

LITERATURE READER

1. TOM WHITEWASHES THE FENCE

Understanding the Poem

- A. 1. (c) 2. (b) 3. (c) 4. (c)
- B. 1. Sid 2. Jim 3. Tom's
4. clever 5. spotlessly 6. believe
- C. 1. Aunt Polly asked Tom to whitewash the fence.
2. Tom pretended to enjoy whitewashing the fence. This tempted other boys to do it and, to persuade Tom, they offered him gifts and he let others do his work.
3. Ben looked at Tom pityingly because he was going for a swim while Tom was working.
4. Tom got twelve marbles, a tin soldier, a key, a dog's collar, the handle of a knife, an apple and four segments of an orange.
5. Aunt Polly was delighted to see the fence looking so spotlessly white.
6. Aunt Polly gave an apple to Tom to eat.

Language Skills

- D. Cross out the following words:
1. tiny 2. gloomy 3. energetic 4. greed
5. shoddy 6. dull 7. lazy 8. loathsome

Writing Skills

- E. Tom succeeded in getting other boys to do his work because he quickly realised that he could not get Jim to do it even when he offered him a marble. With the presence of mind, he changed his plan and pretended to enjoy whitewashing the fence and acting as if he was reluctant to let anyone else do it. This tempted the other boys. They offered him things to let them do the work. He managed to get the fence painted by others, got a lot of things from them and even got an apple from Aunt Polly.
- F. Any reasonable answer is acceptable.

2. MISS ROTTENMEIER HAS A HARD DAY

Understanding the Story

- A. 1. (b) 2. (a) 3. (c)
B. 1. (d) 2. (e) 3. (a) 4. (c) 5. (b)
C. 1. Heidi was studying with Clara in the library. She ran to the door to look into the street and, in her hurry, she caught the table cloth and pulled everything down and spilt ink everywhere.
2. Heidi went to the tall tower in the afternoon.
3. Heidi could not understand how Miss Rottenmeier could be scared of such timid little creatures as kittens.

Language Skills

1. THINK 2. TROUT 3. KITTEN 4. BASKET 5. MORNING 6. WOMAN

Writing Skills

- E. Heidi missed the blue sky, the fresh spring air, the rustling of pine trees, and the animals in the city.
F. A person who goes from a city to a village may face several problems. They will miss running water in tapes, television and movies, busy roads, markets where most things are easily available. They may even miss electricity, schools, and will not have restaurants to eat out.

3. BEDS

Understanding the Poem

- A. 1. (b) 2. (c) 3. (b)
B. 1. True 2. False 3. False
C. 1. Single, double, cot-size, cradle, king-size, trundle (any three).
2. A jet-propelled bed can be used for visiting Mars with mosquito nets for the shooting stars.

Language Skills

- D. 1. (d) 2. (e) 3. (a) 4. (b) 5. (c)

Activity

- E. Any reasonable work is acceptable.

4. TENALIRAMAN AND THE TWO THIEVES

Understanding the Story

- A. 1. (a)
2. (b) [It should read – To keep money and jewellery in a well]
3. (c)
- B. 1. sleep 2. understood 3. pretended 4. stones 5. promised
- C. 1. Tenaliraman saw some movement behind the bushes in the garden. That is why, he understood that there were thieves in the garden.
2. Tenaliraman's plan was to hide all the jewellery and money in the well.
3. The thieves kept drawing water from the well the whole night.
4. The thieves were very shocked to see the big stones in the trunk.
5. Tenaliraman thanked the thieves for watering his plants.
- D. 1.

T	E	N	A	L	I	R	A	M	A	N
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2.

G	O	P	A	L
---	---	---	---	---

B	H	A	R
---	---	---	---

3.

M	U	L	L	A
---	---	---	---	---

N	A	S	R	U	D	D	I	N
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
- E. 1. (c) 2. (d) 3. (b) 4. (a)
- F. An old woman who becomes blind. She calls a doctor and agrees to pay him a large fee if cured, but nothing if not cured. The doctor comes daily and takes away valuable things from her house. At last, he cures her and demands fee. But, the lady (old woman) refuses to pay him saying that cure is not complete yet. The doctor goes to the court where the judge asks the lady that why she is not paying his fee. The lady says that her eyes are not cured completely, as she cannot see all her valuable things. The judge understands what she is saying. Finally, he decides the case in her favour.

5. THE THIEF OF CATHAY

Understanding the Story

- A. 1. (b) 2. (a) 3. (b)
- B. 1. True 2. False 3. False 4. False 5. True
- C. 1. The thief was hiding so that he could see where the valuable gifts were kept and the layout of the room because he intended to steal the gifts when the lights were put out.
2. The honourable man came to know that there was a thief hiding in his house because he saw the moving shadow cast by the thief on the floor.

3. The thief came down because he could do nothing else when the honourable man invited him like a guest to take the refreshments.
4. The kindness of the honourable man changed the thief's life to one of righteousness and honour. The coins, he had given to the thief, had been used to begin a small business which prospered.

Language Skills

Any reasonable sentences are acceptable.

Writing Skills

Any reasonable answers are acceptable.

- E. Clues: Try to change for the better - point out error or sin - guide - everyone makes mistakes - important to know error - change thinking
- F. Clues: Would have continued being a thief - become a hardened criminal - prison - hurt and harmed more people

6. I KEEP SIX HONEST MEN

Understanding the Story

- A. 1. (c) 2. (a) 3. (b)
- B. 1. False 2. True 3. True 4. False
- C. 1. The six honest men taught the poet all that he knows.
2. The names of six honest serving-men are What, Why, When, How, Where and Who.
3. The theme of the poem is that we should be constantly eager for gaining more knowledge and should collect it like bees collecting honey in their hive with constant effort.

Language Skills

- D. 1. Why 2. What 3. When 4. How 5. Where 6. What
- E. Circle the following words:
1. men 2. are 3. then 4. more

F.

		W	H	A	T
H		W	H	Y	
O		H	O		
W	H	E	R	E	
		N			

Activity

Any reasonable discussion is acceptable.

G. Curiosity, expanding one's mind and knowledge.

H. Travel, read, Discovery, Animal Planet and History Channels.

7. THE BOY WHO BORROWED

Understanding the Story

A. 1. (a) 2. (b) 3. (a) 4. (a) 5. (c) 6. (b)

B. 1. borrowed 2. dishonest 3. funny 4. temper 5. empty
6. handed 7. sorry

C. 1. Benny was fond of reading.

2. Benny did not have enough money to buy a lot of books and he got gifts only at Christmas time. So, he borrowed books.

3. Benny became dishonest because he did not return what he had borrowed. Instead, he pretended that he did not have those things.

4. The children were angry with Benny because he did not give back anything that he borrowed.

5. The books were angry, so, they ran away back to their owners. After that, Benny was so ashamed that he returned all the other things to the other children in the school.

6. Benny learnt that he should not borrow anything unless he gives it back quickly.

Language Skills

D. 1. (c) 2. (d) 3. (a) 4. (b)

Writing Skills

E. We should return borrowed books as soon as we have read them.

F. It means that we should neither borrow nor lend. It happens that we very often forget to return what we have borrowed. And if we have lent something to someone who does not return it on time, we are very unhappy at losing our possession. By borrowing and not returning or even if we ask for return of our own possession, we create a bad feeling among our friends and lose them.

8. RAIN IN SUMMER

Understanding the Poem

- A. 1. (b) 2. (c) 3. (b)
B. 1. dust 2. hoofs 3. pane
C. 1. We welcome rain in summer because it comes after the heat and dust of summer which makes even the street fiery.
2. Clatters, gushes and roars are the different sounds made by the rain.

Language Skills

- D. 1. (c) 2. (d) 3. (e) 4. (a) 5. (b)

Writing Skills

- E. Any reasonable answer is acceptable.
[Clues: Dark cloudy sky; thunder; lightning; birds hiding in trees; water rushing down roads and drains; umbrellas; wet clothes; slow traffic]
F. Any reasonable answer is acceptable.

9. THE KING AND HIS HAWK

Understanding the Story

- A. 1. (a) 2. (b) 3. (b) 4. (a) 5. (a)
B. 1. Genghis Khan 2. thirsty 3. spilled 4. sword 5. mounted
C. 1. Many of his friends and servants accompanied him to the woods.
2. Genghis Khan could not drink the water because every time he lifted the cup of water to his lips, his hawk knocked down the cup and spilled the water.
3. The hawk saved Genghis Khan's life by not allowing him to drink the poisoned water.
4. Genghis Khan learnt never to do anything in anger.

Language skills

- D. 1. Alas! India lost the match.
2. Oh! I failed in the exam.
3. Hurrah! We won the trophy.
4. What a superb dancer you are!
5. Wow! Your dress is beautiful.

- E. 1. peacock 2. snail 3. lark 4. coal 5. snow 6. honey 7. diamond
8. cucumber 9. gold 10. hills

Writing Skills

F. and G. Any reasonable answers are acceptable.

10. THE MONKEYS GO ON A FAST

Understanding the Story

- A. 1. (a) 2. (b) 3. (b) 4. (b)
- B. 1. troop 2. bananas 3. chief 4. permission 5. swallowed
- C. 1. The chief's wife suggested that they keep their share of bananas with them before they begin their fast.
2. The young monkey suggested that they peel the banana and keep it ready to eat.
3. The chief gave them permission to keep the bananas in their mouths, but under no condition to eat them.
4. The fast ended as soon as it started with each monkey swallowing its banana silently.

Language Skills

- D. ACROSS: 1. CHIMPANZEE 3. OSTRICH
DOWN: 2. PEACOCK 4. RHINOCEROS
- E. 1. Chimpanzee 2. Gorilla 3. Orangutan 4. Langur

Writing Skills

- F. Any reasonable answer is acceptable.
- G. Any reasonable answer based on the hint given is acceptable.

11. DON'T BE AFRAID OF THE DARK

Understanding the Poem

- A. 1. (c) 2. (a)
- B. 1. The things we see at night are the moon and stars.
2. The world is at peace at night because our troubles cease.

Language Skills

- C. 1. (d) 2. (c)

Rhyming words- never ; ever fear ; near cease ; peace

Activity

Do it yourself.

12. THE BUILDING OF THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE

Understanding the Story

- A. 1. (b) 2. (b) 3. (c)

- B. 1. True 2. True 3. False 4. False 5. True

- C. 1. The construction of Brooklyn Bridge was John Roebling's dream project.
2. John Roebling drew up an amazing design for the Brooklyn Bridge. It was to be a suspension bridge with two towers 300 feet tall to hold the bridges' cables. He used steel to make the bridge stronger.
3. Caissons were big, airtight, wooden chambers and filled with compressed air used to dig the foundations of the bridge's towers in the riverbed.
4. Emily took charge of the construction when Washington Roebling fell ill. She developed a code of communication with him, learning his ideas and conveying them to the team of workers. She taught herself engineering on the job and completed the work begun by John and Washington Roebling.

Language Skills

D. ROME WAS NOT BUILT IN A DAY

- E. 1. He built bridge to cross the stream in the forest.

2. We must bridge our differences to become a strong country.

[These or similar sentences are acceptable.]

Writing Skills

- F. Any reasonable answer is acceptable.

[Clues: Name of bridge; river; city/area; name of the builder.]

13. A POEM AS LOVELY AS A TREE

Understanding the Poem

- A. 1. (b) 2. (b) 3. (a)

- B. 1. A tree is the loveliest poem according to the poet.

2. The tree prays by lifting her leafy arms to the sky towards God.
3. Robins build a nest in the tree.
4. The poet calls himself a fool because a poem can never be as beautiful as a tree created by God.

Language Skills

C. Any reasonable answer is acceptable.

Writing Skills

- D. Clues: Conserve soil and water; humidity; clean air; habitat for birds and animals; fruits; medicines; shade; timber
- E. The poet says that she will never see any poem that is as beautiful as a tree.

The roots of a tree are pressed against the earth like a baby suckling at its mother's breast. The branches of the tree reach up to the sky like arm raised towards God in prayer.

The leafy boughs of a tree are like the long hair of a woman who has decorated it with jewels, in this case, the jewels being the nest of a robin. Rain has a very close relationship with a tree as trees thrive on the rainwater. Snow lies on the branches of the tree.

The poet feels that any fool can write a poem. But, only God has the power to create something as beautiful as a tree.

14. KABULIWALA

Understanding the Play

- A. 1. (c) 2. (a)
- B. 1. Kabuliwala was a man from Kabul in Afghanistan. He was a vendor of dry fruits, shawls, etc.
2. Mini and the Kabuliwala had a great bond of friendship. He gave her almonds and raisins and she chattered endlessly to him. They laughed and talked, shared quaint jokes as the Kabuliwala was a patient listener. Mini's father endorsed the friendship.
3. Kabuliwala, when he spoke to Mini about her father-in-law's house, was speaking of her marriage. But, generally among people of his own class it meant a jail.
4. The Kabuliwala had gone to recover money from a neighbour who had bought a Rampuri shawl from him. The neighbour denied buying it and in the quarrel that followed the Kabuliwala assaulted him with a knife. So, he was arrested and sent to jail.

5. Kabuliwala gave Mini gifts of almonds, raisins and nuts. When he came out of jail, he brought her almonds, raisins and grapes.
 6. Mini's father gave him a bank note to help him go back to his own country and meet his daughter. Mini's father had to curtail some of the festivities at Mini's wedding because of the money he gave away. The decoration of electric lights and the military band were not possible but, to Mini's father, the celebrations seemed brighter because of the thought of another father meeting his only child in a country far away.
- C. 1. (d) 2. (c) 3. (e) 4. (a) 5. (b)
- D. and E. Do it yourself.