

Chapter 2: Abdul Becomes a Courtier

ENGLISH WORKSHOP [PAGE 34]

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From the play, find all the words that are related to the following:

- knowledge and learning
- fabrics
- books
- work

Add other related words you know to the list.

SOLUTION

- a. Student, smart, thirst for knowledge, learned, philosophy, astronomy, Arabic, Persian, scholar, intellectual, sagacious, astute, university, degree.
- b. Student, smart, knowledge, learned, scholar, words, e-book.
- c. Merchant, serve, clerk, pay, office, poultry, keeper, salary, job.

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Discuss the following.

Abdul gets what he wants in the end. What is the major factor that contributes to this success?

1. His learning of books
2. His intelligence
3. His attitude
4. His relations with other people
5. His luck

SOLUTION

His attitude

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The Emperor says he had realised earlier that Abdul has great talent. Does this tally with his actions? Give your opinion.

SOLUTION

No, it does not. But according to me, the emperor wanted to know whether Abdul could put all his knowledge into practical use.

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Write a letter from Abdul to the Emperor, requesting the Emperor to give Abdul a suitable job.

SOLUTION

Your Royal Highness,

I, Abdul, am a subject in your kingdom. I have learnt everything books could teach me. I would like to be at your service.

I will serve you with all the knowledge, I have gained if your royal highness will give me the opportunity. All my knowledge would really be of great use and if given a chance I will do everything I can to the best of my ability.

Hoping and awaiting a positive reply. Thanking you in anticipation.

Your loyal subject,
XYZ(Abdul)

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Rewrite the play in the form of a short story.

SOLUTION

Abdul, the Achiever

Once upon a time during the reign of Emperor Akbar, there lived a very humble school teacher. He had an equally humble and down to earth son named Abdul. Abdul dreamt of becoming a scholar. His father could not fund him for the books because they were very costly. His father tried to borrow books from the school library but was unsuccessful. Abdul was disheartened. He hit upon a brilliant idea to solve his problem. He decided to work for the rich, instead of taking money for services, he requested them to allow him to read the books in their stores. Abdul read and read and became a learned scholar that too one in a million. Now that he had completed his education he aspired to work in the Emperor's office. The Emperor heard of him and was ready to appoint him. He was first put in charge of the Murgikhana. Abdul was disappointed at first but then decided to put in his best. His efforts paid him well. The hens were healthier than before. The Emperor was surprised that Abdul had not used any money from the treasury.

The Emperor was worried that the hens had died but Abdul told the Emperor that all the hens were in the pink of health because he was feeding them with the left-overs from the Emperor's kitchen, which was free of cost and the hens enjoyed and that was the secret of their health. The Emperor was happy and put him in charge of the library. Abdul was unhappy. He aspired to be a courtier. He took his job too as a challenge and started making changes in the library. A year later when the Emperor entered the library he was shocked to see that all the books had a very expensive covering. He thought that this would have cost a fortune. Abdul clarified the Emperor's doubt and told him that it has cost nothing because he used the rich, discarded fabrics of the bags in which requests were sent to the Emperor. Abdul said that he had asked the royal tailors to stitch the jackets and covers for the books. The Emperor was so impressed that he immediately appointed Abdul his courtier.

Moral: Waste not, want not.

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Suggest at least one method of creating something useful or beautiful from waste.

SOLUTION

- a. Used plastic bottles can be used as pots for plants. This would reduce waste and add beauty to the surroundings.
- b. Used coconut shells can be used for craft to make musical instruments like the tabla, etc.
- c. Pista shells can be used to fill in drawings adding beauty to the drawing.

You come up with some more ideas.

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Write about how you take care of your books.

SOLUTION

I see to it that my books are always covered, with my name written on it. I do not throw my books anywhere. I keep it neatly whether in my bag or on my table at home. I do not eat or drink anything with my books in front of me so as to avoid spilling and getting oil stains on my books.