



Comprehension Check (Page 72)

1. What was the consequence of buying jalebis with the fees money?
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 Jie makes?
3. He offers to play a game with Allah Miyan. What is the game?
4. Did he get four rupees by playing the game? What did he get to see under the rock?
5. If God had granted his wish that day, what harm would it have caused him in later life?

Answers

1. 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. He tries to please God with his requests and the recitation of the entire 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. The game is that he will go upto the signal, touch it and come back. And in the meantime God should put four rupees under a big rock.
4. 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 he wouldn't have learnt a lesson to do no wrong in future. He would have been like a bird and learnt no skill.

EXERCISE (PAGE 72)

Work in small groups.

1. Select and read sentences that show
 - (a) that the boy is tempted to eat jalebis.
 - (d) that he is feeling guilty
 - (c) that he is justifying a wrong deed.

Answer:

(a)

- Jalebis are meant to be eaten, and those with money in their pocket can eat them.
- But then, these jalebis are no common sort of Jalebis They're crisp, fresh and full of syrup.
- My mouth watered. I rushed out of the house bare foot and ran towards the bazaar.

(b)

- My head started to spin.
- When the recess bell rang I tucked my bag under my arm and left the school.
- Now for the crime of eating a few Jalebis, for the first time in my life I was absent from school.

- Sitting under a tree, at first I felt like crying.

(c)

- I didn't eat them all by myself, and I fed them to a whole lot of children.
- Allah Miyan! I am a good boy. I have memorised the entire namaz and the last - ten surats of the Quran by heart.

2. Discuss the following points.

(a) Is the boy intelligent? If so, what is the evidence of it?

(b) Does his outlook on the jalebis episode change after class VIII? Does he see that episode in a new light?

(c) Why are coins made to 'talk' in this story? What purpose does it serve?

Answer: (a) The boy is definitely intelligent. The first evidence is that he has won a scholarship. He is a promising boy. He knows what is right and what is wrong. He argues his case before God like a lawyer.

(b) Yes, his outlook changed after class VIII. He later realised that nothing comes without a price. If God were to grant all one's wishes for the asking, man would not learn any skill. He would be no better than birds.

(c) The coins are made to talk because they reflect the conflict going on in his own mind.

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