

2.1 Reading Comprehension

Learning to read is a complex skill that demands a lot from the students

WHAT IS COMPREHENSION READING?

Understanding or grasping the meaning of something

The answer to a comprehension question usually is something you can point to in the paragraph or passage

Things to do while reading a comprehension passage

- Go through the passage to find out what the passage is about.
- Give a detailed reading
- Understand the questions
- Finally, the questions should be answered suitably

Key strategies to answer comprehension passages

- Read the questions - Before reading the passage, go through the questions. It will give some idea about the passage.
- Unpack the questions – Read the questions couple of times, so that you know what you need to answer.
- Understand the meaning or the central idea of the whole passage – It will help you to find the answer properly

Example:

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow:

Mike and Morris lived in the same village. While Morris owned the largest jewelry shop in the village, Mike was a poor farmer. Both had large families with many sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren. One fine day, Mike, tired of not being able to feed his family, decided to leave the village and move to the city where he was certain to earn enough to feed everyone. Along with his family, he left the village for

the city. At night, they stopped under a large tree. There was a stream running nearby where they could freshen up themselves. He told his sons to clear the area below the tree, he told his wife to fetch water and he instructed his daughters-in-law to make up the fire and started cutting wood from the tree himself. They didn't know that in the branches of the tree, there was a thief hiding.

He watched as Mike's family worked together and also noticed that they had nothing to cook. Mike's wife also thought the same and asked her husband "Everything is ready but what shall we eat?" Mike raised his hands to heaven and said "Don't worry. He is watching all of this from above. He will help us."

The thief got worried as he had seen that the family was large and worked well together. Taking advantage of the fact that they did not know he was hiding in the branches, he decided to make a quick escape. He climbed down safely when they were not looking and ran for his life. But, he left behind the bundle of stolen jewels and money which dropped into Mike's lap. Mike opened it and jumped with joy when he saw the contents. The family gathered all their belongings and returned to the village. There was great excitement when they told everyone how they got rich.

Morris thought that the tree was miraculous and this was a nice and quick way to earn some money. He ordered his family to pack some clothes and they set off as if on a journey. They also stopped under the same tree and Morris started commanding everyone as Mike had done. But no one in his family was willing to obey his orders. Being a rich family, they were used to having servants all around. So, the one who went to the river to fetch water enjoyed a nice bath. The one who went to get wood for fire, went off to sleep. Morris's wife said "Everything is ready but what shall we eat?" Morris raised his hands and said, "Don't worry. He is watching all of this from above. He will help us."

As soon as he finished saying, the thief jumped down from the tree with a knife in hand. Seeing him, everyone started running around to save their lives. The thief stole everything they had and Morris and his family had to return to the village empty handed, having lost all their valuables that they had taken with them.

Question 1: Why did Mike and his family decide to rest under the thief's tree?

- A) Being a large family, they knew that they could easily defeat the thief
- B) It was a convenient spot for taking a halt at night
- C) There was a stream nearby and wood enough to build a house
- D) That was the only large tree that could shelter their large family

Solution: B) It was a convenient spot for taking a halt at night

A is incorrect as they didn't know that a thief was hiding on the tree.

C is incorrect as nothing has been mentioned in the passage about the amount of wood D is incorrect as nothing has been mentioned about the number of trees.

Question 2: Which of the following best describes Morris?

- A) He was a rich businessman
- B) He bullied his wife
- C) He paid his servants well
- D) He was greedy and imitated Mike

Solution: D) He was greedy and imitated Mike

Question 3 : What did Mike mean when he said "He is watching all this from above"?

- A) He had spotted the thief and wanted to scare him
- B) He was telling his wife to have faith in god
- C) It was just a warning for his family members to stick together
- D) He was begging the thief to help his family

Solution: B) He was telling his wife to have faith in god

Question 4: Why did the thief return to the tree?

- A) To wait for Mike to return
- B) To set up a trap
- C) To wait for Morris's family
- D) Not mentioned in the passage

Solution: D) Not mentioned in the passage

Question 5 : How did the fellow villagers react to Mike getting rich overnight?

- A) They were jealous of him
- B) they were very excited
- C) They followed his example
- D) they envied him

Solution: B) they were very excited

