

CBSE Class 9 English Language and Literature
Moments Chapter-4 In the Kingdom of Fools
Test Paper-02

1. Extract from the lesson

“The two men were hungry. Now that the shops were open, they went to some groceries . To their astonishment, they found that everything cost the same, a single duddu- whether they bought a measure of rice or a bunch of bananas , it cost a duddu. The guru and his disciple were delighted. They had never heard of anything like this. They could buy all the food they wanted for a rupee.”

- a. Who were the two men who were hungry?
- b. Why were they astonished?
- c. Why were the guru and his disciple delighted?
- d. What does duddu mean?

2. “When they had cooked and eaten , the guru realised that this was a kingdom of fools and it wouldn't be a good idea for them to stay there. “ This is no place for us. Let's go ,” he said to his disciple. But the disciple didn't want to leave the place. Everything was cheap here. All he wanted was good, cheap food. The guru said, “They all are fools. This won't last very long, and you can't tell what they'll do to you next”.

- a. What did the guru realise?
- b. What did guru say to his disciple?
- c. Why did the disciple not want to go away?
- d. You can't tell what they'll do to you next." who said this to whom?

3. Why did the king decide to change night into day and day into night?

4. What complaint did the brother of the thief bring to the king?

5. Why was the merchant blamed for the death of the thief?

6. Why was the merchant summoned and what did he say to thr king?

7. What explanation did the bricklayer give for building such wall?

8. Why did the king's bailiffs search for the goldamith?

9. How did the king conclude that the merchant is the real culprit? How did he escape the execution? (100 words)

10. Who was responsible for the king's death? What lesson can we learn from it? (100 words)

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Answers

1.
 - a. The two men were the guru and his disciple.
 - b. They were astonished to find everything at the same price, a single duddu.
 - c. They were delighted as they could buy all the food they wanted for a rupee.
 - d. Duddu was the currency which could be used for buying anything.
2.
 - a. The guru realised that this was the kingdom of fools and it wouldn't be a good idea to stay there.
 - b. Guru said, "this is no place for us, let's go."
 - c. He did not want to leave because everything was cheap and all he wanted was the cheap food.
 - d. The guru said this to his disciple.
3. The king decided to change days into nights and night into days because he didn't want to run things like other kings. He ordered his minister and everyone to follow him, else they would be punished with death.
4. His brother ran to the king and complained, "Your Highness, when my brother was pursuing his ancient trade, a wall fell on him and he died. This merchant is to blame.
5. The merchant was blamed for the death of the thief as he should have built a good, strong wall. The thief died because of this wall, so he was considered the wrong door.
6. The merchant was summoned because he was blamed for building a weak wall because of which the thief died. So the king called him up and asked him if he was present at the time when the thief entered his house, he replied, "yes, my lord, but I didn't put up the wall. He said he knew the man who had made the wall. He was called in his father's time, the bricklayer.
7. The bricklayer said that of course he had built that wall and it was no good. But that was because his mind was not on it. There was a dancing girl who was walking up and down that street all day with her anklets jingling, and he couldn't keep his eyes or mind on the wall he was building. So he was not actually responsible for the murder.
8. The king's bailiffs were searching for the goldsmith because the dancing girl had told the

king that he was responsible for making her move up and down the street as he was not making her jewellery. And the dancing girl was moving there to ask for her jewellery. He was responsible for the death of the thief.

9. The goldsmith finally named the merchant who was responsible for thief's death who was none other than the owner of the house, then the king thought that justice had come full circle and he went back to the merchant. The merchant was rudely summoned back to the court. He told in the court that it wasn't he, but his father who had ordered the jewellery and he was dead then. The king consulted his minister and said decisively, "its true your father is the true murderer but somebody has to be punished in his place. You've inherited everything from your father , his riches as well as his sins." So he was concluded to be punished. When he was ready for the execution and the stake was prepared for him, it was found that the merchant was too thin for the stake. The king got worried and thought. Suddenly it struck him to find a man fat enough to fit the stake. The servants were sent all over the town to find a fat man and the merchant escaped from the punishment.
10. The king concluded to kill the disciple as he was fit enough for the stake. But when the guru arrived to see his disciple in problem through his vision, he decided to give the king a good lesson. He said something in the ear of the disciple and he understood his guru's trick. He agreed to do as he was told. The guru appealed to be executed first and then his disciple should be killed. Listening this the king got puzzled and asked him about the matter. The guru took him aside and told him that whoever would die first would be reborn as the king of the country in the next birth and whosoever would go next would be the future minister. Listening this the king got excited and decided to die first, along with his minister following him. So the executioners killed the king and his minister. Thus was how we can say that the king was himself responsible for his death. We learn that a foolish person can dig his own grave, along with his kingdom. Foolishness destroys one's senses and can take away one's life as well. Also the greed of the king takes away his life. His greed to be the in the next life took away the pleasure of his being the king in the present life.