

## 2. Chilling at the North Pole

### Worksheet 1

#### COMPREHENSION

Summer time is here again. And although I'm a crow for all seasons, I must admit to a preference for the summer months.

Humans grow lazy and don't pursue me with so much vigour. Garbage cans overflow. Food goes bad and is constantly being thrown away. Over-ripe fruit gets tastier by the minute. If fellows like me weren't around to mop up all these unappreciated riches, how would humans manage?...

The memsahib is probably the best of the lot. She often throws me scraps from the kitchen—onion skins, potato peels, crusts and leftovers....

The Colonel sahib has a sense of humour but it's often directed at me. He thinks I'm a comedian.

He discovered I'd been making off with the occasional egg from the egg basket on the veranda; and one day, without my knowledge, he made a substitution.

Right on top of the pile I found a smooth round egg, and before anyone could shout, 'Crow!' I'd made off with it. It was abnormally light. I put it down on the lawn and set about cracking it with my strong beak; but it would keep slipping away or bouncing off into the bushes. Finally I got it between my feet and gave it a good hard whack. It burst open, to my utter astonishment there was nothing inside! I looked up and saw the old man standing on the veranda, doubled up with laughter.

'What are you laughing at?' asked the memsahib, coming out to see what it was all about.

'It's that ridiculous crow!' guffawed the Colonel, pointing at me. 'You know he's been stealing our eggs. Well, I placed a ping-pong ball on top of the pile, and he fell for it! He's been struggling with that ball for twenty minutes! That will teach him a lesson.'

It did. But I had my revenge later, when I pinched a brand new toothbrush from the Colonel's bathroom.

**[From: A Crow for all Seasons —by Ruskin Bond]**

#### **A. Read the above passage and answer the questions.**

1. Who is the 'I' in the above passage?
2. Why does the crow like the summer months?
3. Whom does he think the best of the lot and why?
4. What was the 'smooth round egg' which the crow found?
5. How did the crow take revenge on the Colonel?

#### **B. Write the complete forms of the following.**

1. I'm : \_\_\_\_\_

2. don't : \_\_\_\_\_
3. weren't : \_\_\_\_\_
4. it's : \_\_\_\_\_
5. I'd : \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Use the following expressions in making sentences of your own to show what they mean.**

1. mop up : \_\_\_\_\_
2. making off with : \_\_\_\_\_
3. set about : \_\_\_\_\_
4. doubled up with laughter : \_\_\_\_\_
5. pinched : \_\_\_\_\_

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# Worksheet 2

## GRAMMAR

### A. Change the following adjectives and verbs into nouns.

- |             |       |            |       |
|-------------|-------|------------|-------|
| 1. brave    | _____ | 2. honest  | _____ |
| 3. exist    | _____ | 4. bake    | _____ |
| 5. curious  | _____ | 6. advise  | _____ |
| 7. bless    | _____ | 8. long    | _____ |
| 9. truthful | _____ | 10. inform | _____ |

### B. In the following sentence, underline the nouns and state whether it is the subject, direct object, indirect object or object of a preposition.

Mary gave a harmonica to Timothy so that he could enjoy listening to music.

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### C. State the genders of the following nouns.

- |                   |       |          |       |
|-------------------|-------|----------|-------|
| 1. aunt           | _____ | 2. king  | _____ |
| 3. Prime Minister | _____ | 4. chair | _____ |
| 5. doctor         | _____ | 6. cow   | _____ |
| 7. lamp           | _____ | 8. hen   | _____ |
| 9. umpire         | _____ | 10. monk | _____ |

### D. Change the following nouns into singular or plural.

- |           |       |                  |       |
|-----------|-------|------------------|-------|
| 1. wolf   | _____ | 2. sister-in-law | _____ |
| 3. sheep  | _____ | 4. mice          | _____ |
| 5. teeth  | _____ | 6. child         | _____ |
| 7. ox     | _____ | 8. kites         | _____ |
| 9. tomato | _____ | 10. spectacles   | _____ |

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# Worksheet 3

## VOCABULARY AND WRITING

### A. Make sentences with the following prepositional phrases.

1. in front of : \_\_\_\_\_
2. because of : \_\_\_\_\_
3. in order to : \_\_\_\_\_
4. on behalf of : \_\_\_\_\_
5. with a view to : \_\_\_\_\_

### B. The following words have two different meanings each. Use each in two sentences to show the difference.

1. suit (a) \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_
2. bright (a) \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_
3. cart (a) \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_
4. start (a) \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_
5. play (a) \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_

### C. Write the correct words for the following meanings.

1. of sound mind : \_\_\_\_\_
2. a journey taken by a group of people with a definite objective : \_\_\_\_\_
3. to walk in a laborious, heavy footed way : \_\_\_\_\_
4. quick and easy in movement : \_\_\_\_\_
5. to meet someone or something : \_\_\_\_\_