

Chapter-15

Reading with understanding Worksheet

I) Read the passage carefully and then answer the following questions:

The Panchatantra

A king, while visiting his wives' apartments, took a monkey from a neighbouring stable for a pet. He kept him constantly close at hand for his amusement, for as it is said, parrots, partridges, doves, rams, monkeys, and such creatures are a king's natural companions.

It goes without saying that the monkey, fed on the various dishes that the king gave him, grew large and was given respect by all who surrounded the king. Indeed, the king, due to his love and exceeding trust of the monkey, even gave him a sword to carry.

In the vicinity of the palace the king had a grove artfully planted with many trees of various sorts. Early in the springtime the king noticed how beautiful the grove was. Its blossoms exuded a magnificent fragrance, while swarms of bees sang praise to the god of love. Thus overcome by love, he entered the grove with his favourite wife. He ordered all his servants to wait for him at the entrance. After having pleasantly strolling through and observing the grove, he grew tired and said to his monkey, "I want to sleep a little while in this arbor of flowers. Take care that nothing disturbs me!" Having said this, the king fell asleep.

Presently a bee, pursuing the aroma of the flowers, betel, and musk, flew up and lit on his head. Seeing this, the monkey thought angrily, "What is this? Am I to allow this common creature to bite the king before my very eyes?"

With that he proceeded to drive it away. However, in spite of the monkey's defense, the bee approached the king again and again. Finally, blinded by anger, the monkey drew his sword and struck down the bee with a single blow. However, the same blow also split the king's head.

The queen, who was sleeping next to the king jumped up in terror. Seeing the crime, she said, "Oh, oh, you foolish monkey! What have you done to the king who placed such trust in you?"

The monkey explained how it had happened, but thereafter he was shunned and scorned by everyone. Thus it is said, "Do not choose a fool for a friend, for the king was killed by a monkey."

And I say, "It is better to have a clever enemy than a foolish friend."

1. Why did the king take monkey?
2. Why do you think the king trusted the monkey?
3. What was disturbing the king while he was sleeping?
4. "Blinded by anger, the monkey drew his sword and struck down the bee with a single blow." What did the monkey do? What were the consequences of his actions?
5. "Oh, oh, you foolish monkey!". Who said this and why?
6. "It is better to have a clever enemy than a foolish friend." Do you agree? Give your opinion in about 50-80 words.
7. What do you think is the moral of the story? Give your answer in about 50-80 words.

II) Look at the picture and describe it in about 100 words.



III) Write about the members of your family. What are they like? What do they do? Describe your family in about 100-150 words.