



Comprehension Check (Page 38)

1. How many daughters did the royal couple have?
2. Why were they named after the months of the year?
3. The King had a peculiar habit. What was it? Why is it called peculiar?
4. (i) What was Princess September's reaction to the loss of her parrot?
(ii) What was her Mother's reaction to it?
(iii) What do the reactions indicate about the nature and temperament of each?
5. What pulled the Princess out of her gloom?
6. How did the Maids of Honour come to know that the Princess and the bird had become intimate friends?
7. The new bird was full of new songs but the old parrots always repeated themselves. What did they say?
8. What is the king's opinion about his Councillors? Why did he form that opinion?
9. (i) The eight Princesses made an offer to Princess September. What was it?
(ii) Why, in your view, did they do it?
10. What did the sisters advise the Princess to do about her bird?

Answers:

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.

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