

# 1. The Question of Mangoes

## Worksheet 1

### COMPREHENSION

**Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.**

Work was rather heavy in the Board High School...The teachers here were ruthless beings, not to speak of drill, three evenings a week, there were scout classes, compulsory games, etc., after the regular hours every day; and missing a single class meant half a dozen cane cuts on the following day...

All this rigour and discipline resulted in a life with little scope for leisure. Swaminathan got up pretty early, rushed through all his homework, and rose just in time to finish the meal and reach the school as the first bell rang. Every day, as he passed the cloth shop at the end of Market Road, the first bell reached his ears. And just as he panted into the class, the second bell would go off...

Except for an hour in the afternoon, he had to be glued to his seat right till four-thirty in the evening. He had lost the last bench habit. He sat in the second row, and no dawdling easygoing nonsense was tolerated there; you sat right under the teacher's nose. When the four-thirty bell rang, Swaminathan slipped his pencil into his pocket and stretched his cramped aching fingers. The four-thirty bell held no special thrill. You could not just clash out of the class with a howl of joy. You had to go to the drill ground and stand in a solemn line, and for three-quarters of an hour, the Drill Master treated you as if you were his dog. He drove you to march left and right, stand at attention, and swing the arms, and climb the horizontal and parallel bars, whether you like it or not, whether you knew the thing or not. For aught the Drill Master cared, you might lose your balance on the horizontal bar and crack your skull.

-'Swami and Friends' by R.K. Narayan

**A. Answer the following questions.**

1. What was work like at Board High School?

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2. What happened if the students missed a single class?

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3. Where did Swaminathan sit in the class?

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4. What did he do when the four-thirty bell rang?

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5. How did the Drill Master treat the students?

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**B. Fill in the blanks with suitable words from the passage.**

1. The teachers here were \_\_\_\_\_ beings.
2. All this \_\_\_\_\_ and discipline resulted in a life with little scope for \_\_\_\_\_.
3. He had to be \_\_\_\_\_ to his seat right till four-thirty in the evening.
4. No \_\_\_\_\_ easygoing nonsense was tolerated there.
5. For \_\_\_\_\_ the Drill Master cared, you might lose your \_\_\_\_\_ on the horizontal bar and crack your \_\_\_\_\_.

## Worksheet 2

### GRAMMAR

#### A. Change the sentences as mentioned in the brackets.

1. This is your book. [change into Interrogative]

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Shut the door. [change into request]

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Has Mr Sharma gone out? [change into declarative]

\_\_\_\_\_

4. They have won the match. [change into exclamatory]

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Mohit must have reached home. [change into interrogative]

\_\_\_\_\_

#### B. Add suitable question tags to the following sentences.

1. You gave this book to Meeta, \_\_\_\_\_?

2. This pen costs Rupees 80, \_\_\_\_\_?

3. Nalini has gone to the doctor, \_\_\_\_\_?

4. The train will be an hour late, \_\_\_\_\_?

5. They have decided to put up a play, \_\_\_\_\_?

## Worksheet 3

### VOCABULARY AND WRITING SKILLS

**A. Each group of words below begins with a common letter. Fill in the letter to complete the words.**

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|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. (a) ___yramid     | (b) ___recise     | (c) ___laza       |
| 2. (a) ___ertain     | (b) ___reate      | (c) ___entury     |
| 3. (a) ___targazers  | (b) ___acrificial | (c) ___pectacular |
| 4. (a) ___lignment   | (b) ___ncient     | (c) ___ccurate    |
| 5. (a) ___bservation | (b) ___bservatory | (c) ___pening     |

**B. Use the following words in sentences of your own.**

1. accurate: \_\_\_\_\_
2. precise: \_\_\_\_\_
3. opening: \_\_\_\_\_
4. certain: \_\_\_\_\_
5. spectacular: \_\_\_\_\_