

7. A Trip to Kolkata

WORKSHEET

1

COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

For the last two weeks of September in Delhi parks and maidans, huge wickerwork effigies of Ravana and his monstrous brother, Kumbhakarna, and a son, Meghnad, were being erected. Workmen clung like sparrows to rickety bamboo scaffolding, busily hammering noses and ears into place. On the feast day, amid a flurry of celebrations, all the effigies were to be burned. The day of Dussehra - hot, dusty and humid - burned out into a fine warm evening. Ravana was a giant corn dolly 120 feet high dressed in bright pink pyjamas. He was held upright by six straining guy-ropes..... Beside Ravana's ankles, a marquee had been erected, and in it a band of Goan boys were playing songs from recent Hindi movies. A plump man in a dhoti passed a collection plate around. Then, to the great excitement of the two hundred children present, the sunset and the pyrotechnics began. Some Roman candles spluttered between Ravana's legs. A volley of rockets arched above his shoulders.... The plump man in the dhoti took a burning torch and touched both Ravana's feet. A slow blue flame licked up his legs and hovered around his waist. Suddenly his pink pyjama top took light; and in a trice the whole effigy was in flames.... Then the canister of Chinese crackers secreted in Ravana's chest blew up with a deafening roar. The crowds cheered; and a full moon rose over the demon's smouldering carcass.

-Excerpt from 'The City of Djinn's' by William Dalrymple

A Answer the following questions.

1. Which were the three effigies burned on the day of Dussehra?

2. What was the Ravana effigy dressed in?

3. What was the band of Goan boys playing?

4. Who lit up Ravana's effigy with a burning torch?

5. What blew up with a deafening roar?

B Use the dictionary and write the meanings of the following words.

1. effigy: _____
2. rickety: _____
3. scaffolding: _____
4. humid: _____
5. marquee: _____
6. pyrotechnics: _____
7. volley: _____
8. hover: _____
9. secreted: _____
10. smoulder: _____

C Fill in the blanks with suitable words from the passage.

1. Amid a _____ of _____, the effigies were to be burned.
2. Ravana was held _____ by six straining _____.
3. Some Roman candles _____ between his legs.
4. A _____ blue flame _____ up his legs and _____ around his waist.
5. The _____ of Chinese crackers secreted in Ravana's chest blew up with a _____ roar.

GRAMMAR

A Using the suitable forms of verbs, fill in the blanks according to the tenses given in the brackets.

1. Satish _____ [go] to Patna tomorrow. [simple future]
2. Babita _____ [purchase] a TV tomorrow. [future progressive]
3. The students _____ [visit] Kolkata Botanical Gardens by the end of the month. [future perfect]
4. He _____ [eat] all the mangoes by tonight. [future perfect]
5. She _____ [swim] for an hour at eleven o'clock. [future perfect progressive]

B Select the appropriate modal auxiliaries from the brackets to complete the following sentences.

1. If you practise more, you _____ win the game. [cannot/may]
2. We _____ survive without water. [might/cannot]
3. He _____ become the President of India. [should/might]
4. Although he worked very hard, he _____ not win. [should/could]
5. _____ you please help me with Maths? [would/may]

VOCABULARY AND WRITING

A Use the following words in sentences of your own.

1. after: _____
2. less: _____
3. enough: _____
4. once: _____
5. such: _____

B Unscramble the words given below to make proper sentences.

1. burglar the who man was the dog a bit
2. tired he down as he laid his was pen
3. shoot to gun the took hunter up lion his the
4. cheese stole a crow piece her flew of her and to nest the
5. dead along I street as I a snake the walked saw