**A Present for Grandfather**

1. Where did Bakri live? Describe the place.

Ans. Bakri lived in a lonely village far in the mountains. Though the village was lonely, it was quiet and peaceful. A swift-flowing stream tumbled down from the mountains and ran through the village. The villagers could hear the rush of its crystal-clear waters as they lay in their beds at night.

1. Which was the other sound that the villagers could hear?

Ans. The other sound that the villagers could hear was the beating of a big drum in the mosque that stood opposite the river, and then the echoing voice from the mosque tower would summon them to morning prayers.

1. Who sang out the call to the villagers every morning? Describe him.

Ans. Bakri’s grandfather sang out the call to village every morning. He had a strong, powerful voice that seemed to fill the heavens, and he was very diligent about his duties and never missed a single morning.

1. What happened on one particular morning?

Ans. One particular morning, there was no sound of his voice calling from the mosque.

1. What did Bakri think he should do when no voice was heard that morning?

Ans. At first, he thought that he should go to his grandfather’s house to see what the matter was, instead of going to the mosque to pray.

1. Why did Bakri go the mosque instead of going to his grandfather’s house?

Ans. Bakri didn’t want to start the day without going to prayers at dawn. Also, he thought that someone at the mosque might know what had happened to his grandfather.

1. What did Bakri do at the mosque?

Ans. Bakri looked for his grandfather everywhere at the mosque but there was no trace of him and nobody knew where he was.

1. What did Bakri wonder when he did not find his grandfather at the mosque?

Ans. When Bakri did not find his grandfather at the mosque, he wondered if his grandfather was sick at home.

1. What happened when the prayers began?

Ans. When the prayers began, Bakri tried to calm his thoughts and put everything out of his mind so he could pray wholeheartedly, but he still kept worrying about his grandfather.

10. Why did Bakri stop while he started for his grandfather’s place?

Ans. While Bakri started for his grandfather’s place, he stopped to think whether he should take a present for his

grandfather.

11. What did Bakri’s grandfather like?

Ans. Bakri’s grandfather found muncang, which is a kind of nut, very delicious.

12. Where was Bakri going to collect the nuts? Why?

Ans. Bakri was going to the nut hill to gather the nuts as it would be a pleasant surprise for his grandfather. He was going there as the finest muncangs grew there.

13. Though it was cold, how did Bakri still manage?

Ans. It was cold but Bakri had worn a warm sarong to the mosque and he pulled it closely as he made his way into the mountains.

14. What calculation was Bakri trying to make?

Ans. Bakri was trying to calculate how much money his grandfather would make by selling the rings made from the shells. He was trying to multiply fifty rupiahs with one hundred rings but as he was just in the third standard, he could not make the calculation.

15. What was Bakri frightened of, as he arrived at the foot of the Hill?

Ans. Bakri was frightened of the flying foxes that were on their way back to their nests to sleep through the day.

16. Why was Bakri delighted when he reached the top of the Hill?

Ans. On reaching the top of the hill, Bakri was delighted to see that he was the first boy to reach there and there was no sign of others.

17. Why was the ground covered with nuts on that particular day?

Ans. The ground was covered with nuts on that particular day as there had been a strong wind the previous night, which had knocked down more nuts than usual.

18. Where did he collect the nuts? What did he think?

Ans. He used his sarong as a bag to collect the nuts. Though it was his best sarong, he told himself that he’d wash it carefully when he got home.

19. What were Bakri’s thoughts when he heard someone coming up the hill?

Ans. Bakri thought that it must be the boys from the other village. He thought that if they would find out that he had come so early, without even asking them to come with him, and also know that he had already gathered all the fallen nuts, then they would be angry and probably take all the nuts away from him. He’d be lucky if they would not beat him for being so greedy.

20. What was Bakri’s only chance? What did he do?

Ans. Bakri’s only chance was to hide before the other boys could see him. He ran to one side of the grove and crawled inside bushes and hid himself as best he could

21. What did the boys say out in unison? How did they come to know?

Ans. The boys said in unison that it must be Bakri who must have been there before the boys. The boys knew that Bakri was always up before dawn to go the mosque, which made it obvious for them to guess that he must have been there early.

22. How did the boys confirm that someone was there before them?

Ans. The boys considered Bakri to have taken the nuts. One of the boys found footprints, hence considering that Bakri must have just left carrying the nuts with him.

23. What was the opinion of the oldest boy?

Ans. The oldest boy said that it was Bakri who had gotten up early and went to the mosque and still managed to reach early before the boys while the boys were sleeping. He said that Bakri deserved the nuts while they themselves did not. He said that it was better if they’d get up early instead of taking his nuts away from him and also start going to the mosque too.

24. What was Bakri thankful for?

Ans. Bakri was thankful that his prayers had been answered and that the boys had not seen him. He was also filled with pity by the sad looks on the boys’ faces.

25. What did Bakri do as the result of his pity towards the boys?

Ans. Bakri stood up from where he was hiding, gave a loud yell and ran towards the boys.

26. In what way did Bakri apologise to them?

Ans. Bakri apologized to them and gave them their part of the nuts. He said that they were all good friends and should share and share alike.

27. What did the tallest boy tell Bakri?

Ans. The tallest boy told Bakri that they were his nuts as he had got up early and gone and gathered them.

28. How did Bakri answer the tallest boy?

Ans. Bakri grabbed his hand and told him that he really wanted them to have the nuts.

29. What did Bakri tell the boys about where he was taking the nuts?

Ans. Bakri told the boys that he was taking the nuts to his grandfather because he did not give the call to prayers that morning and Bakri thought that his grandfather might be ill. He also added that his grandfather would be happy with only his share.

30. What did one of the boys tell Bakri about his grandfather?

Ans. One of the boys told Bakri that he had heard Bakri’s grandfather talking to his neighbour that morning saying that he had caught a bad cold and that, he would be able to go to the mosque again in few days.

31. What did the tallest boy say they should do?

Ans. The tallest boy said that they will all share the nuts and then go and give all of them to Bakri’s grandfather.

32. According to the tallest boy, what would happen when the boys would give all the nuts to Bakri’s grandfather?

Ans. When the boys would give all the nuts to Bakri’s grandfather, he would get well and strong again in a hurry, and once again they would hear his powerful voice rolling out over the village as it called them to the prayers.

33. How did the boys go back?

Ans. They boys put their arms around each other’s shoulders and walked on down the hill in the sunlight, singing happily, bound for the home of Bakri’s grandfather.