

Lesson -The Fight

NEW WORDS

- a)assailant
- b)staggered
- c)tremendous
- d)adversary
- e)ferocity

WORD MEANINGS

- a) trickle-weak or thin flow of water
- b) hostility-ill will/enmity
- c) impasse-deadlock
- d) acquiesce-accept quietly
- e) concede- admitted

Comprehension Check (Page 49)

Questions:

1. In what way is the forest pool different from the one which Ranji knew in the Rajputana desert?
2. The other boy asked Ranji to 'explain' himself.
(i) What did he expect Ranji to say?
(ii) Was he, in your opinion, right or wrong to ask this question?
3. Between Ranji and the other boy, who is trying to start a quarrel? Give a reason for your answer.
4. "Then we will have to continue the fight," said the other.
(i) What made him say that?
(ii) Did the fight continue? If not, why not?

Answers:

1. In the Rajputana desert, the pools were sticky and muddy where women washed clothes or buffaloes wallowed. But forest pool was clean, cold and inviting. So Ranji leapt into the water for swimming.
2. (i) The other boy, Suraj, expected Ranji to say 'sorry'.
(ii) Suraj was a bully. He was wrong to prevent Ranji from using the pool. The pool was common property.
3. It is Suraj who starts the quarrel. He asks Ranji to run away from the pool. He even threatens to beat him.
4. (i) Suraj spoke the above words because he was tired but he did not want to spare Ranji who refused to accept defeat. So he deferred the fight for the next day.

(ii) No, the fight didn't continue the next day. Both Suraj and Ranji needed each other's help, so they compromised. Suraj asked Ranji to teach him to dive and swim under water. While Ranji agreed to become a wrestler with the help of Suraj.

Comprehension Check (Page 53)

Questions:

1. What is it that Ranji finds difficult to explain at home?
2. Ranji sees his adversary in the bazaar.
(i) What does he wish to do?
(ii) What does he actually do, and why?
3. Ranji is not at all eager for a second fight. Why does he go back to the pool, then?
4. Who was the better swimmer? How do you know it?
5. What surprises the warrior?
6. Now that they are at the pool, why don't they continue the fight?
7. What, according to you, makes the two adversaries turn into good friends in a matter of minutes? Explain it as you have understood it.
8. Is fighting the only way of resolving differences of opinion? What else can be done to reach a mutual settlement?

Answers:

1. Ranji had several cuts and bruises on his face and arms. He finds it difficult to explain the injuries at home.
2. (i) At first Ranji felt like turning away and look the other way. His second thought was to hit his enemy with the lemonade bottle.
(ii) He actually stands his ground and only scowls at Suraj.
3. Ranji decides to go back to the pool to gain self-respect. If he surrenders now, he will be beaten for all time
4. Ranji was decidedly the better swimmer. We know it when he swims across the pool as his opponent says. He dived for long into the water.
5. Ranji executes another perfect dive. Swimming under water, he circles Suraj and comes upon him from behind. The warrior, Suraj, is surprised to see Ranji's skill.
6. At the pool, the two contestants forgot to continue the fight. Their interest shifts to swimming and swinging (diving).
7. Ranji and Suraj, two adversaries, turned into good friends in a few minutes for a couple of reasons. Both were tired of fighting. Both needed each other's help, guidance and support. Suraj wanted to learn diving from Ranji. While Ranji liked the idea of becoming a strong wrestler with the help of Suraj.
8. Fighting is not the only way to resolve a dispute. The best course is to start a dialogue with a cool head. In case they fail to agree on any point, they can appoint an arbiter or middleman acceptable to both.

Question1)

Compare and contrast the character traits of the two adversaries or contestants in the story 'The Fight'.

Answer:

Suraj was a tall, thickset wrestler. He was a bully. He proclaimed that he was a warrior and he had exclusive right to swim in the pool. He tried to scare Ranji away. But Ranji had a strong feeling of self respect. He accepted the challenge to fight. He thought if he surrendered he would lose his right over the pool forever. He suffered cuts and bruises. But he went to the pool ready for a second fight. This time he proved his excellence as a swimmer. Suraj got influenced by Ranji's art of swimming. He also wanted to be a good swimmer. So, he agreed to get training from Ranji and in return, make Ranji a wrestler.

Question 2) Have you ever been in a serious fight only to realise later that it was unnecessary and futile? Share your experience/views with others frankly and honestly.

Answer:Share your experience