

LESSON

9



THE MULLAH'S DINNER PARTY

Stage 1.

Pre-reading

Activity 1.

Talking about the topic

1. You must have heard many stories about Akbar and Birbal. What do you learn about these two men from these stories ? (What kind of people were they ?)

2. You will find below a list of personal qualities that some people have. Some of these qualities were present in Akbar and some in Birbal.

Put a tick mark under 'A' if a certain quality was found in Akbar, and a tick mark under 'B' if a quality was found in Birbal. (Some qualities may have been present in both Akbar and Birbal, and some other qualities may not have been present in either of them.)

- i. grave and serious by nature
- ii very intelligent and clever
- iii good at telling lies and bluffing people
- iv honest and truthful
- v fond of practical jokes
- vi wise

A	B

Would you like your friends to be like Akbar or like Birbal ?

Here is a story about a man called Mullah Nasruddin. Of whom does he remind you ?

Activity 2. Reading the story aloud

The teacher asks some children to read out the first part of story of Mullah Nasruddin, which is in two parts. Each child reads one or two paragraphs. The lines spoken by different speakers should be read by different children.

Before the reading begins, the teacher takes the children through the list of key words.

THE MULLAH'S DINNER PARTY

Part - 1

Activity 3. Knowing the key words

mullah a learned man who leads the prayer in a mosque

sense of humour the ability to laugh as well as make others laugh

clown a person who works in a circus and does funny things to make people laugh

(Mullah Nasruddin lived in Persia about 500 years ago. Like Birbal, he had a great sense of humour. Sometimes he acted like a clown and did things which looked foolish. But, in truth, he was a wise man. Here is a story about the Mullah.)

It was the middle of winter. The fields and houses in the village where Mullah Nasruddin lived were covered with snow.

One day, Mullah Nasruddin was chatting with some friends. "How cold it is this year !" one of his friends said. " I have never known a colder winter."

" Oh, it's not so bad," Nasruddin said. "I don't feel the cold at all."

“Come on, don’t lie to us, Nasruddin”, another friend said. “You are just like us. We all feel the cold.”

“Well, I don’t” Nasruddin said.

“Do you want to have a bet with us ? If you can go to the top of that mountain tonight and spend the whole night there, each of us will give you ten pieces of silver.” “Done !” Nasruddin said.



Stage 2. Reading

When the reading aloud is completed, the teacher asks the children to read this part of the story.

Stage 3. After reading

Activity 4. Comprehension

The teacher asks :

1. Who was Mullah Nasruddin ?
2. Where did he live ?
3. What was the bet that he made with his friends ?

4. Why do you think he did this ?
5. What kind of a person was Nasruddin ?
6. What do you think of his friends ? Would you like to have such friends ?
7. What did Nasruddin mean when he said " Done !"

Activity 5. Vocabulary

Fill in the blanks using words from the story :

Although Nasruddin was a _____ man, he sometimes acted like a _____ and did things which looked _____. One day, while he was _____ with his friends, he had a _____ with them.

Part 2

Stage 1. Pre-reading

Activity 6. Guessing the next events

You know that Nasruddin had a bet with his friends and went to the top of a mountain to spend the night there.

What do you think will happen next ?

Stage 2. Reading

Activity 7. Knowing the key words

bitterly cold

very cold

to freeze :

to turn into ice (e.g. When it is very cold, the water in a lake freezes.)

to freeze to death :

to die because your body becomes very cold

to pay up

to give someone the money that you have promised to give him/her

to owe money to someone

to have to pay back the money to someone

to be off ("The bet is off!")

cancelled

That night Mullah Nasruddin went to the top of the mountain and spent the whole night in the open. As it was very dark, he carried a candle. It was bitterly cold, and the Mullah almost froze to death.

Next morning, Mullah Nasruddin went to his friends. "I have won the bet !" he said. "Now pay up the money that you owe me."

"But I saw you carrying a candle when you were going up the mountain," one of the friends said. "That candle must have kept you warm. The bet is off ! We are not going to pay up."

The Mullah said nothing, but he did not like what his friends had done to him. "I will teach them a lesson !" he said to himself.



Stage 3**After reading****Activity 8****Comprehension**

The teacher asks :

1. Why did Mullah Nasruddin take a candle with him ?
2. What did he tell his friends next morning ?
3. What did one of his friends say then ?
4. What did Nasruddin's friend mean by saying : "The bet is off !"
5. What did Nasruddin decide to do ?

Activity 9.**Discussion**

Did Nasruddin do something foolish by having bet with his friends and spending a night on the mountain? Would you have done such a thing ?

Activity 10.**Vocabulary**

Fill in the blanks with words from Part 2 of the story.

It was so _____ cold on the mountain that Nasruddin almost _____ to death. He came back to his friends and asked them to _____ the money which they _____ him, as he had _____ the bet.

Part 3**Stage 1.****Pre-reading****Activity 11.****Guessing about the story**

- 1 What do you think Nasruddin will do now, after his friends refuse to pay up?

Stage 2.**Reading**

The children read the last part of the story silently.

Activity 12**Knowing the key words**

<i>invite</i>	to ask someone to come as your guest
<i>serve food</i>	to give someone food to eat
<i>delicious</i>	having a very good taste
<i>to eat heartily</i>	to eat a lot of food
<i>to grumble</i>	to complain about something that you do not like
<i>starving</i>	feeling very hungry
<i>vessel</i>	a pot in which food is cooked

A few weeks later, Mullah Nasruddin invited the same friends to his house for dinner. They were very happy to be invited, because the Mullah always served delicious food. They ate nothing all day, so that they could eat heartily at night.

They arrived in good time, ready for the promised meal. But Mullah Nasruddin kept them waiting. "Dinner is not ready yet," he told them. An hour later, he said the same thing. After



another two hours, the friends were really hungry and began to grumble. “ Aren’t you going to serve dinner ?” they asked. “We are starving !”

“Let us see if the food has been cooked,” Nasruddin said. He led his friends to the kitchen.

What they saw surprised them. The food was being cooked in a huge vessel over the flame of just one small candle !

“ What do you mean by this ?’ they asked angrily. “ Just one small candle to cook all that food ?’

Mullah Nasruddin smiled. He said, “If a candle can keep a man warm in the snow, can’t it cook a meal ?”.

His friends felt ashamed. They paid up the money which they owed Mullah Nasruddin.

Stage 3.

After reading

Activity 13.

Comprehension

1. Why were Nasruddin’s friends happy when they were invited to dinner ?
2. Why didn’t they eat anything all day ?
3. What did they see in the kitchen ?
4. What did Nasruddin tell them when they were angry ?
5. How did Nasruddin make his friends pay up the money which they owed him?
- 6 What would you have done if you were Nasruddin ?

Activity 14. Vocabulary

Fill in the blank spaces with the right words from part 3.

When Nasruddin _____ his friends to dinner they were happy, because Nasruddin always _____ tasty food to his guests. They did not eat anything all day, so that they could eat _____ when they went to Nasruddin's house for dinner. But Nasruddin made them wait so long that they began to _____. They told him that they were _____.

Activity 15. Usage

A. Match the parts in Column A with those in Column B to make complete sentences.

Column A

1. Nasruddin's friends
ate nothing all day
2. I put on a woolen sweater
3. Dipu went to the market
4. My sister goes for
music lessons
5. We should all learn
English

Column B

- so that she can become
a good singer
- so that we can get good jobs.
- so that they could eat heartily at
night.
- so that he could get some
vegetables.
- so that I would not feel cold.

B. Complete the sentences below, using your own words.

- i. I will ask my father to give me some money so that _____.
- ii The teacher asked me to bring my books to the class everyday so
that _____.
- iii My father bought a bicycle for me so that _____.
- iv My mother makes me drink some milk every morning so that
_____.
- v When I go out at night, I carry a torch so that _____.

Activity 16.**Speaking and writing**

In this story, Mullah Nasruddin taught his friends a lesson. There is a well-known story about a crane (a tall bird with a very long, thin beak) who also taught a lesson to a fox that had invited him for a meal.

A part of that story is given below. The teacher asks the children to read it and complete the story. They should first tell the whole story to the class, and then write it out.



“A crane lived near a lake inside a jungle. He met a fox one day. They became good friends. One day the fox told the crane, “Please come to my house for dinner tomorrow. I will cook some delicious food for you.”

The crane was very happy. He went to the fox’s house for dinner the next day. But when he went there, he found that
.....

The crane said to himself, “I will teach the fox a lesson.” So he told the fox “You must come to my house for dinner tomorrow.”

When the fox went to the crane’s house, he saw

