



Working with Text (Page 34)

A. Answer the following questions.

1. Why did Taro run in the direction of the stream? (5)

Ans: Taro ran in the direction of the stream because he was thirsty. Secondly, he had never before heard the sound of falling water in that area:

2. How did Taro's father show his happiness after drinking sake? (7)

Ans: Sake gave warmth as well as energy to the old man. Taro's father stopped shivering and started dancing. In this way, he showed his happiness.

3. Why did the waterfall give Taro sake and others water? (12)

Ans: The waterfall obliged Taro and changed water into sake. The reason was that he was a thoughtful son. He served his old parents sincerely. Sake was the reward for his goodness. Other people were just greedy. So they got only plain water.

4. Why did the villagers want to drown Taro? (10, 11)

Ans: The villagers went to the waterfall to collect sake. But they got only plain cold water. They thought that Taro had tricked them. So they looked for Taro to punish him.

5. Why did the Emperor reward Taro? (13)

Ans: The Emperor of Japan rewarded Taro for being good and kind towards his parents. This was Emperor's way to encourage all children to respect, obey and serve their parents.

B. Mark the right item.

1. Taro earned very little money because

- (i) he didn't work hard enough.
- (ii) the villagers didn't need wood.
- (iii) the price of wood was very low.

2. Taro decided to earn extra money

- (i) to live a more comfortable life.
- (ii) to buy his old father some sake.
- (iii) to repair the cracks in the hut.

3. The neighbour left Taro's hut in a hurry because

- (i) she was delighted with the drink.
- (ii) she was astonished to hear Taro's story.
- (iii) she wanted to tell the whole village about the waterfall.

Ans. 1. (iii), 2. (ii), 3. (iii)

Working with Language (Page 35)

A. Strike off the words in the box below that are not suitable.

Taro wanted to give his old parents everything they needed.

This shows that he was ...

thoughtful, hardworking, loving, honest, considerate, trustworthy, efficient, kind

Ans. honest, trustworthy, efficient

B. 1. 'This made Taro sadder than ever.'

This refers to

(i) a strong wind that began to blow.

(ii) Taro's father's old age.

(iii) Taro's inability to buy expensive sake for his father.

(Mark the right item.)

2. 'This, said the emperor was to encourage all children to honour and obey their parents.'

This' refers to

(i) the most beautiful fountain in the city.

(ii) rewarding Taro with gold and giving the fountain his name.

(iii) sending for Taro to hear his story. .

(Mark the right item.)

Ans: 1.(iii) 2. (ii)

C. Arrange the words below in pairs that rhyme.

Example: young – lung
 money – sunny

young	sad	money	chop	lung	last
wax	could	bad	sound	axe	wood
way	stop	sunny	fast	round	day

Ans:

sad	–	bad	could	–	wood
chop	–	stop	sound	–	round
last	–	fast	way	–	day
wax	–	axe			

D. Fill in the blanks with words from the box.

lonely little hard young
thoughtful delicious beautiful

A _____ woodcutter lived on a _____ hillside.
He was a _____ son who worked _____ but
earned _____ money. One day he saw
a _____ waterfall hidden behind a rock. He tasted the
water and found it _____. A young woodcutter
lived on a lonely hillside. He was a thoughtful son who worked hard
but earned little money. One day he saw a little waterfall hidden
behind a rock. He tasted the water and found it delicious.

2. Find these sentences in the story and fill in the blanks.

(i) This made Taro _____ than ever. (3)

(ii) He decided to work _____ than before. (3)

(iii) Next morning Taro jumped out of bed _____ than
usual. (4)

(iv) He began to chop even _____. (4)

(v) Next morning, Taro started for work
even _____ than the morning before. (10)

Ans:

(i) sadder

(ii) harder

(iii) earlier

(iv) faster

(v) earlier

Speaking and Writing (Page 36)

A. Speak the following sentences clearly but as quickly as you can
learn them by heart.

(i) How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck
would chuck wood.

(ii) Betty bought a bit of butter, but the bit of butter was a little
bitter so she bought some better butter to make the bitter butter

better.

Ans: Do it yourself in the classroom.

B. 1. The story 'Taro's Reward' shows that Taro is thoughtful, hardworking and also wise. Read aloud the parts of story that show these qualities in Taro.

Ans: (i) for he was a thoughtful son and wanted to give his old parents everything they needed. (Para 1)

(ii) Though he worked very hard, he earned very little money. (Para 1)

(iii) But Taro had been wise enough to slip behind a rock.....
(Para 11)

2. (i) Like Patrick in the story 'Who did Patrick's Homework', Taro is helped by magic. Do you believe in magic? What are the magical things that happen in these stories?

Ans. My parents say there is no such thing as magic. It is all a matter of playing tricks. But I agree with the elders only partly. Magic is not all sleight of hand or mesmerism. There is some supernatural agency that carries out the tricks.

In the case of Patrick, there was an elf or small man. He was not one like us. In the case of Taro, there appears a waterfall behind the rocks. Secondly, its water tasted like sake. These were magical things.

(ii) Which story do you like better, and why? Do you know such stories in other languages? Discuss these questions in class.

Ans: Truly speaking, I like both the stories because both are interesting and educative. Secondly, both have a touch of magic. Still, Patrick's story is better than Taro's. Patrick learns to do homework unknowingly.

3. Now write a paragraph or two about these two stories, comparing them.

Ans: Who did Patrick's Homework is, in my opinion, better than 'Taro's Reward'. Patrick hated homework. He played hockey and basketball instead. This was something quite natural. All children find doing homework boring and dull. Taro, on the other hand, was a thoughtful, wise and hardworking boy. He was just the opposite of Patrick. Even God favours and rewards such a boy. A magical waterfall gave him an intoxicating drink for his old father. Both the stories teach us lessons.

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