



মণিপুরৰ শাসনৰত্ন (মাম)

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)**

Government of Manipur

**CLASS IX**  
**ENGLISH LITERATURE READER**  
**CHAPTER 3 - THE PRINCESS WHO WANTED THE MOON**  
**JAMES THURBER**

**SOLUTIONS**

**A. Answer the following questions in a sentence each:**

**i. What will make the Princess well again?**

Ans: The Princess will be well again if she gets the moon.

**ii. According to Lord High Chamberlain, what was the moon made of?**

Ans: According to Lord High Chamberlain, the moon was made of copper.

**iii. What was the moon made of, according to the Royal Mathematician?**

Ans: According to the Royal Mathematician, the moon was made of asbestos.

**iv. What was the moon made of, according to the Princess?**

Ans: According to the Princess, the moon was made of gold.

**v. What was Lord High Chamberlain's suggestion to keep the Princess from seeing the moon?**

Ans: Lord High Chamberlain's suggestion to keep the Princess from seeing the moon was to make her wear some dark glasses.

**B. Answer the following questions briefly:**

**i. Why did the Lord High Chamberlain say that getting the moon was out of question?**

Ans: The Lord High Chamberlain said that getting the moon was out of question because it was 35,000 miles away, and it was bigger than the Princess' room. Also, it was made of copper.

**ii. What was the moon like, according to the Royal Wizard?**

Ans: According to the Royal Wizard, the moon was 1,500,000 miles away and it was made of green cheese. He also said that it was twice the size of the throne room.



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iii. **“Nobody can get the moon.”**

**Why did the Royal Mathematician say so?**

Ans: The Royal Mathematician said that the moon was 3,000,000 miles away. It was round and flat like a coin, only it was made of asbestos and it was half the size of the kingdom. Also, it was pasted on the sky. So, according to him, nobody could get the moon.

iv. **Why did the King send for the Court Jester?**

Ans: For the sick Princess to get well, the King must get her the moon. But the Lord High Chamberlain, the Royal Wizard and the Royal Mathematician told him that nobody could get the moon. The reasons that they gave were that the moon was very far and also very big. The sad King sent for the Court Jester to make him play a sad music on his lute so as to console him (the King).

v. **What was the King’s problem even after the Princess got the moon?**

Ans: The Princess got the moon she desired and was well again. But the king was afraid that if she saw the moon again in the night sky, she would know that the moon she wore on a chain was not the real one. Then, she would be sad and ill again. Therefore the King wanted to hide the moon that night but not knowing how or where to hide the moon had become the King’s problem.

vi. **What was the Princess’ explanation about the presence of the moon?**

Ans: The Princess said that like her tooth or flowers in the Royal Garden, when something was lost or cut, a new one would grow and take the place of the old one. This was true for everything. And it was the same for the moon too. Thus, the Princess explained about the presence of the moon.

**C. Answer the following questions in about 80 words:**

i. **Are wise men always capable of solving difficult problems? Justify your answer with examples from the story.**

Ans: It is not necessary that wise men are always capable of solving difficult problems. Many a time, problems are solved by common men who have presence of mind and are witty. This is illustrated by the story *The Princess Who Wanted the Moon*. When getting the moon was the only way to make the sick Princess well again, the desperate King sought the help of the three wise men in his court –the Lord High Chamberlain, the Royal Wizard and the Royal Mathematician. But all three told the King that nobody could get the moon because of its far distance and huge size. Then, the King turned to his Court Jester without any expectations. But it was the Court Jester who, with his presence of mind, knew the Princess’ idea of the moon and got the moon. Thus, the problem was solved.



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Again, the three wise men were of no help to the king when he wanted a means to hide the moon from appearing in the night sky. Here, again, it was the Court Jester who came to the rescue of the King.

**ii. Write how the Court Jester solves both the King's problems.**

Ans: First, when the King was confronted with the problem of getting the moon for the sick Princess to get well, none of his wise men – the Lord High Chamberlain, the Royal Wizard or the Royal Mathematician was able to help him. So, he turned to the Court Jester for comfort. The Court Jester was a man of common sense and wit, so he went to the Princess to get her idea of the moon. He made the Royal Goldsmith make a tiny golden moon hung on a golden chain and gave it to the Princess. The Princess got her desired moon and got well. Thus the Court Jester solved the King's problem. Again, when the king was anxious to find a way to hide the moon, the wise men of the King's court failed to show a satisfactory way to the king. Here again, the Court Jester came to the rescue of the king. The Court Jester was able to get an explanation from the Princess why the moon was still in the sky when it was hanging on a gold chain around her neck. Thus, he was able to solve both the King's problems.



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