

3. The Postmaster

WORKSHEET

1

COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

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 floundering 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.

‘The Moose and Rusty Jones’ by Sir Charles George Douglas Roberts

A Answer the following questions.

1. What kind of 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 to complete the following sentences.

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 Find one word to explain the following words mentioned in the passage.

1. the intolerable burden on the branches: _____

2. sleeping away the bitter time: _____

3. browsed away the edible twigs: _____

GRAMMAR

A Underline the adjectives and write their 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 Sumit.
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 State the kind of adjectives of number underlined in the following sentences.

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

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

1. His _____ coat was wet. [brown, dirty, woollen]
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 | _____ | 6. Comfort | _____ |

VOCABULARY AND WRITING

A Match the words in the two columns to form the right collocations.

Column A

1. Lose
2. Hard
3. Dry
4. Guiding
5. Prime

Column B

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

B Match the words given in Column A with their synonyms in Column B.

Column A

1. Forgive
2. Compel
3. Yearn
4. Obstinate
5. Polite

Column B

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

C The following words are pronounced the same way. Make sentences with each pair to show the differences in meaning.

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 : _____