



# NCERT

## Exercises

(Questions-Solutions)

### GOPAL AND THE HILSA-FISH

#### Textual Exercises

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#### ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. **Why did the king want no more talk about the hilsa-fish?**

**Sol.** The king didn't want any talk about the hilsa-fish because his courtiers were not fishermen. It was below their dignity to talk about a fish.

2. **What, did the king ask Gopal to do to prove that he was clever?**

**Sol.** The king asked Gopal to bring a huge hilsa-fish from the market without anyone asking him a word about it.

3. **What three things did Gopal do before he went to buy his hilsa-fish?**

**Sol.** Three things that Gopal did before he went to buy his hilsa-fish were—

- (i) He made his face half-shaven.
- (ii) He smeared himself with ash.
- (iii) He wore disgraceful rags.

4. **How did Gopal get inside the palace to see the king after he had bought the fish?**

**Sol.** Gopal reached the palace with a huge hilsa-fish in his hand. But the guard didn't allow him to meet the king. At this Gopal began to dance and sing loudly. When the king came to know, he ordered the guard to bring Gopal to him immediately.

5. **Explain why no one seemed to be interested in talking about the hilsa-fish which Gopal had bought?**

**Sol.** Everyone got so much interested in Gopal's abnormal appearance that he/she didn't pay any attention on the fish which he had caught in his hand.

6. **Write 'True' or 'False' against each of the following sentences—**

- (i) The king lost his temper easily.
- (ii) Gopal was a madman.
- (iii) Gopal was a clever man.
- (iv) Gopal was too poor to afford decent clothes.
- (v) The king got angry when he was shown to be wrong.

**Sol.** (i) True (ii) False (iii) True (iv) False (v) False.

#### WORKING WITH LANGUAGE

1. **Notice how in a comic book, there are no speech marks when characters talk. Instead what they say is put in a speech "bubble. However, if we wish to repeat or 'report' what we say, we must put it into reported**

speech. Change the following sentences in the story to Reported speech. The first one has been done for you.

- (i) How much did you pay for that hilsa?  
The woman asked the man how much he had paid for that hilsa.
- (ii) Why is your face half-shaven?  
Gopal's wife asked him .....
- (iii) I accept the challenge, your Majesty.  
Gopal's told the king .....
- (iv) I want to see the king.  
Gopal told the guards .....
- (v) Bring the man to me at once.  
The king ordered the guard .....

- Sol.** (ii) Gopal's wife asked him why his face was half shaven.  
(iii) Gopal told the king that he accepted the challenge.  
(iv) Gopal told the guards that he wanted to see the king.  
(v) The king ordered the guard to bring the man to him at once.

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2. Find out the meaning of the following words by looking them up in the dictionary. Then use them in sentences of your own—

- Challenge
- Mystic
- Comical
- Courtier
- Smearmg

- Sol.** **Challenge** — a call to test one's skill or strength. The man accepted the challenge.  
**Mystic** — relating to mystery — People thought that the Pandit was a mystic.  
**Comical** — funny — The joker put on a comical look.  
**Courtier** — an attendant of the king—Birbal was Akbar's favourite courtier.  
**Smearing** — Spreading — The saint was smearing ash on his body.

## THE SHED

### Textual exercises

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### WORKING WITH THE POEM

1. Answer the following questions—

- (i) Who is the speaker in the poem?

- Sol.** The poet himself is the speaker in the poem.

- (ii) Is she/he afraid or curious, or both?

- Sol.** He is both afraid and curious.

- (iii) What is she/he planning to do soon?

- Sol.** He/she is planning to peep into the shed one day.

- (iv) 'But not just yet .....' suggests doubt, fear, hesitation, laziness or something else.  
Choose the word which seems right to you. Tell others why you chose it.

**Sol.** Fear. Because the poet has not dared yet to go inside the shed.

2. Is there a room in your house or a house in your neighbourhood/ locality where you would rather not go alone, and never at night. If there is such a place and a story to go with it, let others hear all about it.

**Sol.** Yes, there is a house in our locality. It is a very old house. Nobody lives there. It is believed that a ghost lives there. The ghost is believed to be the spirit of the owner who died at his young age. Sometimes during night people hear strange noises and lights coming from the house. Once I went inside the house during play. First I was very fearful, but after sometime everything was normal. I don't feel what the people say is true.

3. Make the right item.

- (i) 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.

- (ii) 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.

- (iii) The greedy couple borrowed the mill and the mortar to make

(a) rich pastry and bean sauce.

(b) magic ash to win rewards

(c) a pile of gold

**Sol.** (i) (c) as they were kind to all living beings.

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

(iii) (c) a pile of gold