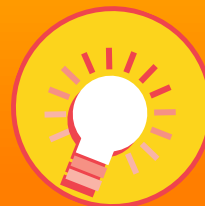


Comprehension Workbook 1

Panchatantra Stories

(The Lazy Priest)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

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Comprehension Workbook 1

Panchatantra Stories

(The Lazy Priest)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

understand • key words • summarise • sequencing • AF2-3 • AF4-5 • AF6-7 • discuss • create

Hindu faith

Matches the requirements of the Literacy Strategy and designed to integrate with the study of world religions. (This material is independent of any specific text book and can be used alongside any publisher's books including our Hindu Faith, Mandir, Hindu art and writing and Hindu holy days books.) Note that the illustrations in this workbook for effect only and do not imply that any of the people shown are lazy.

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Unit 1: Panchatantra Stories: The Lazy Priest

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Panchatantra Stories

Panchatantra are Hindu stories that were written many centuries ago as instructions for young Hindu priests on the proper way to behave and to treat others. The stories usually have some type of moral or lesson. In this story, a Hindu priest forgets about an important Hindu teaching, that it is important to work hard in life.



A long time ago there lived a priest who was both very lazy and very poor. He did not like to work and used to dream of getting rich without making any effort. In order to eat, he would beg for alms. One morning he was given a pot of fresh milk as part of the alms. The priest was very happy with his alms and he went home with his pot of milk. He boiled the milk, drank some of it and put the rest in a pot with some curds, so the milk would turn to thick yogurt. Then he lay down to sleep.

As he slept, the priest began dreaming about becoming rich. He dreamed that if he were rich, he would be happy and all his miseries would go away. Then he dreamed about the pot of milk that was turning to yogurt. In his dream, the priest imagined: "By morning the pot of milk will have turned into thick cream. I can churn the cream to make butter. Then I can heat the butter to make ghee. I can then go to the market and sell the delicious ghee, and make some money. With the money I earn from the ghee, I will buy a hen. The hen will lay eggs. I can sell the eggs to buy more chickens which will lay many more eggs. I can sell those eggs to buy more chickens and soon I will have a large chicken farm."

The priest was growing excited in his sleep, thinking about the money he would earn. He dreamed on. "I can then sell some hens to buy a cow. I will milk the cow and sell the milk to earn money to buy more cows. Soon I will have a dairy farm. Everyone in the village will buy their milk from me. I will become very wealthy and will buy jewels to sell. Rich people will buy jewels from me and I will be so rich that I will be able to marry a beautiful girl from a rich family. Soon I will have a handsome son. If he does any mischief I will be very angry and to teach him a lesson, I will hit him with a big stick." As the priest dreamed this, he picked up a stick that he kept next to his bed in his sleep. Dreaming that he was beating his son, he raised the stick and hit the pot. The pot of milk broke and the priest awoke from his dream with nothing.

Moral: There is no substitute for hard work. Dreams cannot be fulfilled without hard work.



Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

- a Write a sentence in which you found the word 'alms'.
- b From that sentence, write what you think 'alms' means.
- c Write a new sentence using the word 'alms'.
- d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'alms'.
- e Give an example of some types of 'alms'.



Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: mischief	trouble

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Summarising

(the gist of the story)

To summarise means to rewrite the story in a shorter version using as many of our key words from Task 2 as needed.

1 Write a heading for your summary.

2 Now write the main idea in one sentence.
e.g. "This story tells us..."

3 Now add some detail to the main idea by writing more sentences after it.

**Finally,
can you rewrite your
summary to make it better?**

- 1. Look out for errors such as using the same word too often – use alternatives.**
- 2. Make sure you have summarised the author's purpose in your OWN words.**
- 3. Make sure your summary is in a logical order.**
- 4. Is your summary informative AND interesting to others?**

**There is
nothing wrong
with rewriting; even
the best authors
rewrite their
work.**

123
4

Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.

I can then go to the market and sell the delicious ghee, and make some money.

As the priest dreamed this, he picked up a stick that he kept next to his bed in his sleep.

He boiled the milk, drank some of it and put the rest in a pot with some curds, so the milk would turn to thick yogurt.

I will milk the cow and sell the milk to earn money to buy more cows.

I can churn the cream to make butter.

He did not like to work and used to dream of getting rich without making any effort.



Get to the facts

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the facts of the story.

Ghee (clarified butter)



Write a sentence to answer each of these questions:

- (a) How did the priest get his food?
- (b) What did the priest receive as part of his alms?
- (c) What did the priest dream he would do with the cream?
- (d) What did the priest dream he would buy with the money he made from selling the ghee?
- (e) What did the priest dream he would do with the cow?



Whys and wherefores

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the meanings in the story and how it was written.

1 Why did the priest put curds into the pot of milk?

2 In his dream, how does the priest earn the money to buy a cow?

3 In his dream, how does the priest earn the money to buy jewels?

4 In his dream, why is the priest beating his son?



Opinions matter

Answer these questions to give your views and to develop the story.



- 1 In the priest's dream, does it take a lot of effort for the priest to become rich?
- 2 Do you think the priest would have done everything he dreamed about, if he hadn't broken the pot?
- 3 Do you think the priest will carry out the plan in his dream the next time he gets a pot of milk?
- 4 The priest dreams that after he is rich, he will become even richer by selling jewels – do you think it was good that he wanted to become even richer?
- 5 Do you think the moral of the story is a good one? Can you think of any other morals that might be good for this story?



Talking it through

It often helps if a group of people get together and discuss a problem.



Discussion topic: Planning

Do you think the priest's plan for getting rich from a single pot of milk would have worked? Why or why not?.



Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.



A Dream

One day, you are thinking up ways of becoming rich and successful. Soon, you fall asleep and begin to dream about a plan for becoming rich.

(Now continue the story of describing your dream for becoming rich and what happens when you wake up...)

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