

Girls' High School & College, Prayagraj

Worksheet No. 1

Session (2020-2021)

Class 3 (A-F)

English Literature

Ls.1 Mother Tongue

Instructions

Parents are expected to ensure that the child reads and understands the paragraph from the lesson and follows the explanatory exercises -

Akbar was the greatest Mughal emperor of India. Birbal, a courtier in his 'darbar' or court, became his most trusted friend and advisor due to his wit and wisdom. Today the stories of Akbar and Birbal have become a part of our folklore. Here is one such humorous story.

Akbar would have many visitors at the royal court – poets, artists, priests and foreigners, from different parts of the world. One day, a learned Pandit visited the court of Emperor Akbar. He claimed to know a number of languages. He boasted that he could converse fluently in all these languages.

The Pandit challenged anyone to ask him questions in his mother tongue. He was able to answer each courtier's question in his respective language – Sanskrit, Arabic, Telugu, Punjabi, Bengali. Surprisingly, he even answered a French nobleman's question to him in French!

Everyone was most impressed.

Akbar gave him a bag full of gold and silver coins as a reward.

Before leaving the court, he threw a challenge to the king and his ministers to find out what *his* mother tongue was. He wanted the answer the next morning. "Should you, or your courtiers fail, Your Highness, you will have to admit that my knowledge is superior to that of yours and all others who are present here," he said. Akbar accepted the challenge and made him his honoured guest for the night.

The moment the Pandit turned his back on them, Akbar turned to his courtiers for an answer. Everyone started to think. Some frowned and scratched their heads, some sat and played with their moustaches, while a few got up and started to walk up and down, all in deep thought. No, they gave up after some time, as they could not think of any way to find out what the Pandit's mother tongue could be.

Akbar now turned to Birbal, who too had a knowledge of many languages. "Birbal, our honour is at stake. We hope you will not let us down."

Birbal replied, "Your Majesty, you will get the answer tomorrow morning." He bowed to the king and walked out of the hall.

Explanatory exercises-

The parents should help the child to read and understand the word- meanings & the question-answers related to the paragraph above –

Word – Meanings-

- 1.courtier – king’s advisor, minister
- 2.humorous- funny
- 3.claimed- declared
- 4.converse - speak, chat
- 5.fluently- effortlessly
- 6.respective – belonging or relating separately
- 7.superior – higher (in rank or knowledge)
- 8.honour – good name ,pride
- 9.at stake – at risk

Short questions / answers-

1.Why was Birbal famous?

Ans- Birbal was famous for his wit and wisdom.

2.What did the Pandit claim?

Ans- The Pandit claimed to know a number of languages.

3. Who said these lines?

a.’ Should you , or your courtiers fail, Your Highness, you will have to admit that my knowledge is superior to that of yours and all others who are present here. ‘

Ans- The Pandit said the above lines.

b.’ Birbal our honour is at stake.’

Ans- Emperor Akbar said the above lines.

Note- Now the parents should help the child to do the following exercises from the above paragraph-

Fill ups-

1.Birbal was Akbar’s most trusted ____ and advisor.

2.The Pandit wanted the answer the next _____.

(2)

3. Akbar gave the Pandit a bag full of gold and silver coins as a _____.
4. The stories of Akbar and Birbal have become a part of our _____.
5. The Pandit challenged anyone to ask him questions in his _____.

Short questions-

1. Who was Akbar?
2. Why did Akbar turn to Birbal?
3. What challenge did the Pandit make?

(3)

THE END