## 1. Little World of Mud



#### **COMPREHENSION**

A long time ago, a pious man called Baba Bharati lived in a village. He was very helpful and kind and all the villagers loved him. Baba Bharati had a beautiful horse whom he loved and cared for like a child. He called it Sultan. He was extremely attached to it. People came from far and wide, having heard of Sultan's power and beauty and fascinated at the bond between Baba Bharati and his horse.

One day, a dacoit, Kharag Singh, who was widely known and feared in that area, heard about Baba Bharati and his Sultan. He came to see the horse because he was very curious. He was deeply impressed by the beauty and strength of Sultan and he coveted the horse. "What," he wondered, "was the use of such a powerful horse in the hands of Baba Bharati? It is wasted here. I should be owning Sultan."

Having made up his mind, Kharag Singh went up to Baba Bharati and introduced himself. Then, he requested Baba that he would like to buy his horse from him. Baba refused and said, Sultan was not for sale. Kharag Singh was very persistent. But Baba Bharati told him firmly that Sultan was not a horse for sale; he was like a son and Baba loved him dearly. This left the dacoit seething with anger and frustration. He went away threatening the old man that he would not have the horse for very long. Baba did not reply, but he was disturbed. Now he woke up several times at night to check if Sultan was safe.

Days and weeks passed by. Gradually, Baba Bharati began to think that perhaps the dacoit had accepted the refusal and given up his desire to own the horse. One day, Baba Bharati rode out on his beloved horse as usual for his daily gallop. When he was returning home, he saw a man beside the road signalling him to stop. He halted beside him. The man appeared poor and sick. Baba's compassionate heart melted and he asked the man how he could help him.

"I have to go to the next village, Baba. But I'm sick and exhausted. Could you please take me there?" Baba immediately put him on the horse, and himself began walking beside it. Suddenly, he heard a different voice saying, "Remember what I said? That you wouldn't have the horse for long?" Baba stopped, shocked. "I am Kharag Singh and I am taking your horse." Baba stood there as Kharag Singh took the reins and moved off with Sultan. Baba called out to him to stop a moment and he did.

"I have a request to make," Baba said.

"Anything, except returning the horse," Kharag Singh replied.

"Just don't tell anyone of this incident," said Baba, quietly turning away.

This puzzled Kharag Singh completely. Now, why would the old man say that? He asked. So, Baba explained, "If people know the truth, they'll never be able to trust the poor, the sick and the needy. Then, no one will help them." And without looking back, Baba Bharati walked away. Kharag Singh

sat and wondered if he had won or lost.

Before dawn, Baba Bharati awoke and, as was his old habit, he went to see if all was well with Sultan in the stable. As he came out of his house, he realised that Sultan was gone. There was only an empty stable. Sighing, he turned back into his house when, suddenly, he was startled to hear a horse neigh closely. Sultan! Baba rushed to the stable. And there was Sultan, covered with his blanket, happily eating his hay as if nothing had changed. Baba hugged him, laughing and weeping. And Kharag Singh, quietly watching through the window, also smiled and felt the tears in his eyes.

#### [Adapted from a Hindi Story]

#### A. Read the given story and answer the following questions.

- 1. What was Baba Bharati's horse called?
- 2. Why did the villagers love Baba Bharati?
- 3. Who coveted Baba Bharati's horse? Why?
- 4. What did Kharag Singh say to threaten Baba Bharati?
- 5. What did the sick man ask?
- 6. Why did Baba ask Kharag Singh not to tell anyone about this incident?
- 7. Why do you think Kharag Singh returned Sultan?

# B. There are several qualities spoken of in this story. Put them into the appropriate boxes as in the story:

Deceitfulness, love, trust, generosity, covetousness, forgiveness, honesty, compassion, dishonesty, greed, regret, guilt, kindness and respect.

Positive Qualities
<del>                                   </del>

Negative Qualities



## GRAMMAR

A.	Ch	ange the following as directed.
	1.	Please shut the door. (change into interrogative)
	2.	She is too weak to walk. (remove 'too')
	3.	He is the most handsome boy in his class. (change into comparative degree)
	4.	Ram is writing a letter. ((change into passive voice)
	5.	Ram gets up early in the morning. He goes to school daily. (change into a compound sentence
В.		d question tags to the following sentences.  Rohit is an intelligent boy.
	2.	Sunil waters the plant daily.
	3.	Nishikant will go to Jaipur tomorrow.
	4.	Praveen wrote a novel.
	5.	I am going to play football.



### **VOCABULARY AND WRITING**

A.	Use the dictionary to find the meanings of the following words.
	1. extremely 2. fascinated
	<b>3.</b> impressed <b>4.</b> persistent
	<b>5.</b> coveted <b>6.</b> frustration
В.	Select a word from the brackets to complete each sentence.
	1. Teacher gave me good (advice/advise)
	2. The police was looking for of his travel. (prove/proof)
	3 in and out slowly. (Breath/Breathe)
	<b>4.</b> Do you what I am saying? (believe/belief)
	5. There was a in the factory. (stroke/strike)
	<b>6.</b> We must be careful of diseases. (waterborn/waterborne)
	7. He rented a for his office at the hotel. (suit/suite)
	8. Which dress would you? (choice/choose)
c.	Edit the following sentences, correcting punctuation, capital letters, grammar, etc.
	1. i asked don't you know the way home
	2. the man at New Delhi railway station was reading a book
	3. he said wow that was a terrific shot
	4. this house was built by john last october
	5. he wrote i am unable to come as i am ill i hope you will understand