

Chapter – 2

A Gift of Chappals

Comprehension Check I

1. What is the secret that Meena shares with Mridu in the backyard?

Answer:

Meena shared a secret with Mridu about the little kitten which they found outside the gate the same morning. She took her to the backyard where the kitten was kept on an inflated football which was filled with sand. The kitten was sipping the milk from the outer shell of the coconut.

2. How does Ravi get milk for the kitten?

Answer:

Ravi managed to get the milk for the kitten by cleverly fooling his grandmother. He told his grandmother that he is feeling hungry. Therefore, he wants some milk to drink. When his grandmother gives him milk instead, of drinking it he keeps the milk for the little kitten. As his grandmother asks to give the tumbler back after drinking the milk he escapes the situation by saying that he will keep the tumbler back after washing it.

3. Who does he says the kitten's ancestors are? Do you believe him?

Answer:

Ravi thinks that the kitten's ancestors were the Pallava's lion. He says that the Mahabalipuram Rishi Cat was the emblem of the Pallava dynasty and the cat belongs to that family. He also said that the cat was the descendants of the cat-goddess of the Egypt. No, I don't believe him because as per me whatever Ravi said seems vague and everything is a lie.

4. Ravi has a lot to say about M.P. Poonai. This shows that :

- (i) he is merely trying to impress Mridu.
- (ii) his knowledge of history is sound.
- (iii) he has a rich imagination.
- (iv) he is an intelligent child.

Which of these statements do you agree/disagree too?

Answer:

We agree to:

- (i) he is merely trying to impress Mridu
- (ii) he has a rich imagination.

5. What was the noise that startled Mridu and frightened Mahendran?

Answer:

The noise that startled Mridu and frightened Mahendran was of the violin Lalli was playing. It was a 'kreech' sound that was coming from the window. Everyone abhorred the unpleasant noise.

Comprehension Check II

1. The music-master is making lovely music. Read aloud the sentence in the text that expresses this idea.

Answer:

“The music-master's notes seemed to float up and settle perfectly into the invisible tracks of the melody. It was like the wheels of a train fitting smoothly into the rails and whizzing along.”

2. Had the beggar come to Rukku Manni's house for the first time?
Give reasons for your answer.

Answer:

No, the beggar had not come to Rukku Manni's house for the first time. He had been coming there from past one week. Everyone was fed up with him and Paati herself said that now the beggar should find another house to beg from.

3. "A sharp V-shaped line had formed between her eyebrows." What does it suggest to you about Rukku Manni's mood?

Answer:

It suggests that Rukku Manni's mood was quite baffled at the moment when she came to know that the music teacher's slippers were missing. She also developed a sense of suspicion and was also getting angry.

Working with the Text

1. Complete the following sentences.

(i) Ravi compares Lalli's playing the violin to _____

(ii) Trying to hide beneath the tray of chilies, Mahendran

(iii) The teacher played the few notes on his violin and Lalli

(iv) The beggar said that the kind ladies of the household

(v) After the lesson was over, the music teacher asked Lalli if

_____.

Answer:

(i) the derailing of a train going completely off track.

(ii) tipped a few chilies over himself.

(iii) stumbled behind him on her violin, which looked quite helpless and unhappy in her hands.

(iv) had fed his body and soul together on for a whole week and he couldn't believe that they would turn him away.

(v) she had been his chappals.

2. Describe the music teacher, as seen from the window.

Answer:

On seeing from the window there are certain things that can be inferred about the personality of the music teacher. He was bald with only a few hair left on his head. He was a bony figure that had a thick gold chain around his neck. He had an old tuft around his neck. He also had worn a diamond ring on his hand that became the centre of attraction while he moved his hand back and forth on the violin. Apart from all the 'glitter' that he was wearing, he had a big toe.

3.

(A) What makes Mridu conclude that the beggar has no money to buy chappals?

Answer:

When he stretched out his bare feet Mridu saw the large pink peeling on his feet. After seeing the condition of the poor old beggar Mridu concluded that he had no money to buy chappals.

(B) What does she suggest to show her concern?

Answer:

After seeing the condition of the beggar Mridu develops sympathy towards the beggar and she asks Ravi and Meena to give a pair of slippers to the poor and old beggar. This shows her caring and concerned nature towards the beggar.

4. "Have you, children....." She began, and then, seeing they are curiously quiet, went on more slowly, "seen anyone lurking around the verandah?"

(i) What do you think Rukku Manni really wanted to ask?

(ii) Why did she change her question?

(iii) What did she think had happened?

Answer:

(i) Rukku Manni really wanted to know where the sleepers of the music teacher had gone. She dropped a hint by asking the children about the slippers and if they have hidden it they must give them back.

(ii) In order to get the truth out easily and quickly, she changed the question. She was getting suspicious on seeing the children playing so quietly.

(iii) She thought that the music teacher's chappals had been stolen by someone. As per her, the thief secretly entered into the house and ran away with the chappals.

5. On getting Gopu Mama's chappals, the music teacher tried not to look too happy. Why?

Answer:

Though the music teacher was really very happy when he got Gopu mama's new chappals, he pretended not to look happy as he wanted to show that he feels bad for his missing chappals. Also, he carried the look on his face which helped him show that his old chappals were better than Gopu mama's new chappals and he was taking those chappals with him only because he had no other option.

6. On getting a gift of chappals, the beggar vanished in a minute. Why was he in such a hurry to leave?

Answer:

On getting the gift of chappals, the beggar was very happy and he vanished within a minute because he did not want any elder member of the house to come and know about all this. Because he feared that they will take this amazing gift away from him and will also scold him further.

7. Walking towards the kitchen with Mridu and Meena, Rukku Manni began to laugh. What made her laugh?

Answer:

Walking towards the kitchen with Mridu and Meena, Rukku Manni began to laugh out loud because she painted quite a well picture of the scene when Gopu Mama would come home in the evening and would start searching for his chappals. Soon, he would come to know about the 'gift of chappals' to the music teacher.

Working with Language

1. Read the following sentences.

Rewrite each of the following pairs of sentences as a single sentence. Use 'if' at the beginning of the sentence.

- (i) Don't tire yourself now. You won't be able to work in the evening.
- (ii) Study regularly. You'll do well in the examination.
- (iii) Work hard. You'll pass the examination in the first division.
- (iv) Be polite to people. They'll also be polite to you.
- (v) Don't tease the dog. It'll bite you.

Answer:

- (i) If you tire yourself now, you won't be able to work in the evening.
- (ii) If you study regularly, you'll do well in the examination.
- (iii) If you work hard, you'll pass the examination in the first division.

(iv) If you'll be polite to people, they'll also be polite to you.

(v) If you tease the dog, it'll bite you.

2. Fill in the blanks in the following paragraph.

Today is Sunday. I'm wondering whether I should stay at home or go out. If I... (go) out, I ... (miss) the lovely Sunday lunch at home. If I (stay) for lunch, I... (miss) the Sunday film showing at Archana Theatre. I think I'll go out and see the film, only to avoid getting too fat.

Answer:

Today is Sunday. I'm wondering whether I should stay at home or go out. If I go out, I will miss the lovely Sunday lunch at home. If I stay for lunch, I will miss the Sunday film showing at Archana Theatre. I think I'll go out and see the film, only to avoid getting too fat.

3. Complete each sentence below by appropriately using any of the following :

If you want to/if you don't want to/if you want him to

(i) Don't go to the theatre

(ii) He'll post your letter

(iii) Please use my pen

(iv) He'll lend you his umbrella

(v) My neighbour, Ramesh, will take you to the doctor

.....

(vi) Don't eat it

Answer:

(i) if you don't want to.

(ii) if you want to him.

(iii) if you want to.

(iv) if you want him to.

(v) if you want him to.

(vi) if you don't want to.

Speaking and Writing

1. Discuss in small groups

- If you want to give away something of your own to the needy, would it be better to ask your elders first?
- Is there someone of your age in the family who is very talkative? Do you find her/him interesting and impressive or otherwise? Share your ideas with others in the group.
- Has Rukku Manni done exactly the same as the children? In your opinion, then is it right for one party to blame the other?

Answer:

This question student should do himself.

2. Ask one another questions about

likes/dislikes/preferences/hobbies/personal characteristics. Use the following questions and sentence openings.

- (i) What do you enjoy doing after school?
- (ii) What do you like in general?
- (iii) Do you play any game?
- (iv) Would you mind if I listened to music after dinner?
- (v) Will it be all right if I
- (vi) Is there anything you dislike, particularly?
- (vii) Do you like to attend parties?
- (viii) Would you say you are

Answer:

(i) I enjoy playing outside with friends and after that an amazing cup of coffee with my mother.

- (ii) I am a literature-loving person, therefore, i like reading novels and poems in general.
- (iii) Yes, I have been into a lot of sports during my school days but particularly, I like table tennis and badminton more.
- (iv) No, i wouldn't mind if you listen to music after dinner. You are free to do whatever you feel like doing.
- (v) It's fine with me if you share the room with me.
- (vi) Not anything as such but I hate it the most when someone lies to me.
- (vii) No, I am not much of a party type person. I would rather prefer to sit at home and read novels.
- (viii) I think I am a good observer.

The Rebel – Working with the Poem

1.

(A) Answer the following question.

If someone doesn't wear a uniform to school, what do you think the teacher will say?

Answer:

If someone doesn't wear a uniform to school the teacher will point that child out and ask him/her about the reason why he/she has not worn the uniform. If a child has a genuine reason for not wearing the uniform like it was wet, it was dirty, it is the child's birthday etc then the teacher may let him/her go and tell the child to be careful from the next time. But if the child gives excuses and argues with the teacher then the teacher may send the child out of the class and may take any preferable action against the child.

(B) Answer the following question.

When everyone wants a clear sky, what does the rebel want most?

Answer:

When everybody wants a clear sky, the rebel wants a cloudy sky. As the rebel seeks for everything contrary to others therefore when everyone is craving for a clear and sunny sky, the rebel wishes for a cloudy sky.

(C) Answer the following question.

If the rebel has a dog for a pet, what is everyone else likely to have?

Answer:

If the rebel has a dog for a pet, everyone else is likely to have a cat because the rebel can never have or wish the same thing that everyone else does.

(D) Answer the following question.

Why is it good to have rebels?

Answer:

It is good to have rebels because it is nice to know that there are some people who are not a part of 'herd mentality', of the people who believe in making a difference through their actions and thought.

(E) Answer the following question.

Why is it good to have rebels?

Answer:

At times, it is not good to be rebellious because "change is hard to accept" and so does a rebel. People often tend to judge those who are

different and many times a difference is not liked by the society. Situation may arise where a rebel is lonely and no one supports a rebel even though he is right.

(F) Answer the following question.

Would you like to be a rebel? If yes, why? If not, why not?

Answer:

I would like to be a rebel because i believe in myself and holds an idea of doing what is right, not what is easy. I want to create an identity of my own that is different from the crowd. I know, the journey of a rebel is going to be tough and full of challenges but i am not afraid of anyone and ready to face whatever may come on my way to achieve my goal.

2. Find in the poem an antonym (a word opposite in meaning) for each of the following words.

- 1) Long _____
- 2) Grow _____
- 3) Quietness _____
- 4) Sober _____
- 5) Lost _____

Words	Antonyms
1) Long	short
2) Grow	cut
3) Quietness	disturbance

4) Sober	fantastic
5) Lost	found

3. Find in the poem lines that match the following. Read both one after the other.

- (i) The rebel refuses to cut his hair.
- (ii) He says cats are better
- (iii) He recommends dogs.
- (iv) He is unhappy because there is no sun.
- (v) He is noisy on purpose.

Answer:

(i) When everyone else has short hair, the rebel wishes to have long hair. He grows his hair longer enough to be than others’.

(ii) In the company of dog lovers, the rebel out stands others by stating that cats are better.

(iii) When everyone is busy discussing dogs, the rebel is the only one who says good words for dogs and recommends dogs.

(iv) When everyone enjoys amazing rain, the rebel feels sad for the sun. Instead, of availing the rain he misses the absence of sun.

(v) The rebel tries to be noisy on purpose as he wishes to disturb the class. When nobody talks during the lesson the rebel creates the disturbance.