

Lesson -5

The Miser and his Gold

Think of any popular saying about a miser in English or Hindi.

Within a hole which he had made

A miser kept his treasure

He came to see it every day

This was his only pleasure.



Now it chanced that once, as he knelt by the hole,

He was seen by a robber bold,

And the robber came back the very same night,

And took away his gold.

When the old man found that his treasure was gone

He made such a terrible clatter

That the neighbours all came running up

To ask what was the matter.

“Last night”, he said, “a robber took

My gold and away he ran with it.”

Said the neighbours, “Before the gold was gone,

Pray tell us what you did with it?”

“I came every day to see it, and now

What can I do?” he said

“You can come every day,” his friend replied,

“And look at the hole instead.”

Jane Taylor and Ann Taylor

EXERCISES

Read and Learn

hole	treasure	gold	clatter
role	pleasure	bold	matter
sole	measure	hold	batter

Word power

A. Two meanings are given against each word. Underline the meaning you think correct.

pleasure	<	feeling of happiness	terrible	<	glorious
		long walk			very unpleasant
treasure	<	refreshing	chanced	<	shopping
		collection of valuable things			happened
miser	<	driver	robber	<	an animal
		who hates to spend money			one who steals

B. Fill in the blanks with suitable antonyms.

1. hard luck -luck
2. hard sum -sum
3. light weight -weight
4. light colour -colour
5. fair work -work
6. fair complexion -complexion
7. harsh voice -voice
8. harsh punishment -punishment

C. Some English words have silent letters. Silent letters can appear anywhere in a word. In the poem there is a word 'knelt' ('k' is silent)

Now pick out the silent letters in the following words:

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------|----------|-------|
| 1. Wednesday | _____ | 4. knife | _____ |
| 2. sign | _____ | 5. walk | _____ |
| 3. comb | _____ | 6. hour | _____ |

Write at least five more words and underline the silent letter.

Comprehension

A) Tick the correct answer:

(i) What do you think the poem is about?

The poem is about -

- (a) a king.
- (b) a miser.
- (c) a teacher.
- (d) a thief.

(ii) The miser came to the hole to see his -

- (a) hens.
- (b) coins.
- (c) treasure.
- (d) pots.

(iii) The neighbours who came running did not know -

- (a) who the miser was.
- (b) why the miser was shouting.
- (c) what the miser was doing.

B) Answer the following questions:

- (i) What was the only pleasure of the miser?
- (ii) What did the robber do with the gold?
- (iii) Why did the miser make a terrible clatter?
- (iv) What did the neighbours ask the miser?
- (v) What did the miser say in reply?

Let's Read

Read the poem carefully:

Three things in life that
Once gone, never come back:
Time, words and opportunity.

Three things in life that
May never be lost:
Peace, hope and honesty.

Three things in life that
Are most valuable:
Love, self-confidence and friends.

Three things that make a man:
Hard work, sincerity and commitment.

Three things in life that
Can destroy a man:
Wine, pride and anger.

Now complete the following:

(i) Three most valuable things in one's life-

(ii) Three things that can destroy one's future-

(iii) Three things that can make one's life-

Let's Write

Read the poem 'The Miser and his Gold' carefully. Complete the message that the poem gives us:

1. We should not be greedy in our life because _____

2. We should always help our neighbours because _____
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Let's do it

1. Try to collect some more poems which give us values and read them in the class.
2. Ask your grandparents to tell you some old stories like the poem you have read. Listen to them carefully and narrate them in the 'Balsabha'.