

1. Age is No Bar for Excellence

Worksheet 1

COMPREHENSION

Uddalaka, the great sage and scholar of Vedanta, had a disciple named Kagola who was not very learned but was virtuous. So, Uddalaka gave his daughter Sujata in marriage to him. Kagola and Sujata had a son, Ashtavakra. The name was given because he had eight crooked parts in his body. He knew the Vedas even when he was in his mother's womb and when Kagola made mistakes in reciting them, he twisted with pain. Thus, he was born as Ashtavakra.

He grew up to be a towering scholar even as a child and had studied the Vedas and Vedanta by the time when he was only twelve years old. Meanwhile, Kagola had lost an intellectual discussion with Vandī, the court scholar of Mithila, and having been defeated by the court scholar of Mithila, he paid the price by drowning himself.

One day, Ashtavakra learnt that Janaka, the king of Mithila, was performing a great sacrifice at which scholars would assemble. He set off to Mithila to challenge Vandī and repay the debt of his father's untimely death. When the guards of Mithila stopped him at the gates of Mithila, Ashtavakra said, "Size is no indication of knowledge or worth, nor is age. Grey hair do not prove the ripeness of the soul. The really mature man has mastered the Vedas and Vedanta and realised their essence. I am here to meet Vandī, inform King Janaka."

King Janaka welcomed the little sage. A great debate ensued between Ashtavakra and Vandī; each employing his utmost learning. In the end, Ashtavakra was declared the winner. Vandī paid the forfeit by drowning himself. The words of the virtuous Kagola came true. "It is wrong to assess the greatness of a man on his physical appearance or age. External appearances are deceptive."

A. Read the above story and answer the following questions.

1. Who were Ashtavakra's parents?
2. Why was he named Ashtavakra?
3. What did he grow up to become?
4. To whom did he challenge for debate?
5. What does the following mean?
Grey hair do not prove the ripeness of the soul.
6. What were the words of Kagola which came true?

B. Fill in the blanks with suitable words mentioned in the story.

1. Uddalaka was the great _____ and _____ of Vedanta.
2. Ashtavakra grew up to be a _____ scholar, even at the age of _____.
3. He _____ Vandī, the court scholar of Mithila to a _____.
4. Size is no _____ of knowledge or _____, nor is age.
5. The words of the _____ Kagola came _____.

Worksheet 2

GRAMMAR

A. What type of sentences are the following?

1. Kate, please put the kettle on for tea.
2. Who is going to help with this project?
3. Heena has a big atlas that is really good.
4. When is the next major holiday coming up?
5. I am going to the station to pick up my uncle.
6. Don't make a noise.
7. This is not the book I was looking for.
8. How is Mrs Jena feeling today?
9. Look out! There's a car coming!
10. Nidhi has been practising the sitar for an hour.

B. Change the sentences given below as directed.

1. Men were running across the field. [Interrogative]
2. Have you heard the news? [Statement]
3. Bring in the casserole, please. [Interrogative]
4. Kavita hasn't come to school for three days, has she? [Statement]
5. Rahul has performed excellently. [Exclamatory]
6. Can you shut the door? [Imperative]

C. Add question tags from the box to the sentences given below.

will you have you did you couldn't you hasn't he doesn't he

1. You haven't seen Govind anywhere, _____?
2. Satish always argues with his parents, _____?
3. You could be there by seven o'clock, _____?
4. Mr Mathur has been to the market, _____?
5. You didn't give the book to Rohit, _____?
6. Give me a bouquet made of six roses, _____?

Worksheet 3

VOCABULARY AND WRITING

A. Complete the words using prefixes given in the Help Box.

dis pro in mis im

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. (a) _____ arm | (b) _____ band | (c) _____ believe |
| 2. (a) _____ ept | (b) _____ escapable | (c) _____ firm |
| 3. (a) _____ print | (b) _____ prove | (c) _____ balance |
| 4. (a) _____ file | (b) _____ claim | (c) _____ fess |
| 5. (a) _____ take | (b) _____ calculate | (c) _____ conduct |

B. Edit the following passage by adding capital letters and punctuation marks wherever required.

you start on monday with the idea that you are going to enjoy yourself you wave to the boys on the shore light your pipe swagger on the deck as if you were captain cook and christopher columbus rolled into one on tuesday you wish you had not come

C. Each of the words given below has the letter 'E' missing, fill it to complete the words.

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. ___ N ___ RGY | 2. P ___ RS ___ V ___ R ___ |
| 3. D R I V ___ R | 4. F ___ M A L ___ |
| 5. M ___ MB ___ R | |