

### **Study:**

Swaminathan sat in father's room in a chair, with a slate in his hand and pencil ready. Father held the arithmetic book open and dedicated, "Rama has ten mangoes with which he wants to earn fifteen annas. Krishna wants only four mangoes. How much money wil Krishna have to pay?" Swaminathan gazed and gazed at this sum, and everytime he read it, a new thought came to his mind. His mouth began to water at the thought of mangoes.

"Have you done the sum?" father asked, looking over the newspaper he was reading.

"Father, will you tell me if the mangoes were ripe?" father watched him for a while and smothering a smile remarked: "do the sum first. I will tell you whether the fruits were ripe or not afterwards.



Swaminathan felt utterly helpless. If only father could tell him whether Rama was trying to sell ripe fruits or unripe ones. Of what use would it be to tell him afterwards? He felt strongly that the answer to this question contained the key to the whole problem. It would be unfair to expect fifteen annas for ten unripe mangoes.

"Father, I cannot do the sum, Swaminathan said, pushing away the slate."

"What is the matter with you? You can't solve a simple problem in simple proportions?"

"We are not taught this kind of thing at school".

"Get the slate here. I will make you give the answer now". Swaminathan waited for a miracle to happen. Father studied the sum for a second and asked: "What is the price of ten mangoes?"

"Fifteen annas, of course, "Swaminathan thought, but how could it be the price? Was it the right price? And then he was not sure whether the mangoes were ripe or not. If they were ripe, fifteen annas shouldn't be an unfair price. If only he could get more light on this point.

"How much does Rama want for his mangoes?"

"Fifteen annas", replied Swaminathan.

"Very good. How many mangoes does Krishna want?"

"Four".

"What is the price of four mangoes?"

Father seemed to be delighted in torturing him. How could he know? How could he know what that fool Krishna would pay? "Look here, boy. I have half a mind to thrash you. What have you in your head? Ten mangoes cost fifteen annas. What is the price of one? Come on if you don't say it..."

His hands took Swaminathan's ear and gently twisted it. Swaminathan could not open his mouth because he could not decide whether the solution could be found by addition, subtraction, multiplication or division. The longer he hesitated the more violent the twist was becoming. In the end when father was waiting with a scowl for an answer, he received only a squeal from his son.

"I am not going to leave you till you tell me how much a single man costs at fifteen annas for ten".

What was the matter with father? Swaminathan kept blinking. Where was the urgency to know its price? Anyway if father wanted to know so badly, instead of harassing him, let him go to the market and find it out.

Father admitted defeat by declaring: "One mango costs fifteen over ten annas. Simplify it".

Here he was being led to the most difficult part of arithmetic fractions.

"Give me the slate, father. I will find out". He worked and found out at the end of fifteen minutes: "The price of one mango is three over two annas." He expected to be contradicted any moment.

But father said, "very good, simplify it further." It was plain sailing after that. Swaminathan announced at the end of half an hour's agony: "Krishna must pay six annas," and burst into tears.

From- "Swami And Friends" by R.K. NARAYAN

#### Match 'A' with 'B'.

Α	В
- gazed	- to become easy
- smothering	- to go against
- to feel strong about	- troubling
- miracle	- an angry expression on the face
- idiot	- beat
- thrash	- someone who is not good for anything
- scowl	- the happening of something
	unbelievable or unexpected
- harassing	- to be sure of something
- contradict	- trying to smile
- plain sailing	- looked fixedly

#### ACTIVITY - 4

#### Work in pairs. Answer the following questions orally.

- 1. We are not taught this kind of thing at school." Why do you think swami said the above sentence?
- 2. Why did father think Swami was an idiot?
- 3. How did father "make" Swami give the answer? Do you think he helped Swami in arriving at the correct answer?
- 4. Why did Swami burst into tears in the end?
- 5. "It was plain sailing after that".
  - (a) What was plain sailing?
  - (b) After what was it plain sailing?

## Work individually and write the answers in your notebook.

- 1. We are not taught this kind of thing at school." Why do you think swami said the above sentence?
- 2. Why did father think Swami was an idiot?

3. How did father "make" Swami give the answer? Do you think he helped Swami in arriving at the correct answer?

4. Why did Swami burst into tears in the end?

- 5. "It was plain sailing after that".
  - (a) What was plain sailing?

#### (b) After what was it plain sailing?

#### ACTIVITY - 6

#### Fill in the blanks in the table given below :

The following examples may help you. Examples:

Noun	: ability	Noun	:	decision
Verb	: enable	Verb	:	decide
Adjective	: able	Adjective	:	decisive

Noun	Verb	Adjective
		determined
	remarked	
		simple
	thought	
		hesitant

#### ACTIVITY-7

#### Change the following sentence into reported speech:-

- 1. "What is the matter with you? You can't solve a simple problem in simple proportions?" asked father.
- 2. "Father, I cannot do the sum," Swaminathan said; pushing away the slate.
- 3. "You seem to be an idiot. Now read the sum carfully", said father.

- 4. Father roared, "I am not going to leave you till you tell me how much a single mango costs at fifteen annas for ten."
- 5. Father admitted defeat by declaring : "One mango costs fifteen over ten annas". Simplify it.

Shanker's father has given him Rs. 50/-. The three friends decide to go to the market place and spend it. The shop keeper gives them the following bill. Shanker has to report to his father how he spent the money. Write a dialogue between Shanker and his father giving an account of the money spent.

# **RAJ FRUIT MART**

15, Fruit Market, Manekchowk, Ahmedabad – 1. Phone: 2224281

	Invoice N	No : $8181/A$
I	] Da	Amount
1	2 Rs./kg 2 Rs. Each 2 Rs. each	Rs 24.00 Rs 13.00 Rs 6.00 Rs 6.00
		Rs. 49.00
		Invoice N Da Rate 12 Rs./kg 2 Rs. Each 2 Rs. each

Write dialogue here.

#### ACTIVITY - 9

Visit a market place and find out the different varieties of mangoes available and their price.

Are they all priced the same? \_\_\_\_\_

Find out the reason(s) for the difference in their price.

Names of mangoes	Their prices

Finally write a paragraph stating the facts you have discovered after visiting a market.