

Chapter – 5

Quality

Working with the Text

1. What was the author's opinion about Mr. Gessler as a bootmaker?

Answer:

The author felt that Mr. Gessler was a remarkable bootmaker whose boots not only looked beautiful but also lasted terribly long. He was an honest and hardworking man who loved his work and took it seriously. The author had a lot of respect for his craft and grew up admiring the perfection of his boots.

2. Why did the author visit the shop so infrequently?

Answer:

At first the author didn't visit the shop frequently because every pair of Mr. Gessler's boots lasted for long. He simply had no need to go to him for a new pair every now and then. Later, the author moved out of London and did not come back for about fifteen years, visiting the boot shop only upon his return to order many pairs of boots at once.

3. What was the effect on Mr. Gessler of the author's remark about a certain pair of boots?

Answer:

Mr. Gessler was upset on the author's remark about a certain pair of boots and being a self-respecting craftsman, offered to replace the boots for a new pair without any charges.

4. What was Mr. Gessler's complaint against "big firms"?

Answer:



Mr. Gessler complained that the big firms had no self-respect. They sold cheap pairs of boots that pinched the toe and did not feel ashamed of cheating the customer. He was upset that the big firms were taking away his customers because they could advertise better even if their quality was not up to the mark.

5. Why did the author order so many pairs of boots? Did he really need them?

Answer:

The author ordered so many pairs of boots because he felt bad for Mr. Gessler. He did not really need them but he ordered them anyway to help Mr. Gessler make a decent living with his trade which he was losing slowly to big firm.

Working with Language

1. Study the following phrases and their meanings. Use them appropriately to complete the sentences that follow.

- (i) After a very long spell of heat, the weather is _____ at last.
- (ii) We have no right to _____ people who do small jobs.
- (iii) Nitin has always _____ his uncle, who is a self-made man.
- (iv) The police are _____ the matter thoroughly.
- (v) If you want to go out, I will _____ the children for you.
- (vi) I promise to _____ On your brother when I visit Lucknow next.
- (vii) _____ when you are crossing the main road.

Answer:

- (i) After a very long spell of heat, the weather is looking up at last.
- (ii) We have no right to look down upon people who do small jobs.
- (iii) Nitin has always looked up to his uncle, who is a self-made man.
- (iv) The police are looking into The matter thoroughly.



- (v) If you want to go out, I will look after the children for you.
- (vi) I promise to look in On your brother when I visit Lucknow next.
- (vii) Look out when you are crossing the main road.

2. Read the following sets of words loudly and clearly

Cot – coat

Cost – coast

Tossed – toast

Got – goat

Rot – rote

Blot – bloat

Knot – note

Answer:

Students do it yourself.

3. Each of the following words contains the sound ‘sh’ (as in shine) in the beginning or in the middle or at the end. First speak out all the words clearly. Then arrange the words in three groups

Sheep	trash	marsh	fashion
anxious	shriek	shore	fish



portion	ashes	sure	nation
shoe	pushing	polish	moustache

Answer:

Initial	Medial	Final
• Sheep • Shriek • Shore • Sure • Shoe	• Fashion • Anxious • Portion • Ashes • Nation • Pushing	• Trash • Marsh • Fish • Polish • Moustache

4. In each of the following words 'ch' represents the same consonant sound this sound initially. Those on the right have it finally. Speak each word clearly.

Choose – bench

Child – march

Cheese – peach

Chair – wretch

Charming – research

Underline the letters representing this sound in each of the following words.

(i) feature (iv) reaching (vii) riches

(ii) archery (v) nature (viii) batch

(iii) picture (vi) matches (ix) church

Answer:

(i) feature (iv) reaching (vii) riches

(ii) archery (v) nature (viii) bach

(iii) picture (vi) maches (ix) church

Speaking

1. Do you think Mr. Gessler was a failure as a bootmaker or as a competitive businessman?

Answer:

I think Mr. Gessler was a failure as a competitive business man. As an owner of a small handmade boots shop, he was not in a position to compete with big brands that mass produce cheap machine made boots and spend a large sum of money on advertising.



2. What is the significance of the title? To whom or what does it refer?

Answer:

The title of the story 'Quality' is significant in reference to the central character, Mr Gessler's, commitment to perfection. Mr Gessler was a perfectionist in his own ways: he used the best leather that lasted long, would labour for long hours and wouldn't let anybody else touch the boots to maintain the upmost standard of perfection in style and quality.

3. ● Notice the way Mr. Gessler speaks English. His English is influenced by his mother tongue. He speaks English with an accent.

● When Mr. Gessler speaks, p, t, k, sound like b, d, g. Can you say these words as Mr. Gessler would say them?

It comes and never stops. Does it bother me? Not at all. Ask my brother, please.

Answer:

In the tone of Mr. Gessler, "Id come and never stops. Does id bother me? Nod ad all. Ask my rudder, please".

No, it does not bother me at all.

4. Speak to five adults in your neighbourhood. Ask them the following questions (in any language they are comfortable in). Then come back and share your findings with the class.

(i) Do they buy their provisions packed in plastic packets at a big store, or loose, from a smaller store near their house?

(ii) Where do they buy their footwear? Do they buy branded footwear, or footwear made locally? What reasons do they have for their preference?

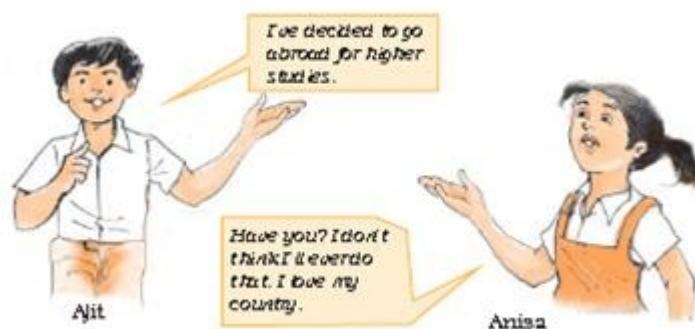


(iii) Do they buy ready-made clothes, or buy cloth and get their clothes stitched by a tailor? Which do they think is better?

Answer:

- (i) All five of them buy their provisions in plastic packets at a big store since they all work five days a week and go to the mall to buy provisions once a month on a Saturday or a Sunday.
- (ii) They buy usually branded footwear because it is more durable but they sometimes buy handmade footwear if it is ethnic and pretty.
- (iii) They buy both ready-made clothes as well as buy cloth and get their clothes stitched by a tailor. I thinking buying ready-made clothes is better because one can wear it the same day as they buy and do not have to wait to get them stitched to fit.

5. Look at the picture.



Let pairs of students talk to each other about leaving the country. One student repeats Ajit's statement. The other gives a reason for not agreeing with Ajit. The sentence openings given below should be used.

- If I leave this country, I'll miss _____.
- There are some things which you can get only here, for example _____.
- There are some special days I'll miss, particularly _____.
- Most of all I'll miss _____ because _____.
- I think it's impossible for me to leave my country because _____.

- How can you leave your own country except when _____?
- Depends on one's intention. I can't leave for good because _____.
- Maybe for a couple of years _____.

Answer:

- If I leave this country, I'll miss the food.
- There are some things which you can get only here, for example pickled lemons.
- There are some special days I'll miss, particularly Holi.
- Most of all I'll miss my home because I grew up there.
- I think it's impossible for me to leave my country because I cannot live without my family.
- How can you leave your own country except when there is threat to one's life?
- Depends on one's intention. I can't leave for good because I belong here.
- Maybe for a couple of years I will go abroad to study and then come back here to work.

Writing

1. Based on the following points write a story :

- Your aunt has gone to her mother's house.
- Your uncle does his cooking.
- He is absent-minded.
- He puts vegetables on the stove.
- He begins to clean his bicycle outside.
- The neighbour calls out saying something is burning.
- Your uncle rushes to the kitchen.
- To save vegetables, he puts some oil on them.
- Unfortunately, it's machine oil, not cooking oil.



- What do you think happens to the vegetables?

Answer:

My aunt is an adorable person. She is short & plump and smiles all the time. She was a teacher but gave up teaching in school because standing for too long would make her back hurt. Now she teaches neighbourhood kids at home after school and does all the cooking and cleaning for my uncle who is an absent minded Mathematics professor at the University. One day, my aunt had gone to her mother's place for a short visit when my uncle decided to make lunch for himself. He put on some chopped vegetables on the stove and went out to clean his bicycle in the yard in the meanwhile. It was only when the neighbour, passing by his yard, shouted to him that something was burning that he remembered the vegetables. He rushed in and panicked observing the smoke rising from the pan. He quickly poured some oil into the pan to salvage what was left of the vegetables. Unfortunately, it was machine oil for his bicycle, and not cooking oil. That afternoon my uncle had only bread for lunch.

Trees - Working with the Poem

1. What are the games or human activities which use trees, or in which trees also 'participate'?

Answer:

The human activities that include trees are making tree houses, putting on swings, children playing 'Hide and Seek' around them and people enjoying tea parties in the cool summer shade.

2.

- (A) "Trees are to make no shade in winter." What does this mean?
(Contrast this line with the line immediately before it.)

Answer:



“Tress are to make no shade in winter” mean that people do not need the shade of trees in winters and enjoy basking in the sun since it is cold and damp. The poet here contrasts summer when the shade of the tress is a welcome relief from the hot sun to winters when the shade is dispensable.

(B) “Trees are for apples to grow on, or pears.” Do you agree that one purpose of a tree is to have fruit on it? Or do you think this line is humorous?

Answer:

No, bearing fruits is one of the many purposes of a tree. Trees give shade, shelter birds, purify air, prevent soil erosion, cause rain etc. This line is not humorous since humans are highly dependent on trees for a comfortable living.

3. With the help of your partner, try to rewrite some lines in the poem, or add new ones of your own as in the following examples.
Trees are for birds to build nests in.
Trees are for people to sit under.

Now try to compose a similar poem about water, or air.

Answer:

- Trees are for birds to build nests in.
- Trees are for people to sit under.
- Trees are for holding soil together
- Trees are for bringing rain clouds
- Now the similar poem is
- Water is to drink
- Water is to clean
- Water is for fishes to swim
- Water is to make paper boats float.

