

Comprehension Workbook 3

Worship at home



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

CurriculumVisions

VisionMasters

Comprehension Workbook 3

Worship at home



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.)

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Unit 3: Worship at home

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Worship at home

Many Hindu family's have a small shrine at home. Each families' shrine is different, and the methods of worship can also be different. Here is one Hindu boy talking about the shrine in his family home.

"Our shrine is in the living room, which is the largest room in our house. The shrine is in a cabinet in one corner of the room. It is in a cabinet so we can close the doors and let the gods go to sleep at night. We have a small statue of the god Vishnu that has been in my family for many generations. The statue is dressed in colourful gold and red cloth and has a garland of flowers around his neck. Next to this is a picture of Ganesh. Ganesh helps students, and so my sister and I pray to Ganesh to help us with our studies.

In the morning, my mother opens the cabinet and takes the clothes off the statue. Then she puts a tray under the statue and pours milk, oil and water over it. Then she dries Vishnu and dresses him in his clothes again.



When it is time to worship, my mother or father ring a little bell, to wake up the gods. Then we place fresh flowers on the statue and next to the picture of Ganesha. Then we all chant prayers to the gods while we offer them food such as rice, fruit and sweets. Ganesha is very fond of sweets, so we usually try to offer him some traditional sweets. His favourite sweet is modak, which is a sweet dumpling made from rice flour, coconut and cane sugar.

We use a little spoon to offer some water to the gods and then we light a lamp and offer the light to the gods and wave our hands over the light. Sometimes we put dabs of perfume onto the statue and picture.

At the end of the puja, we put a dab of kum kum powder, mixed with water to make a paste, onto the foreheads of Vishnu and Ganesha. Then we put a dab of kum kum on our own foreheads. Finally, we eat some of the offerings of fruit and sweets so we can share in the blessing of the gods.

Throughout the day, we might stop and say a prayer or talk to the gods and offer them incense. We offer the incense by burning it in a little burner. At night, my mother closes the door to the cabinet and says good night to the gods.

I like having a shrine in the house because I can talk to the gods and pray any time I want. When I have an exam or need to study hard, I offer a prayer to Ganesha and that helps me to concentrate. Its also nice to spend time doing puja with my family. I enjoy the smells of the incense and the light of the candle and sharing Ganesha's sweets with him.



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 'shrine'.

b From that sentence, write what you think 'shrine' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'shrine'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'shrine'.

e Make a drawing showing what a simple Hindu 'shrine' would look like.



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: offer	provide

3

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.**



Sequencing

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

At night, my mother closes the door to the cabinet and says good night to the gods.

We use a little spoon to offer some water to the gods and then we light a lamp and offer the light to the gods and wave our hands over the light.

Then we put a dab of kum kum on our own foreheads.

In the morning, my mother opens the cabinet and takes the clothes off the statue.

Then they place fresh flowers on the statue and next to the picture of Ganesh.

Then she dries Vishnu and dresses him in his clothes again.



Get to the facts

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



Write a sentence to answer each of these questions:

- (a) Which gods does the family have statues or pictures of in their shrine?
- (b) How does the family wake up the gods in the morning?
- (c) What things does the family offer to the gods?
- (d) What does the family put on the forehead of the gods?
- (e) What are Ganesha's favourite sweets?



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 does the boy like to have a shrine in the house?

2 What does the family do with the food after they have offered it to the gods?

3 In what room does the family keep their shrine?
Why do you think they chose this room?

4 Why does the family worship Ganesha?



Opinions matter

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

1 How does the family show respect to the gods in their shrine?

2 Why do you think the family worships Vishnu?

3 What benefits do you think the family has from worshipping together at home?

4 How does thinking about Ganesha help the boy and his sister?

5 Do you think having a shrine in the house helps the boy to behave?





Talking it through

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



Discussion topic: Worship at home

Discuss some different ways that people worship at home. You can discuss different religions you have studied. For example, saying prayer before bedtime.



Make a story...

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



Worship at home

Imagine that you have a shrine in your home. Write a story describing what gods are in the shrine and how you use the shrine for daily worship at home. What types of things does your family do during worship? How do you feel when you worship at home?

Worship at home

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