar. The Pundits of Vijaynagar are not ready to face this challenge.
- **Steps taken to resolve the crisis:** Tenali Raman is sent for to find a solution to the predicament and to pull them out of the tight corner.
- **Climax:** Tenali Raman, with his sheer wit, manages to outwit the renowned Pundit Shahane. and make him concede defeat.
- **The end:** Pundit Shahane concedes defeat and leaves. Tenali Raman is praised by the Emperor for saving the reputation and honour of the great empire. Everyone is relieved and happy that the crisis has ended.

English workshop | Q 6. (a) | Page 103

Do as directed. (Make sure you do not change the meaning and tense of the sentence)

Tenali Raman proved to be wittier than Pundit Shahane. (Rewrite using 'as witty as'.)

SOLUTION

Pundit Shahane proved to be not as witty as Tenali Raman.

English workshop | Q 6. (b) | Page 103

Do as directed. (Make sure you do not change the meaning and tense of the sentence).

Pundit Shahane has come here. He wishes to challenge all the Pundits in our Kingdom. (Combine the two sentences using 'so'. Now combine the same sentence using 'because'.)

SOLUTION

Pundit Shahane wishes to challenge all the Pundits in our Kingdom, so he has come here.

English workshop | Q 6. (c) | Page 104

Do as directed. (Make sure you do not change the meaning and tense of the sentence).

How can I discuss its merits? (Make it Assertive.)

SOLUTION

I cannot discuss its merits.

English workshop | Q 6. (d) | Page 104

Do as directed. (Make sure you do not change the meaning and tense of the sentence).

I have not read that scripture. (Rewrite using 'unaware'.)

SOLUTION

I am unaware of that scripture.

English workshop | Q 6. (e) | Page 104

Do as directed. (Make sure you do not change the meaning and tense of the sentence).

Your words of praise are my greatest reward. (Begin the sentence with 'No other')

SOLUTION

No other reward is as great as your words of praise.

English workshop | Q 6. (f) | Page 104

Do as directed. (Make sure you do not change the meaning and tense of the sentence).

I am proud of you. (Rewrite using the noun form of the underlined word).

SOLUTION

I have pride in you.

English workshop | Q 6. (g) | Page 104

Do as directed. (Make sure you do not change the meaning and tense of the sentence).

The Emperor said, " But tell me, Raman, to what great work did you refer?" (Convert into Indirect Speech).

SOLUTION

The Emperor asked Raman what great work he had referred to.

English workshop | Q 6. (h) | Page 104

Do as directed. (Make sure you do not change the meaning and tense of the sentence).

Tenali Raman was a poet scholar and jester in Vijaynagar in Krishnadevarayas court. (Punctuate)

SOLUTION

Tenali Raman was a poet, scholar, and jester in Vijaynagar, in Krishnadevaraya's court.

English workshop | Q 6. (i) | Page 104

Do as directed. (Make sure you do not change the meaning and tense of the sentence).

Mantri Ji said Maharaj Pundit Shahane's visit to our court is an open challenge. (Punctuate)

SOLUTION

"Mantriji," said Maharaj, "Pundit Shahane's visit to our court is an open challenge."

English workshop | Q 7 | Page 104

A past student of your school has cleared his UPSC examination and being an IAS officer has been appointed as a Collector of your district. Write a formal letter to invite him to your school to share the story of his success, at a special function.

SOLUTION

St. Jude school

Dr. Ambedkar Road

Thane 400 601

15 October 2018

Sub: Invitation to grace our Children's Day function as Chief Guest.

Sir, It was with great pleasure that we learned about your appointment as the Collector of our district. The Principal, teachers, and students of our school congratulate you on this wonderful achievement. We are all so proud that a student from our school has attained this high post!

We intend to have a special function on November 14, Children's Day. We cordially invite you to grace this function as the Chief Guest and share with us the story of your success. You are an inspiration for our students and your presence will motivate them greatly. The function begins at 10 a.m. and will end at 1 p.m. with lunch. In addition to the talk from you, there will be a short cultural program of dance and music.

It will be an honor for us to have you here and we hope you will accept this invitation.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

Suman Kini (Cultural Secretary,
St. Jude school).

English workshop | Q 8 | Page 104

Understand the quotation and expand it in a paragraph format.

'Pride goes on horseback, but returns on foot'.

SOLUTION

Pride goes on horseback but returns on foot.

"I am very beautiful. I am also very clever. Everyone loves me." How will you react if you hear someone say these words? You will be surprised at such arrogance. You will say that the person is very proud'. To be 'proud' here means to have a very high opinion of oneself, one's looks, abilities, possessions, etc. Pride makes a person think that he/she is superior to others. Would you like such a person? No, no one likes a person who is proud. If you're too conceited or self-important, someday something will happen to make you look foolish. And when a proud man meets with a bad end, others will have no sympathy for him. History is full of examples of powerful kings who were ruined because of their proud nature. That is the meaning of the quotation: Those who are proud will finally suffer defeat or meet with a shameful end.