



# THE MULLAH'S DINNER PARTY

Stage 1. Pre-reading

# Activity 1. Talking about the topic

- You must have heard many stories about Akbar and Birbal. What do you learn about these two men from these stories? (What kind of people were they?)
- You will find below a list of personal qualities that some people have.
   Some of these qualities were present in Akbar and some in Birbal.

Put a tick mark under 'A' if a certain quality was found in Akbar, and a tick mark under 'B' if a quality was found in Birbal. (Some qualities may have been present in both Akbar and Birbal, and some other qualities may not have been present in either of them.)

A	В	
i.	grave and serious by nature	
ii	very intelligent and clever	
iii	good at telling lies and bluffing people	
iv	honest and truthful	
٧	fond of practical jokes	
vi	wise	

Would you like your friends to be like Akbar or like Birbal?

Here is a story about a man called Mullah Nasruddin. Of whom does he remind you?

## Activity 2. Reading the story aloud

The teacher asks some children to read out the first part of story of Mullah Nasruddin, which is in two parts. Each child reads one or two paragraphs. The lines spoken by different speakers should be read by different children.

Before the reading begins, the teacher takes the children through the list of key words.

#### THE MULLAH'S DINNER PARTY

#### Part - 1

# Activity 3. Knowing the key words

mullah a learned man who leads the prayer in a mosque

sense of humour the ability to laugh as well as make others laugh

clown a person who works in a circus and does funny things to make people laugh

(Mullah Nasruddin lived in Persia about 500 years ago. Like Birbal, he had a great sense of humour. Sometimes he acted like a clown and did things which looked foolish. But, in truth, he was a wise man. Here is a story about the Mullah.)

It was the middle of winter. The fields and houses in the village where Mullah Nasruddin lived were covered with snow.

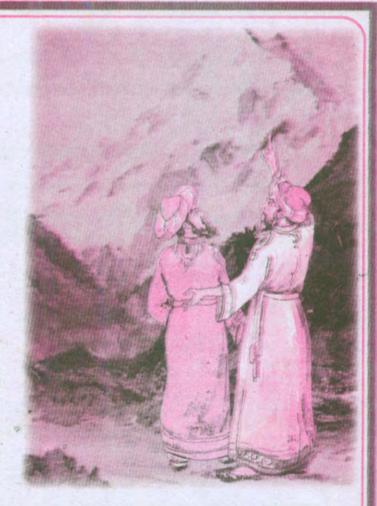
One day, Mullah Nasruddin was chatting with some friends. "How cold it is this year!" one of his friends said. "I have never known a colder winter."

"Oh, it's not so bad," Nasruddin said. "I don't feel the cold at all."

"Come on, don't lie to us, Nasruddin", another friend said. "You are just like us. We all feel the cold."

. "Well, I don't" Nasruddin said.

"Do you want to have a bet with us? If you can go to the top of that mountain tonight and spend the whole night there, each of the will give you ten pieces of silver." "Done!" Nasruddin said.



#### Stage 2. Reading

When the reading aloud is completed, the teaches asks the children to read this part of the story.

Stage 3. After reading

## Activity 4. Comprehension

The teacher asks:

- 1. Who was Mullah Nasruddin?
- 2. Where did he live?
- 3. What was the bet that he made with his friends?

- 4. Why do you think he did this?
- 5. What kind of a person was Nasruddin?
- 6. What do you think of his friends? Would you like to have such friends?

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7. What did Nasruddin mean when he said "Done!"

#### Activity 5. Vocabulary

#### Fill in the blanks using words from the story;

Although Nasruddin was a \_\_\_\_\_ man, he sometimes acted like a and did things which looked \_\_\_\_. One day, while he was \_\_\_\_ with his friends, he had a \_\_\_\_ with them.

#### Part 2

#### Stage 1. Pre-reading

#### Activity 6. Guessing the next events

You know that Nasruddin had a bet with his friends and went to the top of a mountain to spend the night there.

What do you think will happen next?

#### Stage 2. Reading

## Activity 7 Knowing the key words 8

bitterly cold

very cold

to freeze:

to turn into ice (e.g. When it is very

cold, the water in a lake freezes.)

to freeze to death:

to die because your body becomes

very cold

to pay up

to owe money to someone

to be off ("The bet is off!")

to give someone the money that you have promised to give him/her

to have to pay back the money to someone

cancelled

That night Mullah Nasruddin went to the top of the mountain and spent the whole night in the open. As it was very dark, he carried a

candle. It was bitterly cold, and the Mullah almost froze to death.

Next morning, Mullah Nasruddin went to his friends. "I have won the bet!" he said. "Now pay up the money that you owe me."

"But I saw you carrying a candle when you were going up the mountain," one of the friends said. "That candle must have kept you warm. The bet is off! We are not going to pay up."



The Mullah said nothing, but he did not like what his friends had done to him. "I will teach them a lesson!" he said to himself.

Stage 3

After reading

**Activity 8** 

Comprehension

The teacher asks:

- Why did Mullah Nasruddin take a candle with him?
- What did he tell his friends next morning?
- 3. What did one of his friends say then?
- 4. What did Nasruddin's friend mean by saying: "The bet is off!"
  - 5. What did Nasruddin decide to do?

## Activity 9. Discussion

Did Nasuddin do something foolish by having bet with his friends and spending a night on the mountain? Would you have done such a thing?

## Activity 10. Vocabulary

Fill in the blanks with words from Part 2 of the story.

It	It was	so cold on the	mountain that Nasruddi	n almost
		to death. He came back to	his friends and asked	them to
		_ the money which they	him, as he had	the
bet.				

#### Part 3

Stage 1.

**Pre-reading** 

# Activity 11. Guessing about the story

1 What do you think Nasruddin will do now, after his friends refuse to pay up?

#### Stage 2.

#### Reading

The children read the last part of the story silently.

## Activity 12 Knowing the key words

invite to ask someone to come as your guest

serve food to give someone food to eat

delicious having a very good taste

to eat heartily to eat a lot of food

to grumble to complain about something that you do not like

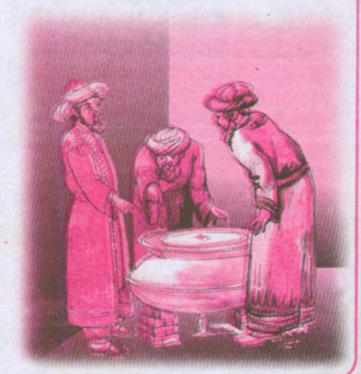
starving feeling very hungry

vessel a pot in which food is cooked

A few weeks later, Mullah Nasruddin invited the same friends to his house for dinner. They were very happy to be invited, because the Mullah always served delicious food. They are nothing all day, so

that they could eat heartily at night.

They arrived in good time, ready for the promised meal. But Mullah Nasruddin kept them waiting. "Dinner is not ready yet," he told them. An hour later, he said the same thing. After



another two hours, the friends were really hungry and began to grumble. "Aren't you going to serve dinner?" they asked. "We are starving!"

"Let us see if the food has been cooked," Nasruddin said. He led his friends to the kitchen.

What they saw surprised them. The food was being cooked in a huge vessel over the flame of just one small candle!

"What do you mean by this?' they asked angrily. "Just one small candle to cook all that food?'

Mullah Nasruddin smiled. He said, "If a candle can keep a man warm in the snow, can't it cook a meal?".

His friends felt ashamed. They paid up the money which they owed Mullah Nasruddin.

#### Stage 3. After reading

#### Activity 13. Comprehension

- 1. Why were Nasruddin's friends happy when they were invited to dinner?
- 2. Why didn't they eat anything all day?
- 3. What did they see in the kitchen?
- 4. What did Nasruddin tell them when they wee angry?
- 5. How did Nasruddin make his friends pay up the money which they owed him?
- 6 What would you have done if you were Nasruddin?

ACLIV	vocabulary		
Fil	in the blank spaces with the	right words from part 3.	
Wh	nen Nasruddin	his friends to dinner they were happy,	
because	e Nasruddin always	tasty food to his guests. They did not	
eat any	thing all day, so that they o	could eat when they went to	
		sruddin made them wait so long that they	
	o They told him		
3	remail canale)	uge vessel over the flame of just on	
Activ	ity 15. Usage		
A.	Match the parts in Colum	n A with those in Column B to make	
	complete sentences.		
	Column A	Column B	
101.	Nasruddin's friends	<ul> <li>so that she can become</li> </ul>	
	ate nothing all day	a good singer let about all	
2.	I put on a woolen sweater	<ul> <li>so that we can get good jobs.</li> </ul>	
3.	Dipu went to the market	<ul> <li>so that they could eat heartily at night.</li> </ul>	
4.	My sister goes for	<ul> <li>so that he could get some</li> </ul>	
	music lessons	vegetables.	
5.	We should all learn English	so that I would not feel cold.	
B.	6. Complete the sentences below, using your own words.		
sdy hor	i. I will ask my father to give me some money so that		
ii	ii The teacher asked me to bring my books to the class everyday so		
	that Sympha new yearung	A. A. Versacold National Internation	
n Mey	My father bought a bicycle fo	rme so that	
iv		ome milk every morning so that	
V	When I go out at night, I carry	a torch so that	

#### Activity 16. Speaking and writing

In this story, Mullah Nasruddin taught his friends a lesson. There is a well-known story about a crane (a tall bird with a very long, thin beak) who also

taught a lesson to a fox that had invited him for a meal.

A part of that story is given below. The teacher asks the children to read it and complete the story. They should first tell the



whole story to the class, and then write it out.

"A crane lived near a lake inside a jungle. He met a fox one day. They became good friends. One day the fox told the crane, "Please come to my house for dinner tomorrow. I will cook some delicious food for you."

The crane said to himself, "I will teach the fox a lesson." So he told the fox "You must come to my house for dinner tomorrow."

When the fox went to the crane's house, he saw ......