

07. Jalebis

Comprehension Check (Page 65)

1. Why didn't he pay the school fees on the day he brought money to school?

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

2. (i) What were the coins 'saying' to him?

The coins in the boy's pocket urged him to buy hot and fresh jalebis.

(ii) Do you think they were misguiding him?

Yes, the coins were misguiding him because the money was meant for paying school fees.

3. Why didn't he take the coin's advice? Give two or three reasons.

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) What did the oldest coin tell him?

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) Did he follow his advice? If not, why not?

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. He reached home with the coins in his pocket. What happened then?

After reaching home he couldn't suppress his temptation for fresh Jalebis. He rushed to the shop of Halwai. He bought Jalebis and enjoyed them.

Comprehension Check (Page 68)

1. (i) Why didn't he eat all the jalebis he had bought?

He had bought jalebis for one rupee. But he couldn't eat all of them because of their quantity.

(ii) What did he do with the remaining Jalebis?

He distributed the remaining jalebis among the boys from the neighbourhood.

2. "The fear was killing me." What was the fear?

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. "Children's stomachs are like digestion machines." What do you understand by that? Do you agree?

It means that children have the capacity to digest a lot of things that they overeat. I agree with the statement but only partly.

4. How did he plan to pay the fees the next day?

He planned to pay the fees the next day when he would get his monthly scholarship.

5. When it is time to pay the fees, what does he do? How is he disobeying the elders by doing so?

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.

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Comprehension Check (Page 72)

1. What was the consequence of buying Jalebis with the fee's money?

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. 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?

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. He offers to play a game with Allah Miyan. What is the game?

The game is that he will go up to the signal, touch it and come back. And in the meantime, God should put four rupees under a big rock.

4. Did he get four rupees by playing the game? What did he get to see under the rock?

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, what harm would it have caused him in later life?

If God had granted his wish that day, he wouldn't have learnt a lesson to do no wrong in future. He would have been like a bird and learnt no skill.

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