

It So Happened

5. Princess September

• Comprehension Check (Page 38) -

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) The princess was very simple-hearted and sensitive. She was stricken with grief when her parrot died. But the Queen mother was not moved at all. She had nothing to console the child.
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 song 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.
9. (i) They offered their pocket money to Princess September to buy another parrot,
(ii) They did that because they felt jealous of the song bird's friendship with Princess September.
10. The sisters advised the Princess to put the little bird into the cage **lest** it should fly away for ever.

Not to write, but to understand –

*Lest – ऐसा न हो कि

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• **Comprehension Check (Page 43) -**

1. The circumstance was that the bird hadn't come back because of the party at his father-in-law's house. The princess was naturally worried. The remark of the sisters added to her worry.
 2. (i) Princess September put the bird into a cage to ensure his safety.
(ii) The bird disliked his imprisonment. He stopped singing.
 3. The bird said that he won't be really happy and normal if he was taken out in her cage. The rice-fields and the lake looked quite different and dull when seen through the cage bars.
 4. (i) The Princess freed the bird lest he should die in captivity.
(ii) The Princess kept the window open so that the bird might fly in and out making fresh air charming. Freedom helped the bird to sing and enjoy himself.
 5. (i) The bird opened his wings and flew away.
(ii) It helped the Princess herself by providing her fresh wind and natural light. It helped her make her beautiful.
 6. The eight sisters who kept their window shut all night became extremely ugly and disagreeable. They were married to the councillors.
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Not to read, but to understand –

*Arid – बंजर, dryland

*Captivity – कैद, imprisoned