



#### Comprehension Check (Page 43)

1. In the following sentence elaborate the parts given in bold. Under the circumstances it was a very unfortunate remark for the bird to make.
2. (i) What did Princess September do to ensure the safety of her pet?  
(ii) How did the bird react to it?
3. Why did the bird refuse to be taken out in her cage?
4. (i) What persuaded Princess September to give the bird his freedom again?  
(ii) How did the bird react to it?
5. Princess September kept her window open day and night.  
(i) How did it help the bird?  
(ii) How did it help the Princess herself?
6. The eight sisters kept their windows shut. How did it affect them?

Answers:

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.

#### Exercise (Page 44)

Discuss the following questions in small groups. Write their answers later.

1. Are the sisters unkind and cruel? Find evidence in the text to support your idea.  
Answer: Yes, the eight sisters of the princess were unkind and cruel. They were jealous too. They advised her to encage the bird. This suggestion might have killed the bird.
2. Which, to you, is the most important idea in this story, and why?  
(i) importance of music (ii) value of freedom (iii) beauty of nature  
Answer: (i) value of freedom.

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