

8. pumpkin.

c. Answer the following questions in two or three sentences each.

1. Why did Nagendra open a shop?

A. Nagendra opened a shop because he was an unemployed young boy. He decided to open shop to be self employed. He decided to sell wisdom.

2. Why is the merchant's son called a stupid boy?

A. The merchant's son was called a stupid boy probably because he was neither intelligent nor clever. This was proved because he could not comprehend what was being sold by Nagendra.

3. What did Nagendra sell for a nickel?

A. Nagendra sold a nickel's worth of wisdom to Babu.

4. Why was Babu's father angry?

A. Babu's father was angry because his son had spent a nickel for a strip of paper on which were written the words, "It is not wise to stand and watch two people fighting".

5. How did Nagendra make Gupta realize the value of wisdom?

A. It was Nagendra's wisdom that had saved Babu's life when he was asked to bear witness to the two maids. This made Gupta realize the value of Nagendra's wisdom.

6. Why did the two maids quarrel?

A. There was only one pumpkin in the market and both the maids wanted it. Therefore the two maids quarreled in the market for it.

7. Why did Babu and his father go to Nagendra twice?

A. Babu and his father went to Nagendra the first time, to save Babu from the clutches of the quarrelling maids and their queens. Babu had to fake insanity for ever, if he had to save himself from being punished or the king would realize that he had been tricked and the punishment would be more severe. Therefore to find a solution to the new problem, they visited Nagendra the second time.

3. Why was Babu very happy?
- A. As advised by Nagnedra, Babu pretended to be insane and saved his life. Babu was therefore delighted by the success of his ruse.
9. What is the meaning of the expression, "Think deeply before you do anything"?
- A. The expression means that we should think more than once and deeply over the consequences of our actions before we indulge in it. The message is aptly explained in the proverb, "Haste makes waste".
10. Why did the king make Nagendra his minister?
- A. The king realized that it was the wisdom of Nagendra that had saved his life. As a mark of gratitude and to acknowledge his wisdom and cleverness, the king made him his minister. This was probably also because the king wanted to have a wise minister to guide him.
- D. Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow.
1. "Think deeply before you do anything".
- (a) Who was asked to think deeply?
- A. The king was asked to think deeply.
- (b) Who gave this piece of wisdom and why?
- A. Nagendra gave this piece of wisdom to the king because the king had asked if he had any more wisdom for sale.
- (c) How did this piece of wisdom help the receiver?
- A. The piece of wisdom that the king received actually did save the king's life.
2. "I do not sell wisdom by weight. I sell it by quality".
- (a) Who said this?
- A. The above statement was said by Nagendra.
- (b) To whom was this said?
- A. It was said to Babu, the son of Gupta, a rich merchant.
- (c) When was this said?
- A. This was said when Babu had asked Nagendra the cost of a kilogram of wisdom.

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(d) What does it mean?

A. As wisdom is the qualitative aspect, it cannot be measured in weight.

IV. Let's use language

A. Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with the right options:

1. His _____ brought credit to the school. (brilliantly, brilliance)
2. _____ people solve problems. (wise, wisdom)
3. _____ he was clever, he was without a job. (in spite of, though)
4. There was no _____ of sympathy from the people when they heard of the cruel murder. (death, dearth)
5. The _____ of funds made them abandon the project. (paucity, pause)

Ans: 1. brilliance, 2. wise, 3. though, 4. dearth, 5. paucity

B. Use 'since' or 'for' with the following time expressions :

1. The film has been on at the theatres _____ July.
2. She has been on holiday _____ the last three weeks.
3. She hasn't been here _____ a month.
4. No one has lived here _____ 1989.
5. It is the first time I have been here _____ the accident.

Ans: 1. since, 2. for, 3. since, 4. since, 5. since

V. Let's work on our own:

Read the popular story of Birbal, 'A potful of wisdom' and narrate it in the class.

(The story is mentioned at the beginning of the lesson under pre-reading task).

VI. PROJECT WORK

Imagine that you are interviewing Nagendra and write any five questions that you would like to ask him and the answers that you are likely to get from him.

1. I am aware that you are selling wisdom. What kind of wisdom do you propose to sell?

A. I propose to sell all kinds of wisdom, for all; at very reasonable rates.

2. What is your lowest fee for the advice?

A. The lowest price for my advice is a nickel.

3. How did the idea of selling wisdom occur to you?

A. Being an orphan, actually helped me to observe the society and the people for I roamed in the society freely. I realized that there were many foolish people around. I also realized that by selling wisdom to them I could not only reform them but earn a lot of money in return.

4. How did you obtain such wisdom at such a young age?

A. I observed everything that my father used to do and learnt a lot from him. Being orphaned at an early age also helped me to be alert and observe people. I learnt from all the opportunities and hurdles that I had to face. I thank God for having given me the ability to grasp things faster and making me clever.

1. Answer the following questions :

1. Who was Nagendra?

A. Nagendra was an orphan boy who has clever but unemployed.

2. What did the placard on his shop state?

A. The placard on his shop stated that wisdom was for sale there.

3. Why did the people laugh at Nagendra?

A. People laughed at Nagendra because they could find nothing in shop yet he continued to cry out his ware.

4. What are some of the qualities that you admire in Nagendra?

A. I admire his smartness, cleverness, honesty, patience and industrious nature.

5. How did Nagendra become famous?

A. It was Nagendra's advice that saved Babu's life. The excited Babu informed everyone about the success of the ruse. It soon became the most talked about thing in the market place. Thus, Nagendra became famous.

6. Why was Gupta not pleased with the success of the ruse?

A. It was the faked insanity that had saved Babu's life. But now Babu had to pretend to be insane always. Though the ruse appeared to be a success in the beginning it posed another problem to Babu. Therefore, Gupta, Babu's father was not pleased.

7. Why did the king send for Nagendra?

A. The king sent for Nagendra because he was intrigued by what he had heard about him in the market. He also knew about Babu's case and how Nagendra had cleverly helped him twice.

8. What became the king's motto?

A. Nagendra's advice "Think deeply before you do anything", became the motto of the king.

9. Who bribed the doctor? Why?

A: The minister and one of the queens bribed the doctor because they wanted to get rid of the king.

10. Why did the doctor confess his crime?

A: The king lowered the golden cup and mused over the words engraved on it. The guilty doctor thought that the king had suspected him of poisoning his medicine and confessed his guilt out of fear.

11. Was it right for the king to elevate Nagendra, a poor orphan to the position of a minister?

A: Yes, the king was right in his actions because a king ought to be surrounded by wise, sincere and industrious individuals. Nagendra possessed all those qualities. Moreover it was the wisdom of Nagendra that had saved the king's life.

II. Opposites:

1. clever × stupid, foolish.
2. cheap × costly, expensive.
3. furious × calm, cheerful.
4. brilliant × dull, mediocre, unimpressive.
5. wisdom × folly.
6. never × always.
7. delighted × disappointed, displeased
8. persuade × deter.
9. guilty × innocent.

III. Antonyms using prefixes:

1. reasonable × unreasonable
2. patient × impatient
3. wise × unwise
4. do × undo
5. pleased × displeased
6. suspecting × unsuspecting
7. honour × dishonour

IV. Change the voice of the following statements:

1. The queen and the minister bribed the doctor.

A: The doctor was bribed by the queen and the minister.