

English

(Honeycomb) (Chapter - 3) (Gopal and the Hilsa Fish) (Class - 7)

Working with the Text

Answer the following questions.

Question 1:

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

Answer 1:

It was season of Hilsa fish and everyone was so obsessed that they could not resist themselves from talking about Hilsa fish. Everyone around the king was talking about Hilsa fish. This infuriated the king so he didn't want anyone to talk about the Hilsa fish.

Question 2:

What did the king ask Gopal to do to prove that he was clever?

Answer 2:

Everyone around the king was talking only about Hilsa fish. The king asked Gopal to buy a huge Hilsa fish from the market and make sure that no one should talk to him about the fish on the entire way from the market to the palace.

Question 3:

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

Answer 3:

Gopal did the following three things before he went to by hilsa-fish:

- He got his face half-shaved.
- He smeared ash on his body himself.
- He wore rugs.

Question 4:

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

Answer 4:

When Gopal reached the palace he asked the guard to meet the king one, but he was not allowed to meet the king. He started singing and dancing in front of the palace at a loud voice to grab attention of the king. The king heard the noise and asked the man to be brought inside.

Question 5:

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

Answer 5:

Gopal was a clever man. He used his presence of mind. Dressed himself up in a rag, smeared ash on his half-shaven face and body to divert the attention of the people from the fish he bought. People were more interested in his appearance than the fish.

Question 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. _____

Answer 6:

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

Working with Language

Question 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 they 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 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 _____

Answer 1:

- (i) The woman asked the man *how much did he pay for that Hilsa.*

- (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.*

Question 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		smearing

Answer 2:

Challenge: A call to take part in a contest or competition.

Sandeep accepted the challenge and won the race.

Mystic: Spiritual or Shaman

A mystic travelled around the village telling peoples fortune.

Comical: Funny or amusing

My friend found the show comical while, I found it silly.

Courtier: A person, who attends a royal court as a companion or advisor to the king or queen.

A courtier stood at the door, which was slightly ajar, enough to put hand through.

Smearing: Coat or mark carelessly with grease or oil.

The boy used his hand to smear paint all across the paper.

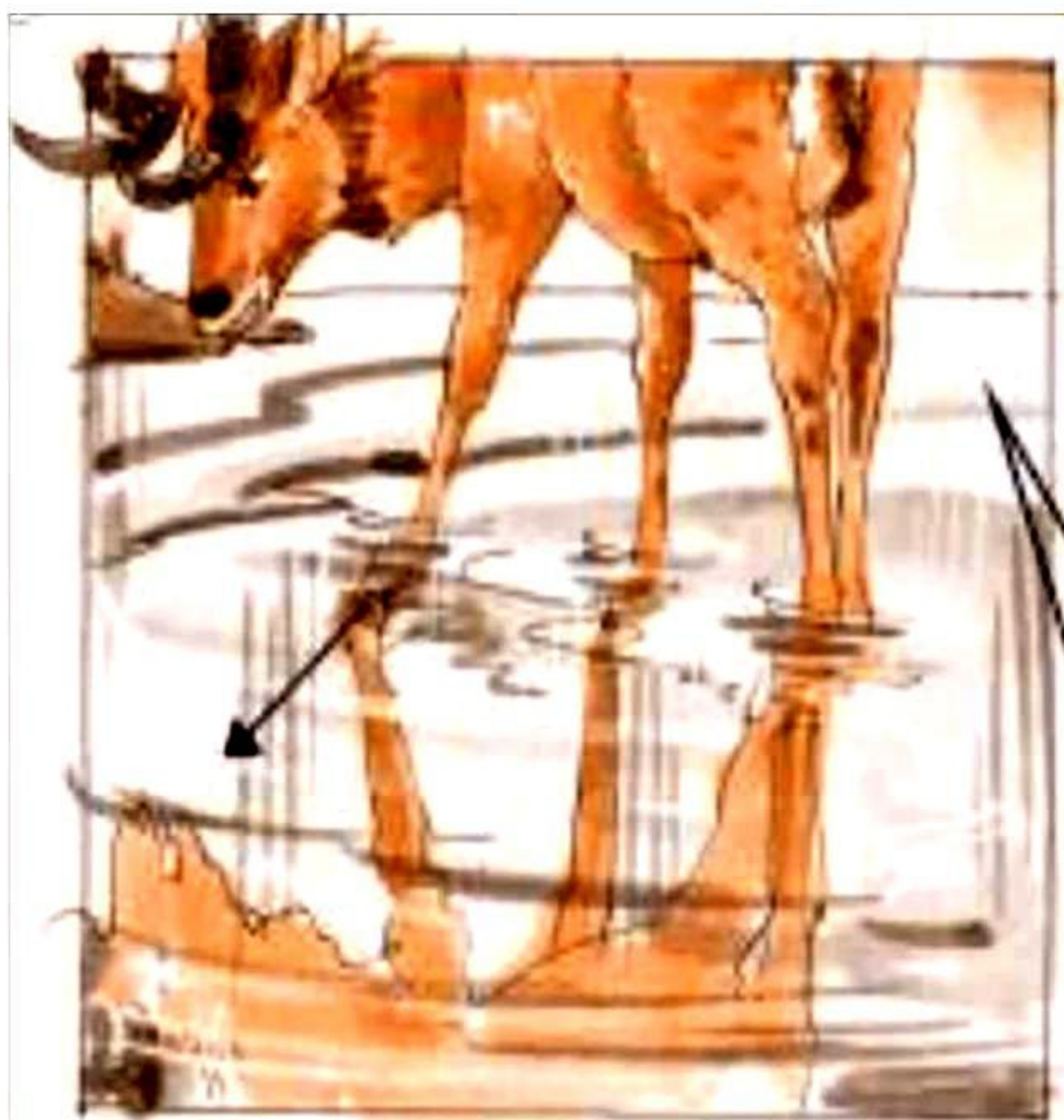
Picture Reading

1. Look at the pictures and read the text aloud.



Stag by the side of a pond.

How beautiful my horns are!



But my legs are so thin and ugly!

Hunters! Run for your life!





Let me hide somewhere.



These branches... Oh, no !



They are too close.
Get out of here!

I was proud of my horns. They could
have caused my death. I was
ashamed of my legs. They saved me.



Question 2:

Now ask your partner questions about each picture.

- (i) Where is the stag?
- (ii) What is he doing?
- (iii) Does he like his antlers (horns)?
- (iv) Does he like his legs?
- (v) Why is the stag running?
- (vi) Is he able to hide in the bushes?
- (vii) Where are the hunters now?
- (viii) Are they closing in on the stag?
- (ix) Is the stag free?
- (x) What does the stag say about his horns and his legs?

Answer 2:

- (i) The stag is standing by the side of a pond.
- (ii) The stag is about to drink water when he saw his reflection in the pond.
- (iii) Yes, he finds them beautiful.
- (iv) No, the stag finds his legs to be thin and ugly.
- (v) The stag is running because he is being chased by the hunters.
- (vi) No, he is not able to hide in the bushes because his horns got stuck in them.
- (vii) The hunters are just behind the stag.
- (viii) Yes, they are closing in on the stage.
- (ix) The stag was able to run fast because of his legs and is free now.
- (x) The stag says that he was proud of his horns, but he would have been killed because of them. He was ashamed of his legs, but they saved his life.

Question 3:

Now write the story in your own words. Give it a title.

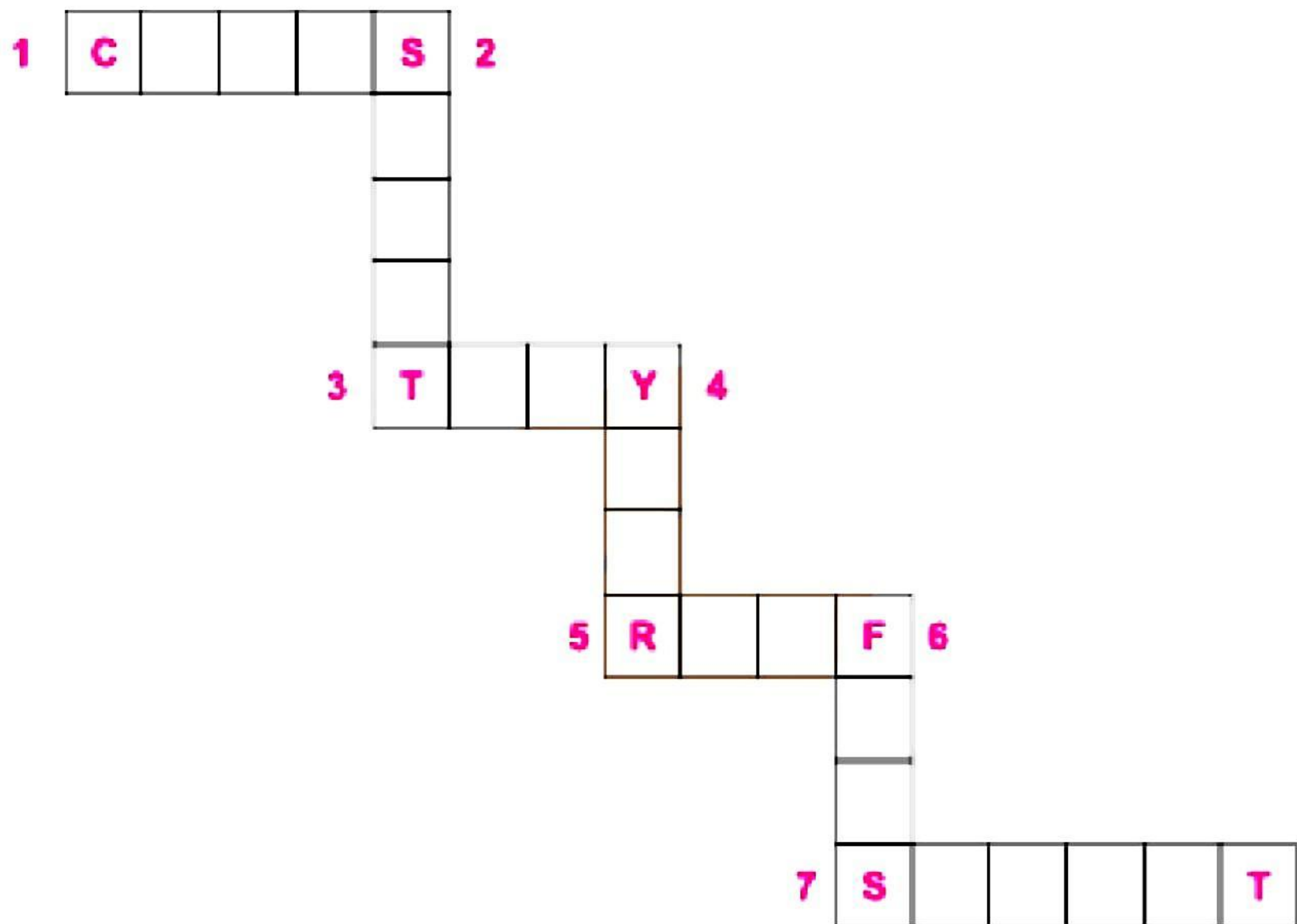
Answer 3:

There was a stag, he lived in a jungle. One day he went to drink water in a pond. He saw his reflection in the pond. He felt proud of his beautiful antlers. Then he saw his legs, he was upset because they were thin and ugly. Suddenly, there were hunters behind him. The stag ran to save his life. He wanted to hide in the bushes, but couldn't as his antlers were stuck in them. He found the hunters just behind him. He ran for his life and was finally saved.

At the end he realised that he was feeling proud of his antlers, but he would have been killed because of them. He felt ashamed of his legs, but was able to save his life ultimately because of them. The title is 'The Stag and his Beautiful Horns'.

Question 4:

Complete the following word ladder with the help of the clues given below.



Clues

1. Mother will be very _____ if you don't go to school.
2. As soon as he caught _____ of the teacher, Mohan started writing.
3. How do you like my _____ kitchen garden? Big enough for you, is it?
4. My youngest sister is now a _____ old.
5. Standing on the _____, he saw children playing on the road.
6. Don't make such a _____. Nothing will happen.
7. Don't cross the _____ till the green light comes on.

Answer 4:

1. Mother will be very *cross* if you don't go to school.
2. As soon as he caught *sight* of the teacher, Mohan started writing.
3. How do you like my *tiny* kitchen garden? Big enough for you, is it?
4. My youngest sister is now a *year* old.
5. Standing on the *roof*, he saw children playing on the road.
6. Don't make such a *fuss*. Nothing will happen.
7. Don't cross the *street* till the green light comes on.

Working with the Poem

Question 1:

Answer the following questions.

- (i) Who is the speaker in the poem?
- (ii) Is she/he afraid or curious, or both?
- (iii) What is she/he planning to do soon?
- (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.

Answer 1:

- (i) The speaker in the poem seems to be a little boy, the poet Frank Flynn who talking about a shed, which is at the bottom of his garden.
- (ii) He/she was both afraid and curious to know things, to know what was inside the shed. Whenever he passed by the window of the shed, he got a feeling that somebody was staring at him. However, after describing each part of the shed which had strange sounds and was scary, he said that he would go inside the shed one day. This showed his anxiety but at the same time his fear of who is inside it. He wanted to know whatever his brother had told him. It was true or not and whether there was any ghost inside the shed or not. That is why he was a little afraid, but had a lot of curiosity.
- (iii) He/she is planning to go inside the shed to see what was there inside it.
- (iv) "But not just yet..." suggests the reluctance the poet had in going inside that shed. Though he was quite confident that there were no ghosts inside the shed and that the stories of ghosts told by his brother were all lies. He also knew that there were no spiders on the web of the main door. However, he had some fear and could not collect enough courage to go inside the shed. So, he hesitated to go inside and thought that soon he will go inside the shed but was unable to go there.

Question 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.

Answer 2:

There is a store room in the house in the backyard which is little away from the main house. We use it for storing all unused and unwanted things. I also feel afraid going there at night and I also don't have courage to go there. Once I went there to bring my ball which went there when I was playing in my garden, I got a feeling that I am being followed by someone and I started screaming loudly. My mother came running and helped me to find my ball.