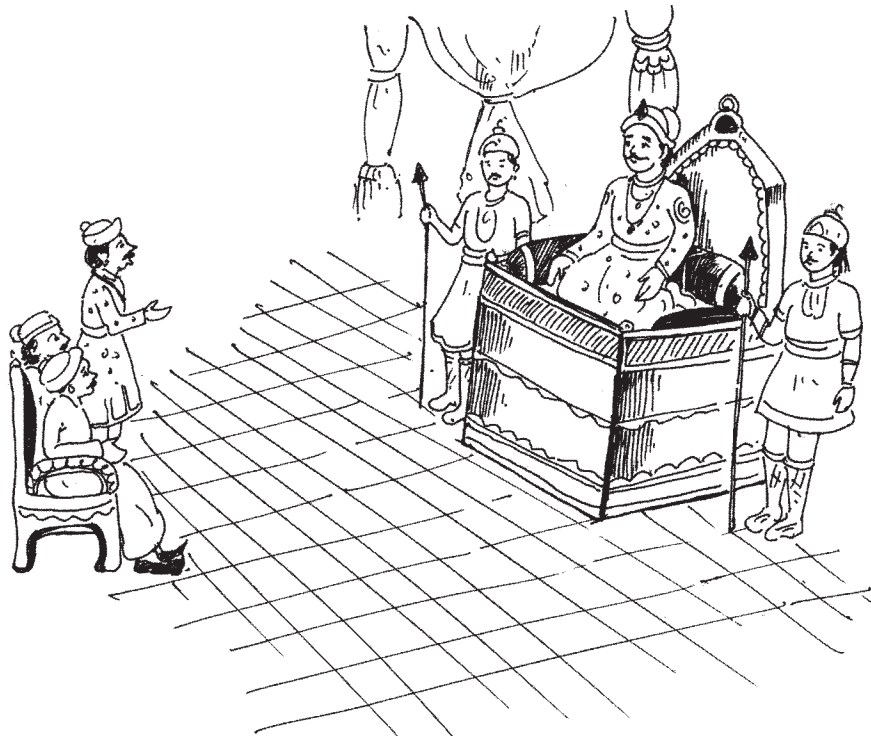


Lesson -12

Birbal and the Washerman



1. Do you know any story about Akbar and Birbal?
2. What was Birbal known for?

Characters:

1. Akbar
2. Birbal
3. Courtiers
4. The town-crier
5. Messenger
6. Denu, the washerman
7. Kusum, the washerman's wife
8. Denu and Kusum's children

Scene 1

*(Morning. It's winter. Akbar and Birbal are **pacing the floor** in the **palace** balcony. The balcony offers a good view of the river.)*

Akbar : Birbal, I have heard that the water of this river is **extremely** cold.
Is that true?

- Birbal : Yes, Your Majesty, I have also heard the same.
- Akbar : What do you think will happen, if a man stands in the cold water all through the night? Will he die?
- Birbal : Certainly, Your Majesty, no ordinary man can survive after staying for such a long time in the cold water.
- Akbar : *(Thinks for a while and says)* I have an idea!
(The emperor whispers something in Birbal's ear. Birbal is surprised at the Emperor's words.)

Scene-2

(Afternoon. Town market place. A town-crier beats his drum loudly and people come, leaving their work and gather around him.)

Town-crier: *(loudly)* Listen! Listen! By the order of the Emperor, anyone who stands in the cold water of the river in front of the King's palace all through the night will be amply rewarded. Listen! Listen!

(He moves to another busy area to make the same announcement.)

(People stand in groups and discuss the announcement. Nobody is ready to accept the challenge. A poor washerman also listens to the announcement and whispers in his wife's ear.)

- Denu : Kusum, this is a good opportunity. I should try my luck. If I succeed in standing in the river, I'll get the big reward and we'll be able to live well.
- Kusum : No! No! Don't ever think of taking such a risk.
- Denu : You needn't worry. Nothing will happen to me. After all, I am used to washing clothes in cold water everyday.

Scene - III

(Night. The washerman goes and stands in the middle of the river. Some people come and ask him not to risk his life.)



One man : I feel sorry for this poor man. Why does he want to kill himself?

Another : He is crazy! Doing such a foolish thing for money! Well, let us pray for his safety.

(Next morning, Denu is shivering badly, He stood in the river all through the night. He has successfully reached the target. People congratulate him on his wonderful achievement.)

Kusum : (happily) Oh! so you have done it! Thank God, you are alright! I was so worried. I kept on praying for your safety the whole night. At last God has heard our prayers and you are the luckiest person to get the big reward. I am really proud of you.

Scene - 4

(Akbar's court. The Emperor is sitting on his throne. Birbal is beside him. The courtiers and guards are standing in the Darbar. Denu and his family enter the Darbar. They bow before the king).

Denu : Salutations. Your Majesty.

Akbar : Come, You are indeed a brave young man. You certainly deserve the reward.

(A maid brings a silver tray laden with gold coins.)

(As Akbar is about to give the reward to Denu, a courtier interrupts).

Courtier : Your Majesty, what are you doing? This man does not deserve the reward, as he did not stand in the cold water without any help.

All the courtiers were surprised and wanted an explanation.

Courtier : Your Majesty, actually the lights from your palace kept the washerman warm all through the night.

Akbar : (thoughtfully) Hmm - you have a point. Well, in that case, there is no question of a reward.

(Poor Denu goes away sadly with his family. Birbal is unhappy about this.)

Scene -5

(The next day, at Akbar's court. All are sitting, but Birbal's seat is empty.)

Akbar : Why has Birbal not come yet. He is usually punctual.

(A messenger arrives).

Messenger: Your majesty, the Minister is in his house, and he says he will be late today.

Akbar : Why?

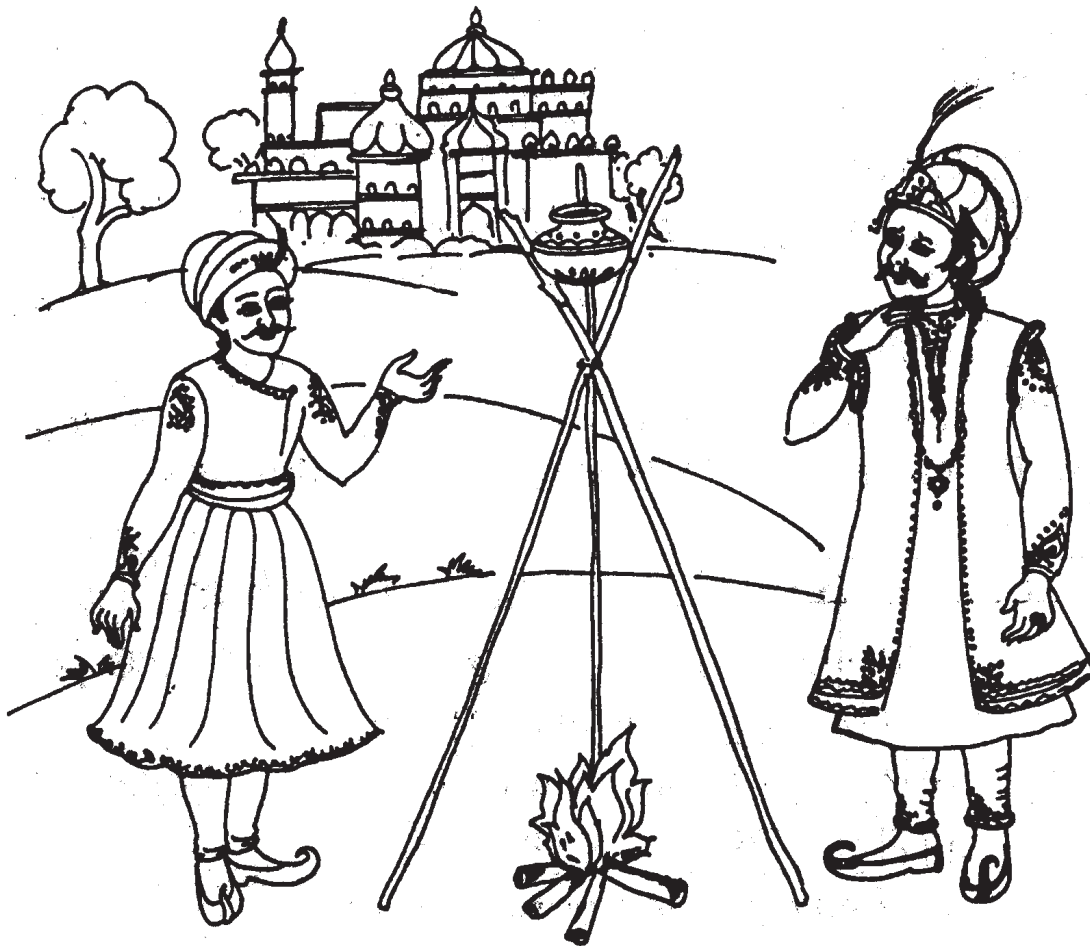
Messenger: Your Majesty, he is cooking food and will take long.

Akbar : (angrily) What nonsense! Why? We shall go and find out.

(Akbar gets up and walks quickly towards Birbal's house followed by some courtiers and guards).

Scene - 6

(Birbal's House. Birbal is sitting near a fire on the ground.



Far above it, balanced on a tall tripod, is a cooking pot.)

Akbar : Birbal ! How stupid !!! You have kept the pot so far above the fire. How can this fire cook your food?

Birbal : (with a twinkle in his eye). If this fire can't cook food in this cooking pot, how can the lights of your palace warm Denu in the cold water of the Yamuna?

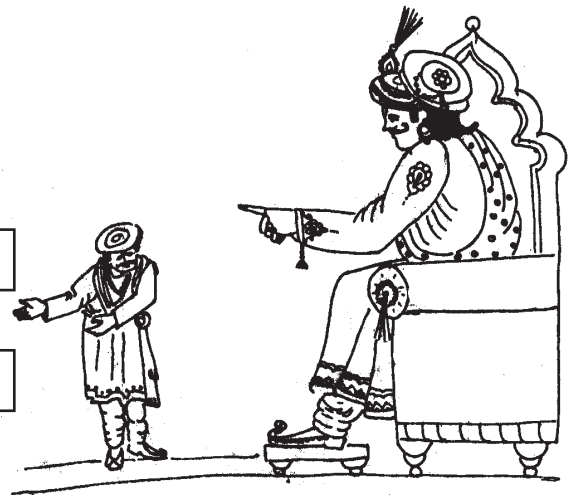
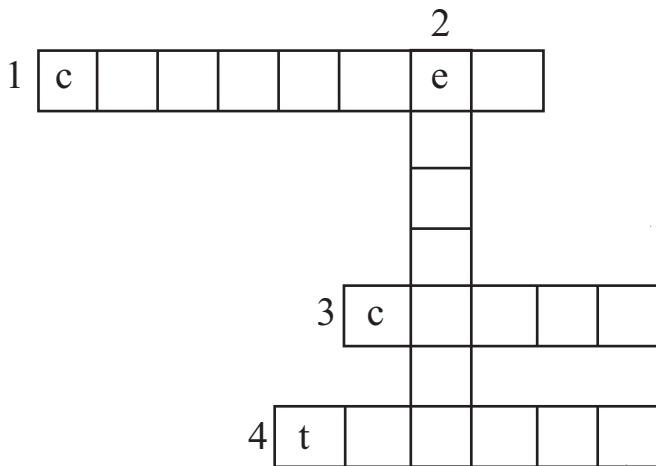
(Akbar immediately realizes his wrong decision and calls for the washerman.)

Scene - 7

(Next day at Akbar's court. Denu comes with his family to the Darbar. Akbar hands the tray of coins to Birbal, who gives it to Denu. Denu as well as his family are very happy. People cheer and clap. People appreciate the justice done to Denu.)

1. Word power

Complete the word puzzle given below with the help of the clues given:



- Clues:
1. A person who works in a King's court
 2. He is also a King.
 3. Kings wear this on their head.
 4. A King's seat.

2. Comprehension questions

1) Answer these questions in 'Yes/No.':

1. Birbal was the King.
2. Akbar was a generous King.
3. Denu was a minister.
4. The washerman was a greedy man.
5. Kusum does not help her husband.

2) Say, who said to whom:

1. "Water of this river is very cold".
2. "Win a hundred gold coins, challenge from the King."
3. "I kept on praying for your safety the whole night."
4. "Your majesty, he is cooking food."
5. "Salutations. Your Majesty."

3) Answer these questions:

1. What was Akbar's challenge?
2. Why was Denu ready to accept the challenge?
3. Why didn't Denu's wife want to accept the challenge?
4. What was the courtier's objection?
5. How did Birbal bring justice to Denu?
6. Why was Denu very happy at the end?

3. Grammar in use

1) Complete the chart:

Adjective	Adverb
happy	happily
loud	_____
_____	quickly
proper	_____
_____	successfully
thoughtful	_____
beautiful	_____
_____	helpfully

2) **Fill in the blanks using correct adverbs given below:**

loudly, comfortably, happily, really, sadly,
thoughtfully, quickly.

1. "Are you really going away to America, Rohan?" said mother.
2. The teacher said _____, "I will find a way to help you."
3. The cap seller said _____, "All my caps are gone."
4. The patient slept _____ after the doctor gave him some medicine.
5. Ramesh went home _____ after watching the play.
6. Once he got his money he went home _____.
7. The lion roared _____, "Who woke me up?"

4. **Let's talk**

Talk to your friends in the class and find out who has...

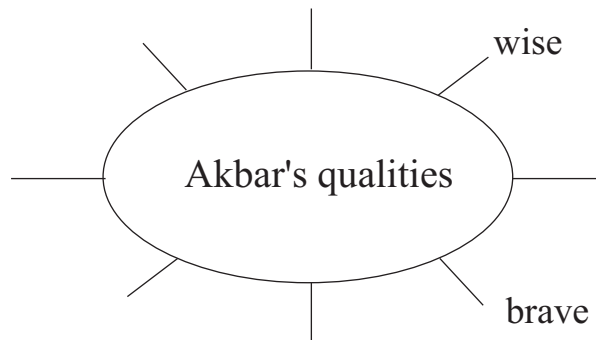
1. seen a snake.
2. visited the Tajmahal.
3. travelled in a train.
4. sailed in a boat.
5. helped someone in need.

5. **Let's write**

Write a story of Akbar and Birbal in your own words.

6. **Let's do it**

Complete the following chart about Akbar's qualities, by adding words that describe him best:



Revision Exercises - 3

1 Fill in the blanks using words from the list given below:

favour, attacked, soldiers, himself, save, battle, house, cave

Once a neighbouring king _____ his country. Luck did not _____ him. He lost the _____. Many of his _____ were killed and others ran away to _____ their lives. The king _____ had to hide in a _____.

2. Give opposite words of the following:

dark - _____
beautiful - _____
night - _____
unhappy - _____
strong - _____

Grammar in use

1. Make plurals of the following:

calf _____
leaf _____
branch _____
key _____
sheep _____

2. Make nouns from the following words:

Example - teach - teacher

play - _____
clean - _____
think - _____
write - _____
bowl - _____
cricket- _____

3. Change the underlined verbs into simple past tense:

Example - He plays hockey in the morning.

He played hockey in the morning.

1. He likes his grandmother.
2. My father wakes up early in the morning.
3. Girls run a race.
4. Like Gandhi he speaks the truth.
5. Arjun shoots at the right eye of the bird.

4. Dictation of a paragraph each from lessons 1, 3, 4, 9, 10 and 12. each:

5. Write 5 sentences on 'A Cow'.

Comprehension questions

1. Answer the following questions:

1. What did Denu do?
2. Why did the boy keep his breakfast on the bookshelf?
3. What did Dhania make for the fairies?
4. Why were all the students on the playground?
5. What do we need to be successful in life?

2. Say true or false:

1. Yudhistir was a Kaurav prince. True/false
2. Denu made clothes for the fairies. True/false
3. The kind boy was later known as Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. True/false
4. The boy kept the breakfast in the bookshelf because the beggar refused to take it. True/false
5. The elephant has wide ears. True/false
6. Gandhiji spelt 'kettle' correctly. True/false

3. Write a letter to your friend, describing the picnic you had last Sunday.

Annual Evaluation

Time - 3 Hrs.

M.M. - 50

Q.1 Fill in the blanks and complete the passage: (5)

The boy went to the kitchen and brought his _____. He was about to start _____ when a _____ came to the _____ and said, "_____ give me something to eat."

Q.2 Write a stanza from a poem that you have learnt. (5)

Q.3 1) Match the people with the work they do for you: (5)

A

B

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| (i) goldsmith | (i) makes garments. |
| (ii) carpenter | (ii) makes and mends shoes. |
| (iii) barber | (iii) makes ornaments of gold. |
| (iv) cobbler | (iv) makes tables and chairs. |
| (v) tailor | (v) cuts your hair. |

2) Write opposite of the following words: (5)

- | | | |
|-------------|---|--------|
| (i) rich | - | _____. |
| (ii) bright | - | _____. |
| (iii) happy | - | _____. |
| (iv) ugly | - | _____. |
| (v) day | - | _____. |

3) Find words rhyming with the following words: (5)

- | | | |
|-------------|---|--------|
| (i) along | - | _____. |
| (ii) night | - | _____. |
| (iii) sky | - | _____. |
| (iv) dark | - | _____. |
| (v) twinkle | - | _____. |

- (vi) wide - _____.
- (vii) sleep - _____.
- (viii) gold - _____.
- (ix) brown - _____.
- (x) swing - _____.

Q4 1) Fill up the blanks using - is, are, was, were: (4)

- (i) What month _____ this?
- (ii) What day _____ it yesterday?
- (iii) Where _____ you now?
- (iv) Where _____ they last month?

2) Make plurals of the following words: (2)

- (i) knife - _____
- (ii) calf - _____
- (iii) leaf - _____
- (iv) wolf - _____

3) Fill in the blanks using correct adverbs given below: (4)

(quickly, loudly, really, sadly)

- (i) The lion roared _____.
- (ii) "Are you _____ going away to America, Rohan?" said mother.
- (iii) Once he got his money he went home _____.
- (iv) Ramesh went home _____ after losing the match.

Q5 1) Mark true (T) or false (F) against the statements. (5)

- (i) Birbal was a king.
- (ii) The elephant has wide ears.
- (iii) Gandhiji misspelt 'kettle'.
- (iv) Denu was a minister.
- (v) The fairies made the shoes.

2) Answer these questions: (5)

(i) When does the moonbeam come over your bed?

(ii) What did Dhania make for the fairies?

(iii) Did Denu succeed?

(iv) What did the beggar say?

(v) What can the elephant do with its trunk?

Q.6 Write a letter to your uncle to thank him for sending you a lovely gift on your birthday. (5)
