



NCERT

Exercises (Questions-Solutions)

THE ASHES THE MADE TREES BLOOM

Textual exercises

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COMPREHENSION CHECK

1. Why did the neighbours kill the dog?

Sol. The neighbours killed the dog because it didn't bring good luck to them.

Q.2. 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) rice pastry and bean sauce.

(b) magic ash to win rewards.

(c) a pile of gold.

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

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

(iii) c. a pile of gold.

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1. The old farmer is a kind person. What evidence of his kindness do you find in the first two paragraphs?

Sol. The old farmer loved his pet dog as if it was his own child. He after gave food to the birds.

2. What did the dog do to lead the farmer to the hidden gold?

Sol. The dog put his paws against the farmer's legs and motioned with his head to some spot behind. When the farmer didn't pay attention the dog began whinnying and running to and fro. Finally he followed the dog a few yards to a place where the animal began a lively scratching. The farmer dug the ground and found a heap of gold.

3. (i) How did the spirit of the dog help the farmer first?

(i) How did it help him next?

- Sol.** (i) The spirit of the dog told the farmer to cut down the pine tree over his grave and make from it a mortar for his rice pastry and a mill for his bean sauce. The old farmer did accordingly. When the rice was boiled, it was put into the mortar to turn it into dough by grinding it. Suddenly the entire mass turned into a heap of gold coins.
- (ii) Next time the dog spirit told the farmer to collect some ashes of the burnt mill from the greedy couple. The spirit also told him to sprinkle the ash on the withered tree to change them into blooming ones. The farmer did the same when his lord, the daimio, passed through a withered cherry tree. The cherry tree instantly burst into blossom. It gave cool shade to the king. The king was delighted. He gave huge wealth to the farmer.

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1. Why did the daimio reward the farmer but punish his neighbor for the same act?

- Sol.** The daimio rewarded the farmer because he was honest. When he sprinkled a pinch of ash over the withered cherry tree, it sprouted and gave cool shade to the king. But when his neighbour did the same act, the cherry tree didn't blossom. Instead the wind began to blow the fine dust in the noses and eyes of the king and his wife. They began to sneeze and choke. This made the king angry. He gave punishment to that man.

WORKING WITH LANGUAGE

2. Read the following conversation.

- Ravi : What are you doing?
Mridu : I'm reading a book.
Ravi : Who wrote it?
Mridu : Ruskin Bond.
Ravi : Where did you find it?
Mridu : In the library.

Notice that 'what' 'who', 'where', are question words. Questions that require information begin with question words. Some other question words are 'when,' 'why', 'where', 'which', and 'how'.

Remember that

- What asks about actions, things, etc? Who asks about people?
- Which asks about people or things.
- Where asks about place
- When asks about time.
- Why asks about reason or purpose.
- How asks about means, manner or degree.
- Whose asks about possessions?

Read the following paragraph and frame question on the italicized phrases.

Anil is in school. I am in school too. Anil is sitting in the left row. He is reading a book. Anil's friend is sitting in the second row. He is sharpening his pencil. The teacher is writing on the blackboard. Children are writing in their copybooks. Some children are looking out of the window.

- Sol.** (i) Where is Anil?
(ii) Where is Anil sitting?
(iii) What is he doing?
(vi) Where is Anil's friend sitting?
(v) What is he doing?

- (vi) Who is writing on the blackboard?
 (vii) What are some children doing?

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2. Write appropriate question words in the blank spaces in the following dialogue.

Neha : did you get this book?
 Sheela : Yesterday morning.
 Neha : is your sister crying?
 Sheela : Because she has lost her doll.
 Neha : room is this, yours or hers?
 Sheela : It's ours.
 Neha : do you go to school?
 Sheela- : We walk to school. It is near by.

Sol. When, Why, Whose, How.

3. Fill in the blanks with the words given in the box.

how what when where which

- (i) My friend lost his chemistry book. Now he doesn't know to do and to look for it.
 (ii) There are so many toys in the shops. Neena can't decide one to buy.
 (iii) You don't know the way to my school. Ask the policeman to get there.
 (vi) You should decide soon to start bullying your house.
 (v) Do you know to ride a bicycle? I don't remember and I learnt it.
 (vi) "You should know to talk and to keep your mouth shut," the teacher advised Anil.

Sol. (i) What, where (ii) Which (iii) How
 (iv) When (v) how, where when (vi) how, when.

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4. Add im-or in- to each of the following words and use them in place of the italicised words in the sentences given below.

patient proper possible sensitive competent

- (i) The project appears very difficult at first sight but it can be completed if we work very hard.
 (ii) He lacks competence. That's why he can't keep any job for more than a year.
 (iii) "Don't lose patience. Your letter will come one day," the postman told me.
 (iv) "That's not a proper remark to make under the circumstances."
 (v) He appears to be without sensitivity. In fact, he is very emotional.

Sol. (i) impossible, (ii) is incompetent, (iii) be impatient, (iv) an improper, (v) insensitive.

5. Read the following sentences.

It was a cold morning and stars still glowed in the sky.

An old man was walking long the road.

The words in italics are article. 'A' and 'an' are indefinite articles and 'the' is the definite article. 'A' is used before a singular countable noun. 'An' is used before a word that begins with a vowel.

- a boy an actor
- a mango an apple
- a university an hour

Use a, an or the in the blanks.

2. Put each of the following in the correct order. Then use them appropriately to fill the blanks in the paragraph that follows. Use correct punctuation marks.

- English and Hindi/both/in/he writes
 - and only/a few short stories/many books in English/ in Hindi
 - is/my Hindi/than my English/much better
- Ravi Kant is a writer, and of course, he is much happier writing in English than in Hindi. He has written I find his books a little hard to understand.

Sol.

- He writes both in English and Hindi
- Many books in English and only a few short stories in Hindi
- My Hindi is much better than my English

Ravi Kant is a writer, and he writes both in English and Hindi. Of course, he is much happier writing in English than in Hindi. He has written many books in English and only a few short stories in Hindi. I find his books a little hard to understand. My Hindi is much better than my English.

3. Are you fond of reading stories? Did you read one last month? If not, read one or two and then write a paragraph about the story. Use the following hints.

- title of the story
 - name of author
 - how many characters
 - which one you liked
 - some details of the story
 - main point(s) as you understand it
- Tell your friends who they should also read it.

Sol. Last week I read a story from Panchtantra. It was a simple story of only two characters. In the story there was a hermit. He was very kind and pious. He devoted all his time in his prayer. One day he was having his bath in the river. Then he began to offer his prayer to the sun god. While he was praying he saw an ant drowning in the water. The hermit thought to save it. The ant bit in the palm of the hermit. It was a painful bite. But the hermit again tried to save it. Again and again it tried to save it. But the ant bit him repeatedly. A man was watching all this from a distance. Finally he saw that the hermit brought the ant out of water. The man was surprised at the patience of the hermit. He asked the hermit why he did so. The hermit replied that it is the nature of the ant to bite any one. But a hermit's nature is to do welfare to all. So he saved the ant. One can't change one's nature. It is really a nice story. All should read it.

CHIVVY

Textual Exercises

WORKING WITH THE POEM

1. Discuss these questions in small groups before you answer them.
- (i) When is a grown-up likely to say this:
Don't talk with your mouth full.

Sol. When the child starts speaking while eating.

(ii) When are you likely to be told this?

Say thank you.

Sol. When someone gives you something and you don't say thank you to him/her.

(iii) When do you think an adult would say this?

No one thinks you are funny.

Sol. When you start behaving in an awkward way.

2. The last two lines of the poem are not prohibitions or instructions. What is the adult now asking the child to do? Do you think the poet is suggesting that this is unreasonable? Why?

Sol. The adult is now asking the child to use his/her mind and work properly. Yes, I think so. It is not reasonable to give so many instructions to a child. The child should be given some freedom. He should be taught to differentiate between the right and the wrong in some other way. He should be taught to be independent in his thought.

3. Why do you think grown-ups say the kind of things mentioned in the poem? Is it important that they teach children good manners, and how to behave in public?

Sol. Yes, grown-ups always say the kind of things mentioned in the poem. Yes, it is very important that they teach children good manners, and how to behave in public.

4. If you had to make some rules for grown-ups to follow, what would you say? Make at least five such rules. Arrange the lines as in a poem.

Sol. If I had to make some rules for grown-ups to follow, I would say the following -

(i) Don't give children so many instructions.

(ii) Give some freedom to the children.

(iii) Don't seek help from them at every moment.

(iv) Never tell children to study all the time.

(v) Allow them to spend some time on entertainment.