

CLASS- 8

IT SO HAPPENED

L- Jalebis

NEW WORDS

- a) programme
- b) crouching
- c) summon
- d) wriggle
- e) virtuous

WORD MEANINGS

- a) assault-attack
- b) clamour- loud noise
- c) prestige-respect
- d) blabbering- talking confusedly
- e) treasury-wealth

Comprehension Check (Page 65)

Questions:

1. Why didn't he pay the school fees on the day he brought money to school?
2. (i) What were the coins 'saying' to him?
(ii) Do you think they were misguiding him?
3. Why didn't he take the coin's advice? Give two or three reasons.
4. (i) What did the oldest coin tell him?
(ii) Did he follow his advice? If not, why not?
5. He reached home with the coins in his pocket. What happened then?

Answers:

1. The boy couldn't pay the school fees on the day he brought to school because Master Ghulam Mohammed , who collected the fees was on leave.

2. (i) The coins in the boy's pocket urged him to buy hot and fresh jalebis.
(ii) Yes, the coins were misguiding him because the money was meant for paying school fees.
3. Initially, the boy didn't take the advice of the coins seriously for a couple of reasons. He could not spend the money meant for paying school fees on jalebis. Secondly, the boy knew the harsh nature of the master and the punishment.
4. (i) The oldest coin convinced him that they were telling him for his own good. He can pay his fee next day with his scholarship money. So, he should not suppress his desire for jalebis. .
(ii) He didn't follow his advice. He was a promising student. He was from a good family of repute. He didn't want to get defame for it
5. After reaching home he couldn't suppress his temptation for fresh Jalabis. He rushed to the shop of halwai. He bought jalebis and enjoyed them.

Comprehension Check (Page 68)

Questions:

1. (i) Why didn't he eat all the jalebis he had bought?
(ii) What did he do with the remaining Jalebis?
2. "The fear was killing me." What was the fear?
3. "Children's stomachs are like digestion machines." What do you understand by that? Do you agree?
4. How did he plan to pay the fees the next day?
5. When it is time to pay the fees, what does he do? How is he disobeying the elders by doing so?

Answers:

1. (i) He had bought jalebis for one rupee. But he couldn't eat all of them because of their quantity.
(ii) He distributed the remaining jalebis among the boys from the neighbourhood.
2. He had eaten so many jalebis that there was the problem of digesting them all. His fear was that one jalebi or two would come out with a burp.
3. It means that children have the capacity to digest a lot of things that's why they overeat. I agree with the statement but only partly.
4. He planned to pay the fees the next day when he would get his monthly scholarship.
5. When the time draws near to pay the fees, he tucked the bag under his arm and slips out of the school. He had disobeyed his elders by crossing the railway track and spending the money meant for school fees.

Comprehension Check (Page 72)

Questions:

1. What was the consequence of buying jalebis with the fees money?
2. His prayer to God is like a lawyer's defence of a bad case. Does he argue his case well? What are the points he makes?
3. He offers to play a game with Allah Miyan. What is the game?
4. Did he get four rupees by playing the game? What did he get to see under the rock?
5. If God had granted his wish that day, what harm would it have caused him in later life?

Answers:

1. As a result of spending his fees money on jalebis, he had to be absent from school for the first time in his life.
2. He tries to please God with his requests and the recitation of the entire *namaz*. He admits that he made a mistake. He wouldn't have spent his money on jalebis if he had known about the delay in scholarship. Thus, he argues his case like a lawyer.
3. The game is that he will go upto the signal, touch it and come back. And in the meantime God should put four rupees under a big rock.
4. No, he didn't get four rupees by playing the game. When he lifted the rock, he saw a worm instead of coins.
5. If God had granted his wish that day he wouldn't have learnt a lesson to do no wrong in future. He would have continued doing such wrong deeds, believing that God would save him after his persuasion.

EXTRA QUESTIONS

Question 1.

The narrator was a responsible and honest boy. What are other qualities that can be learnt from him?

Answer:

The narrator was a boy of about 10 or 12 years of age. He was a dedicated, and honest student. He spent his fee amount on jalebis but after having enough for himself, he distributed among others. He had firm belief on God and his magic. He tried everything to please him. He was soft hearted, religious and generous.

Question 2.

Do you think, reason and intellect fail before temptation?

Answer:

Initially the boy looked like a disciplined student who knows his responsibility. Yet his logics failed before his temptation. He gave up his sensibility and logic, and bought jalebis. He felt elated when he distributed the remaining jalebis amongst children and beggars. The lesson talks about an innocent child who fell a prey to temptation. However, the child might win over if he had controlled himself and checked himself before giving up to the situation.