

A GIFT OF CHAPPALS

[Comprehension Check]

Question 1. What is the secret that Meena shares with Mridu in the backyard?

Answer: The secret Meena shares is about kitten that they found in front of the house in the morning. They had kept it in the backyard behind a thick bush.

Question 2. How does Ravi get milk for the kitten?

Answer: Ravi pretend that he is hungry and cleverly gets milk for the kitten from the kitchen. He had to drink most of the milk also to prove he is really hungry. And he leave some milk in the tumbler and empty it in the coconut shell kept in the backyard.

Question 3. Who does he say the kitten's ancestors are? Do you believe him?

Answer: Ravi says that the kitten's ancestor was the Pallava Lion, emblem of the Pallava dynasty. No, I don't believe him.

Question 4. Ravi has a lot to say about M.P.Poonai. This shows that

- (i) he is merely trying to impress Mridu.
- (ii) his knowledge of history is sound.
- (iii) he has a rich imagination.
- (iv) he is an intelligent child.

Which of these statements do you agree/disagree to?

Answer: I think that his knowledge of history is sound. Also, he has a rich imagination and he is an intelligent child.

Question 5. What was the noise that startled Mridu and frightened Mahendran?

Answer: The noise that startled Mridu and frightened Mahendran was that of 'kreeching' sound of Lalli's violin.

Question 6. The music master is making lovely music. Read aloud the sentence in the text that expresses this idea.

Answer: (To be done by student)

Question 7. Had the beggar come to Rukku Manni's house for the first time? Give reasons for your answer.

Answer: No, the beggar had not come to Rukku Manni's house for the first time. In fact, he had been visiting Rukku Manni's house for past one week. He himself admitted that he had survived the past week because of the generosity of the ladies of Rukku Manni's house.

Question 8. "A sharp V-shaped line had formed between her eyebrows." What does it suggest to you about Rukku Manni's mood?

Answer: This suggests that Rukku Manni was quite angry on the naughtiness of the children.

[Working with the text]

Question 1. Complete the following sentences:

- (i) Ravi compares Lalli's playing the violin to _____.
- (ii) Trying to hide beneath the tray of chillies, Mahendran _____.
- (iii) The teacher played a few notes on his violin, and Lalli _____.
- (iv) The beggar said that the kind ladies of the household _____.
- (v) After the lesson was over, the music teacher asked Lalli if _____.

Answer:

- (i) Ravi compares Lalli's playing the violin to derailing of a train.
- (ii) Trying to hide beneath the tray of chillies, Mahendran tipped a few chillies over himself. "Mi-a-aw!", he howled miserably.
- (iii) The teacher played a few notes on his violin, and Lalli stumbled behind him on her violin, which looked quite helpless and unhappy in her hands.
- (iv) The beggar said that the kind ladies of the household have helped him survive the last week.
- (v) After the lesson was over, the music teacher asked Lalli if she had seen his chappals.

Question 2. Describe the music teacher, as seen from the window.

Answer: The music teacher had a lean, bony personality. He was sitting with his back against the window of the room where he was teaching violin to Lalli. He was bald and had some oiled hair around his ears. He was wearing an old-fashioned tuft and had a gold chain around his neck. He also wore a diamond ring in his hand. He was beating the floor with his thin, malnourished toe.

**Question 3. (i) What makes Mridu conclude that the beggar has no money to buy chappals?
(ii) What does she suggest to show her concern?**

Answer: (i) When children saw blisters on the beggar's feet, this made Mridu conclude that the beggar has no money to buy chappals.

(ii) She suggests that they could give a pair of chappals to him.

Question 4. "Have you children..." she began, and then, seeing they were curiously quiet, went on more slowly, "seen anyone lurking around the verandah?"

(i) What do you think Rukku Manni really wanted to ask?

(ii) Why did she change her question?

(iii) What did she think had happened?

Answer: (i) Rukku Manni wanted to ask if the children were responsible behind the stealth of the chappals.

(ii) She changed her question because seeing the children so serious and quiet, she understood that the children definitely had something to do with the missing chappals.

(iii) She thought that the children would have purposely hidden the pair of chappals.

Question 5. On getting Gopu Mama's chappals, the music teacher tried not to look too happy. Why?

Answer: The music teacher wanted to pretend that his chappals were valuable to him. Although in reality, he liked the new chappals of Gopu Mama. That's why music teacher tried not to look happy

Question 6. On getting a gift of chappals, the beggar vanished in a minute. Why was he in such a hurry to leave?

Answer: The beggar leave as early as possible because he did not want to lose the gift of chappals. He needed the chappals very much as his feet were full of blisters.

Question 7. Walking towards the kitchen with Mridu and Meena, Rukku Manni began to laugh. What made her laugh?

Answer: The thought that what she will say to Gopu Mama about the chappals when he will ask about them. She was thinking what will be his reaction when he comes to know, that those chappals were given to the music master.

[Working with language]

Question 1. Read the following sentences.

- (a) If she knows we have a cat, Paati will leave the house.
- (b) She won't be so upset if she knows about the poor beggar with sores on his feet.
- (c) If the chappals do fit, will you really not mind?

Notice that each sentence consists of two parts. The first part begins with 'if'. It is known as if-clause.

Rewrite each of the following pairs of sentences as a single sentence. Use 'if' at the beginning of the sentence.

Example:

- (a) Walk fast. You'll catch the bus.
If you walk fast, you'll catch the bus.

- (b) Don't spit on the road. You'll be fined.
If you spit on the road, you'll be fined.

- (i) Don't tire yourself now. You won't be able to work in the evening.
- (ii) Study regularly. You'll do well in the examination.
- (iii) Work hard. You'll pass the examination in the first division.
- (iv) Be polite to people. They'll also be polite to you.
- (v) Don't tease the dog. It'll bite you.

Answer:

- (i) Don't tire yourself now. You won't be able to work in the evening.
You won't be able to work in the evening if you tire yourself up now.
- (ii) Study regularly. You'll do well in the examination.
If you study regularly, you'll do well in the examination.
- (iii) Work hard. You'll pass the examination in the first division.
If you work hard, you'll pass the examination in the first division.
- (iv) Be polite to people. They'll also be polite to you.
If you are polite to people, they'll also be polite to you.
- (v) Don't tease the dog. It'll bite you.
If you tease the dog, it'll bite you.

Question 2. Fill in the blanks in the following paragraph.

Today is Sunday. I'm wondering whether I should stay at home or go out. If I _____ (go) out, I _____ (miss) the lovely Sunday lunch at home. If I _____ (stay) for lunch, I _____ (miss) the Sunday film showing at Archana Theatre. I think I'll go out and see the film, only to avoid getting too fat.

Answer:

Today is Sunday. I'm wondering whether I should stay at home or go out. If I **go** (go) out, I **will miss** (miss) the lovely Sunday lunch at home. If I **stay** (stay) for lunch, I **will miss** (miss) the Sunday film showing at Archana Theatre. I think I'll go out and see the film, only to avoid getting too fat.

Question 3. Complete each sentence below by appropriately using any one of the following:

if you want to/if you don't want to/if you want him to

- (i) Don't go to the theatre _____.
- (ii) He'll post your letter _____.
- (iii) Please use my pen _____.
- (iv) He'll lend you his umbrella _____.
- (v) My neighbour, Ramesh, will take you to the doctor _____.
- (vi) Don't eat it _____.

Answer:

- (i) Don't go to the theatre if you don't want to.
- (ii) He'll post your letter if you want him to.
- (iii) Please use my pen if you want to.
- (iv) He'll lend you his umbrella if you want him to.
- (v) My neighbour, Ramesh, will take you to the doctor if you want him to.
- (vi) Don't eat it if you don't want to.