

# 3. The Postmaster

## Worksheet 1

### COMPREHENSION

Not within the memory of the oldest settlers had there been a winter so severe... Storm piled upon the heels of bitter storm till landmarks were all but blotted out, and the little, lonely backwoods cabins were smothered to the eaves... The little trees were submerged under the snow, forgotten. The taller spruce and fir towered in snowy domes and pinnacles, except where a rough wind had shaken their branches free of the intolerable burden, and left them standing sharply dark against the wide white desolation.

For the wild creatures of the forest, it was a prolonged tragedy, except for those which were so fortunate as to be hibernating, sleeping away the bitter time in their deep holes beneath the snow where the fiercest cold could not touch them. Among the chief sufferers were the moose. These heavy animals' accustomed to select a sheltered spot in the woods for their winter home, and tramp out a maze of narrow pathways all about it leading to the thickets of young birch, poplar, and stripped maple, whose twigs furnished them their food, early found it difficult to keep their paths open. As the winter progressed, they browsed away all the edible twigs and even the coarse branches of the thickets in their immediate neighbourhood. These consumed, they could only reach further supplies, and these all too scanty, by long and painful flounderings through the smothering depths of the snow. Some of these imprisoned moose families succeeded in getting enough forage to keep them alive, if barely. Others, less fortunately situated, slowly starved to death.

**(From: The Moose and Rusty Jones – by Sir Charles George Douglas Roberts)**

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

1. What kind of a winter was it?
2. What happened to the little trees?
3. Why was the winter not a tragedy for the creatures who were hibernating?
4. How did the moose survive in winter?

**B. Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with the words mentioned in the passage.**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ were all but \_\_\_\_\_ out.
2. The little, lonely \_\_\_\_\_ cabins were \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The trees were standing dark against the \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ desolation.
4. For the \_\_\_\_\_ creatures of the forest, it was a \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_.

**C. Explain the following phrases in one word to show what is meant.**

1. the intolerable burden on the branches \_\_\_\_\_
2. sleeping away the bitter time \_\_\_\_\_
3. browse away the edible twigs \_\_\_\_\_

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# Worksheet 2

## GRAMMAR

### A. Underline the adjectives and write the kind.

1. Kedar was a very kind boy.
2. She has seven mangoes in the basket.
3. Which bag belongs to Dhara?
4. Please give this book to Sunit.
5. Mr Sharda planted the trees himself.
6. May I have some sugar now?
7. It is his birthday so we must wish Giri.

### B. Say what kind of adjectives of number the following sentences have. The first one has been done.

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Heera stood <u>first</u> in the race.                            | <u>Definite numeral/ordinal</u> |
| 2. Let us plant as <u>many</u> trees as possible.                   | _____                           |
| 3. Gaurav walks <u>three</u> kilometres to school <u>every</u> day. | _____                           |
| 4. The house is the <u>sixth</u> one on the left.                   | _____                           |
| 5. Mrs Gupta is ill so <u>all</u> classes will meet Mrs Krishna.    | _____                           |
| 6. <u>Both</u> boys were punished for being noisy.                  | _____                           |
| 7. Set <u>five</u> plates on the table, please.                     | _____                           |

### C. Arrange the given adjectives in the right order in each sentence.

1. His \_\_\_\_\_ coat was wet. [brown, woollen, dirty]
2. Someone said he used to live in that \_\_\_\_\_ building. [white, tall, magnificent]
3. I will take \_\_\_\_\_ soup for him. [hot, some, steaming]

### D. Make adjectives from these words.

1. Rock
2. Jealously
3. Mischief
4. Fear
5. Danger

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# Worksheet 3

## VOCABULARY AND WRITING

### A. Match the collocations appropriately in the two Columns.

#### Column I

1. lose
2. hard
3. dry
4. guiding
5. prime

#### Column II

- (a) run
- (b) spirit
- (c) temper
- (d) time
- (e) hearted

### B. Match the synonyms appropriately in the two Columns.

#### Column I

1. forgive
2. compel
3. yearn
4. obstinate
5. polite

#### Column II

- (a) long
- (b) courteous
- (c) force
- (d) pardon
- (e) stubborn

### C. Following pairs of words are pronounced in the same way. Make sentences with each pair to show the difference in meaning of the words.

1. (a) herd (b) heard
2. (a) air (b) heir
3. (a) bow (b) bough
4. (a) no (b) know
5. (a) stair (b) stare