

Comprehension Check

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Question 1:

In what way is the forest pool different from the one which Ranji knew in the Rajputana desert?

Solution:

The forest pool was clean, cold and inviting, whereas the Rajputana desert had sticky, muddy pools where buffaloes wallowed and women washed clothes.

Question 2:

The other boy asked Ranji to 'explain' himself.

(i) What did he expect Ranji to say?

(ii) Was he, in your opinion, right or wrong to ask this?

Solution:

(i) He expected Ranji to apologise to him as he had entered the pool without his permission. He wanted him to leave the pool immediately.

(ii) He was wrong to ask this because the pool was in the forest and anyone can use it. It was not his personal property.

Question 3:

Between Ranji and the other boy, who is trying to start a quarrel? Give a reason for your Ans.

Solution:

Between Ranji and the other boy, the other boy was trying to start a quarrel. When Ranji saw him, he did not say anything. It was the other boy who asked Ranji to explain himself. Ranji was prepared to be friendly, but was taken aback by the boy's hostile tone. He even asked the boy to come and swim with him. However, the boy said that it was his pool, and started a fight by calling himself a 'warrior'.

Question 4:

"Then we will have to continue the fight," said the other.

(i) What made him say that?

(ii) Did the fight continue? If not, why not?

Solution:

(i) When even after a lot of fighting Ranji refused to leave the pool, the other boy said that they would have

to continue their fight.

(ii) No, the fight did not continue as both of them were tired after the fight. After they decided to continue the fight, neither of them took the initiative. Then, the other boy said that they would continue the fight the next day if Ranji dared to come back to the pool.

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Question 1:

What is it that Ranji finds difficult to explain at home?

Solution:

At home, Ranji found it difficult to explain the cuts and bruises that showed on his face, legs and arms. It was difficult to hide the fact that he had been involved in a fight.

Question 2:

Ranji sees his adversary in the bazaar.

(i) What does he wish to do?

(ii) What does he actually do, and why?

Solution:

(i) When Ranji saw his adversary in the bazaar he wanted to avoid him, he wished to turn away and look elsewhere. Then being a child, he wished to throw the lemonade bottle at his enemy.

(ii) He actually stood his ground and scowled at the other boy. He did not throw the lemonade bottle because he did not want to start a fight in the bazaar.

Question3:

Ranji is not at all eager for a second fight. Why does he go back to the pool, then?

Solution:

Ranji left home on the second day rather unwillingly. His body still pained though. Yet he could not refuse a challenge. To gain his respect, he had to defy his enemy. As long as he fought, he had a right to the pool in the forest.

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Question 4:

Who was the better swimmer? How do you know it?

Solution:

Ranji was the better swimmer. When the other boy made fun of him by saying that he would not be able to swim across the pool, Ranji dived straight into the water and surfaced at the other end in a flash. The boy was amazed at how well Ranji had dived, and later, at how he had swum underwater. He said that he did not know how to dive or swim underwater, and asked Ranji to teach him both.

Question 7:

Ranji's superiority over the other boy is obvious in the following:

physical strength, good diving, his being a fighter, sense of humor, swimming under water, making a good point, willingness to help.

Underline the relevant phrases.

Solution:

good diving, swimming under water and willingness to help.

Question 8:

What, according to you, makes the two adversaries turn into good friends in a matter of minutes?

Explain it as you have understood it.

Solution:

The two adversaries admired certain skills in each other, which they themselves lacked. When the other boy saw how well Ranji dived and swam underwater, he forgot about the fight and asked him to teach him these skills. Ranji's willingness to help the other boy made their friendship possible. Noticing Ranji's thin body, the other boy promised him that he would turn him into a wrestler like himself. As a result, in a matter of minutes, the adversaries turned into good friends.