

7. A Dinosaur on the Railway Tracks

WORKSHEET

1

COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

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 perhaps 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 is 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 verandah; 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 astonishment there was nothing inside!

I looked up and saw the old man standing on the verandah, 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.

—'A Crow for All Seasons' by Ruskin Bond

A Answer the following questions.

1. Who is 'I' in the above passage?

2. Why does the crow like the summer months?

3. Whom does the crow 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 | _____ | 6. He's | _____ |

C Use the following phrases to make sentences of your own to show what they mean.

1. Mop up: _____
2. Making off with: _____
3. Set about: _____
4. Fell for it: _____
5. Pinched: _____

GRAMMAR

A Add suitable adverbs to complete the following sentences.

1. Work was _____ heavy at the new school.
2. He got up _____ and ran to school.
3. No nonsense was tolerated _____.
4. He ran across the field _____.
5. The coffee was _____ hot.

B State the kind of adverbs underlined below.

1. Red and gold flowers bloomed on the gulmohar trees everywhere. _____
2. Where has Sumeet gone? _____
3. The teacher looked at Prashant steadily. _____
4. He will join the cadets tomorrow. _____
5. He seldom reads the newspaper. _____

C Place the adverbs from the box in the correct place in the following sentences.

loudly daily rarely suddenly certainly

1. We have to come on the weekend to school.
2. He will reach the concert in time.
3. Mrs Sharma takes her dog for a walk.
4. The rain came and we were drenched.
5. The tramp snored as he slept.

D Fill in the missing degrees of comparison.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
1. Fast	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	Most elegant
3. _____	Smarter	_____
4. Well	_____	_____
5. Far	_____	_____

VOCABULARY AND WRITING

A Use the following phrases in your own sentences.

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

B Each word below has two meanings. Make two sentences with each, bringing out the different meanings.

1. Suit: (a) _____
(b) _____
2. Bright: (a) _____
(b) _____
3. Cart: (a) _____
(b) _____
4. Start: (a) _____
(b) _____
5. Play: (a) _____
(b) _____

C Write the one word for the following.

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: _____