

It SO HAPPENED

L-Princess September

New Words:

- a) anxious
- b) circumstances
- c) disagreeable
- d) Princesses
- e) ungrateful

Word Meanings :

- a) Vexed-worried
- b) ominously-threateningly
- c) alighted-came down
- d) prowling- moving about quietly
- e) pop-put,push

1. How many daughters did the royal couple have?
2. Why were they named after the months of the year?
3. The King had a peculiar habit. What was it? Why is it called peculiar?
4. (i) What was Princess September's reaction to the loss of her parrot?
(ii) What was her Mother's reaction to it?
(iii) What do the reactions indicate about the nature and temperament of each?
5. What pulled the Princess out of her gloom?
6. How did the Maids of Honour come to know that the Princess and the bird had become intimate friends?
7. The new bird was full of new songs but the old parrots always repeated themselves. What did they say?
8. What is the king's opinion about his Councillors? Why did he form that opinion?

Answers:

1. The Royal couple had nine daughters.
2. They were named after the months of the year because the queen could not recall their names easily.
3. The peculiar habit of the king was to give gifts on his birthday rather than receive them. Usually people get gifts on their birthdays.
4. (i) Princess September took the loss of her parrot to heart. She wept continuously. She was put to sleep without supper.
(ii) Her Mother said that Princess September's weeping was simply nonsense. She asked the maids to put the child to sleep without supper.
(iii) Princess September's reaction to the loss of her parrot tells us that she was young, sensitive and emotional. Her sudden outburst into tears revealed how

much she loved and cared about him. The Queen, on the other hand, was a little insensitive in handling her child's suffering. She did not console her. Her behaviour indicates that she was least bothered with the loss of her daughter's parrot.

5. The coming of a little song bird into her room comforted Princess September. She was so enchanted that she forgot about her loss.
6. The Maids of Honour brought in the princess's breakfast. The bird ate rice out of the princess's hand and then sang sweetly. The Maids were surprised to find September so much happy. They were convinced that the two had become good friends.
7. The old parrots only repeated what they had been taught. They could only say 'God save the King' and 'Pretty Polly'.
8. The King had a low opinion about his Councillors because like parrots, they too repeated the same thing differently.

Comprehension Check (Page 43)

Questions:

1. (i) What did Princess September do to ensure the safety of her pet?
(ii) How did the bird react to it?
 2. Why did the bird refuse to be taken out in her cage?
 3. (i) What persuaded Princess September to give the bird his freedom again?
(ii) How did the bird react to it?
 4. Princess September kept her window open day and night.
(i) How did it help the bird?
(ii) How did it help the Princess herself?
 5. The eight sisters kept their windows shut. How did it affect them?
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1. (i) Princess September put the bird into golden cage to ensure its safety.
(ii) The bird disliked his imprisonment. He stopped singing.
 2. When Princess September offered the bird to take her out in a cage almost everyday, the bird refused. According to him, it was not at all the same because the rice-fields, the lake and the willow trees looked quite different when one saw them through the bars of a cage.
 3. (i) Princess September was already worried about the little bird because he had stopped singing and eating. The next day, when Princess September wished him Good Morning and he did not reply, seeing him lay down lifelessly made Princess September think that she'd almost lost him. Thus, upon realising that the bird won't be able to sing in a cage and if he didn't sing, he would die. Therefore, the Princess decided to give the bird his freedom again.

(ii) The bird was so happy upon realising that he was a free bird again. He was excited about seeing the lake, the willow trees and the green rice-field. He even promised September that he would come back and sing the loveliest songs for her. .

4. (i) It helped the bird come in and out as he pleased.

(ii) Keeping the window open day and night helped Princess September to grow up into an extremely beautiful woman.

5. The eight sisters who kept their window shut all night became extremely ugly and disagreeable. They were married to the councillors.