

## Chapter 2.2: Three Questions

### WARMING UP [PAGES 50 - 51]

#### Warming Up | Q 1 | Page 50

Expressions in English classified under different heads. Pair up with your partner, guess, and match the columns. (Use a dictionary.)

A		B
(1) Principle	(a)	a generally accepted, evident, truth
(2) Quotation	(b)	short striking messages for the public
(3) Moral	(c)	a short witty remark stating the truth
(4) Idioms	(d)	a popular, well-known truth
(5) Slogans	(e)	established expressions which do not convey exactly the same as individual words
(6) One-liners	(f)	words cited from a speech/text of a famous person
(7) Maxims	(g)	a lesson derived from a story or experience
(8) Proverb	(h)	a rule to govern one's behaviour

### SOLUTION

A	B
(1) Principle	(h) a rule to govern one's behavior
(2) Quotation	(f) word cited from a speech/text of a famous person
(3) Moral	(g) a lesson derived from a story or experience
(4) Idioms	(e) established expressions which do not convey exactly the same meaning as the individual words
(5) Slogans	(b) short striking messages for the public
(6) One-liner	(c) a short witty remark stating the truth
(7) Maxims	(d) a popular, well-known truth
(8) Proverb	(a) a generally accepted, evident truth



### Warming Up | Q 2.1 | Page 50

Read the polite request/suggestion and complete the gaps in the responses. Make sure they are polite and not repeated.

Could you lend me your dictionary?	Accept (1) _____ Refuse (2) _____
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### SOLUTION

**Accept (1)** Yes, here it is

**Refuse (2)** I'm sorry, I can't. I am using it now.

### Warming Up | Q 2.2 | Page 50

Read the polite request/suggestion and complete the gaps in the responses. Make sure they are polite and not repeated.

Can you please pass the salad?	Accept (1) _____ Refuse (2) _____
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### SOLUTION

**Accept (1)** Sure!

**Accept (2)** Here you are,

### Warming Up | Q 2.3 | Page 51

Read the polite request/suggestion and complete the gaps in the responses. Make sure they are polite and not repeated.

May I know the exact time?	Accept (1) _____ Refuse (2) _____
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### SOLUTION

**Accept (1)** Right now it is exactly ten to six.

**Accept (2)** It's 10 minutes past 5.

### Warming Up | Q 2.4 | Page 51

Read the polite request/suggestion and complete the gaps in the responses. Make sure they are polite and not repeated.

Shall we plan a class-picnic?	Agree (1) _____ Refuse (2) _____
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### SOLUTION

**Accept (1)** Yes, let's!

**Refuse (2) Not now:** I'm going to my native place or a month.



### Warming Up | Q 2.5 | Page 51

Read the polite request/suggestion and complete the gaps in the responses. Make sure they are polite and not repeated.

Do you need help?	Accept (1) _____ Refuse (2) _____
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#### SOLUTION

**Accept (1)** Yes, please.

**Refuse (2)** It's all right, thank you. I can manage.

### Warming Up | Q 2.6 | Page 51

Read the polite request/suggestion and complete the gaps in the responses. Make sure they are polite and not repeated.

Is it alright if I use your laptop?	Accept (1) _____ Refuse (2) _____
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#### SOLUTION

**Accept (1)** Yes, I can spare it for an hour.

**Refuse (2)** Well... could you wait some time? have some things I need to complete.

### Warming Up | Q 3 | Page 51

Let's see if you remember a nursery rhyme you must have sung, as a kid :

#### Fill in the missing words :

'The time to be happy is \_\_\_\_\_  
The \_\_\_\_\_ to be happy is here. And the way to be  
\_\_\_\_\_ is to \_\_\_\_\_ someone happy And have a little  
\_\_\_\_\_ right here !'  
(happy, make, heaven, now, place)  
(You can listen to this song on the internet.)

#### SOLUTION

The time to be happy is now.

The place to be happy is here. And the way to be happy is to make someone happy.  
And have a little heaven right here!

### ENGLISH WORKSHOP [PAGES 55 - 60]

#### English Workshop | Q 1. (a) | Page 55

Read the story and answer whether the following statement is true or false.

The people convinced the King to make a proclamation.

1. True
2. False

### **SOLUTION**

The people convinced the King to make a proclamation - False.

### **English Workshop | Q 1. (b) | Page 55**

**Read the story and answer whether the following statement is true or false.**

The hermit spoke usually to everyone.

1. True
2. False

### **SOLUTION**

The hermit spoke usually to everyone - False.

### **English Workshop | Q 1. (c) | Page 55**

**Read the story and answer whether the following statement is true or false.**

The King received all answers from the hermit.

1. True
2. False

### **SOLUTION**

The King received all answers from the hermit - True.

### **English Workshop | Q 1. (d) | Page 55**

**Read the story and answer whether the following statement is true or false.**

The person the King saved and helped was his enemy.

1. True
2. False

### **SOLUTION**

The person the King saved and helped was his enemy - True.

### **English Workshop | Q 1. (e) | Page 55**

**Read the story and answer whether the following statement is true or false.**

To do good to people is the purpose of our life.

1. True
2. False

### **SOLUTION**

To do good to people is the purpose of our life - True.

### **English Workshop | Q 2 | Page 56**

**Match the titles with the contents of the proper paragraph.**



1.	Once a certain king . . . important to do.	a	King gains a friend.
2.	Many learned people . . . time for everything.	b	The wounded stranger.
3.	Equally varied . . . gave the reward to none.	c	King helps the hermit.
4.	When the King arrived, . . . my first attention.	d	The stranger begs for pardon.
5.	The hermit listened . . . continued to dig.	e	The hermit points out answers.
6.	The King turned round . . . gave it to him.	f	Stranger's vicious intention.
7.	Meanwhile the sun . . . said the King.	g	Questions remain unanswered.
8.	"You do not know . . . all my life.	h	The king received various answers.
9.	The King was very glad . . . the day before.	i	King's announcement.
10.	"Do you not see?" . . . sent into this life!"	j	The King meets the hermit.

### SOLUTION

1.	Once a certain king . . . important to do.	i	King's announcement.
2.	Many learned people . . . time for everything.	h	The king received various answers.
3.	Equally varied . . . gave the reward to none.	g	Questions remain unanswered.
4.	When the King arrived, . . . my first attention.	j	The King meets the hermit.
5.	The hermit listened . . . continued to dig.	c	King helps the hermit.
6.	The King turned round . . . gave it to him.	b	The wounded stranger.
7.	Meanwhile the sun . . . said the King.	d	The stranger begs for pardon.
8.	"You do not know . . . all my life.	f	Stranger's vicious intention.
9.	The King was very glad . . . the day before.	a	King gains a friend.
10.	"Do you not see?" . . . sent into this life!"	e	The hermit points out answers.



### English Workshop | Q 3 | Page 56

The character traits of the king and hermit are mixed up. Sort them out in the right box.

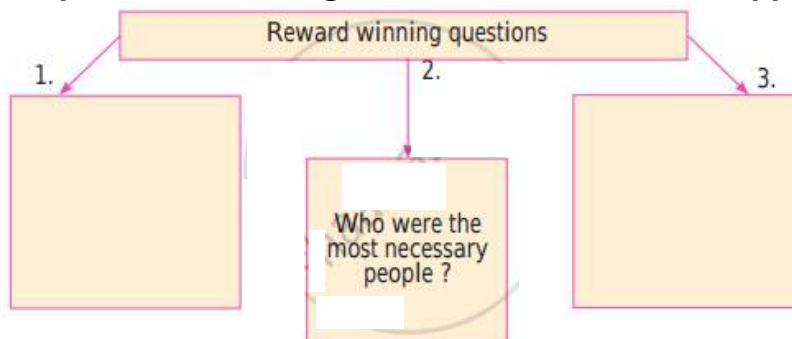
feeble	helpful	enlightened
impatient	eager to succeed	wise
patient	convincing	
<b>KING</b>		<b>HERMIT</b>
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

### SOLUTION

KING	HERMIT
impatient	feeble
eager to succeed	enlightened
helpful	patient
	convincing
	wise

### English Workshop | Q 4. (A) | Page 57

Complete the Tree diagram associated with the happenings in the story.



### SOLUTION

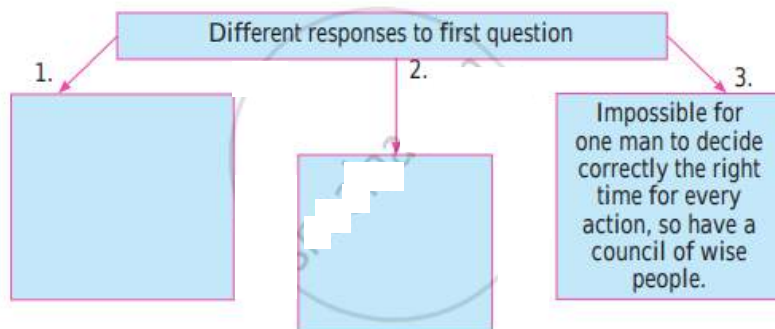
Reward Winning questions



1. What was the right time for every action?
2. Who were the most necessary people?
3. Ans What was the most important thing to do?

### English Workshop | Q 4. (B) | Page 57

Complete the Tree diagram associated with the happenings in the story.



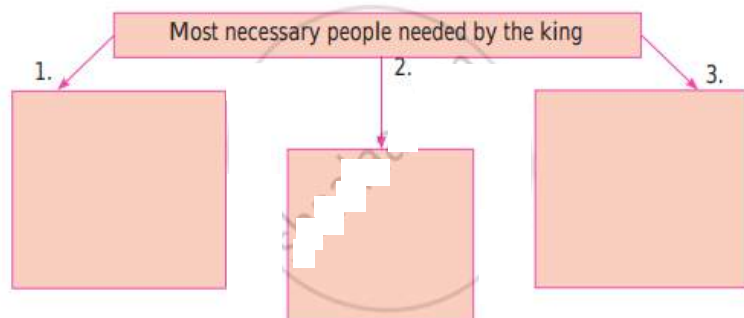
### SOLUTION

#### Different responses to the first question

1. Draw up in advance a table of days, months and years and Live strictly by it.
2. One should always attend to all that is going on and then do what is most essential
3. Impossible for one man to decide correctly the right time for every action, so have a council of wise people.

### English Workshop | Q 4. (c) | Page 57

Complete the Tree diagram associated with the happenings in the story.



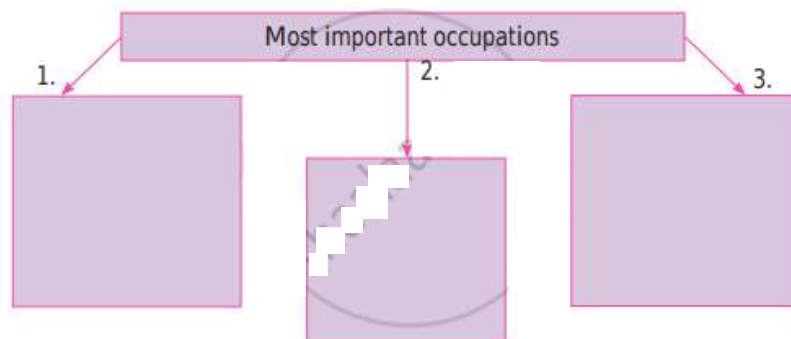
### SOLUTION

#### Most necessary people needed by the king.

1. councillors
2. priests
3. doctors

### English Workshop | Q 4. (D) | Page 57

Complete the Tree diagram associated with the happenings in the story.



### SOLUTION

#### Most important occupations

- 1 science
- 2 skill in warfare
- 3 religious worship

#### English Workshop | Q 5. (a) | Page 58

**Write down in your notebook two points for the following. How do you know?**  
the learned advisers who came to the court confused the king.

### SOLUTION

None of the learned advisers could give satisfactory answers to the king's three questions as all of them had conflicting answers as they were not sure.

#### English Workshop | Q 5. (b) | Page 58

**Write down in your notebook two points for the following. How do you know?**  
the king was humble.

### SOLUTION

We come to know that the king was humbled by the fact that he did not mind doing ordinary work such as digging. He did not use his authority as king to force the hermit to answer his questions. Instead, he requested the hermit politely and was ready to go away if the hermit refused to answer his questions.

#### English Workshop | Q 5. (c) | Page 58

**Write down in your notebook two points for the following. How do you know?**  
the king's enemy was repentant

### SOLUTION

The king's enemy tells him that since the king had saved his life if he (the king) wished it, he would serve him all his life. This shows that he was repentant.

#### English Workshop | Q 5. (d) | Page 58

**Write down in your notebook two points for the following. How do you know?**





the hermit was truly wise.

### **SOLUTION**

I think the hermit somehow knew everything before the king arrived. He must have known about the plan of the king's enemy and so was able to deal with it purposefully when the king arrived. News about the ambush must definitely have come to his ears. Otherwise, he would not have been able to answer the king's questions in such a real and practical way. He was a hermit, a wise man, and nothing of importance would have escaped his consideration.

### **English Workshop | Q 6. (a) | Page 58**

**Choose the correct answer and fill in the blank.**

“Varied” (Paragraph-3) means \_\_\_\_\_.

1. **different**
2. unnecessary
3. unequal
4. unimportant

### **SOLUTION**

“Varied” (Paragraph-3) means **different**.

### **English Workshop | Q 6. (b) | Page 58**

**Choose the correct answer and fill in the blank.**

Many learned people came to the court and gave \_\_\_\_\_.

1. The same answers
2. correct answers
3. **different answers**
4. wrong answers

### **SOLUTION**

Many learned people came to the court and gave **different answers**.

### **English Workshop | Q 6. (c) | Page 58**

**Choose the correct answer and fill in the blank.**

The synonym of ‘convinced’ is \_\_\_\_\_.

1. **persuaded**
2. happy
3. unhappy
4. angry

### **SOLUTION**

The synonym of ‘convinced’ is **persuaded**.

### **English Workshop | Q 6. (d) | Page 58**

**Choose the correct answer and fill in the blank.**

The King wanted to know the \_\_\_\_\_ time to begin everything.



1. **right**
2. exact
3. proper
4. good

### **SOLUTION**

The King wanted to know the **right** time to begin everything.

### **English Workshop | Q 6. (e) | Page 58**

**Choose the correct answer and fill in the blank.**

“I pray you to answer my question.” Here ‘pray’ means \_\_\_\_\_.

1. plead to God
2. **request**
3. order
4. suggest

### **SOLUTION**

“I pray you to answer my question.” Here ‘pray’ means **request**.

### **English Workshop | Q 6. (f) | Page 58**

**Choose the correct answer and fill in the blank.**

Choose an adverb that collocates with “breathed \_\_\_\_\_”.

1. hurriedly
2. **heavily**
3. hardly
4. calmly

### **SOLUTION**

Choose an adverb that collocates with “breathed **heavily**”.

### **English Workshop | Q 7. (a) | Page 58**

**Answer the following question.**

The learned people were sometimes divided in their opinions, different persons giving quite different answers; at other times, none of them gave an answer. They all suggested ways to look for an answer. Point out one example of each.

### **SOLUTION**

To know the right time for every action: Draw up in advance a table of days. months and years and live strictly according to it. The people the king most needed: Councillors. The most important occupation: Science.

### **English Workshop | Q 7. (b) | Page 58**

**Answer the following question.**

Though the hermit did not say anything to the king for some time, he did not ignore the king or treat him rudely in any way. Do you agree? What evidence of his politeness can you point out? What shows that he listened and responded to the king’s words?



### **SOLUTION**

I agree that though the hermit did not say anything to the king for some time, he did not ignore the king or treat him rudely in any way. His politeness is evident by the fact that he greeted the king. By spitting on his hand before he resumed digging, the hermit indicated that the work he was doing was more important and that the king would have to wait.

### **English Workshop | Q 7. (c) | Page 58**

#### **Answer the following question.**

The hermit 'spoke only to common people'; so the king 'put on simple clothes'. Do you think the king hoped to be mistaken for a common man or was he just showing that he was a humble person? What shows that the hermit knew him to be the king?

### **SOLUTION**

The king put on simple clothes because he did not want the hermit to refuse to answer his questions. The king was aware that the hermit was wise and would know that he was the king and not mistake him for a common person. Out of humility and respect, the king dressed up as a commoner. We know that the hermit knew that he was the king, by the way, he returned the king's greeting.

### **English Workshop | Q 7. (d) | Page 58**

#### **Answer the following question.**

Did the king behave as an ordinary person, rather than as a ruler, at the hermit's hut? What shows it? Did he also act as a good, kind person? When did he do so?

### **SOLUTION**

Like any other ordinary person, the king tended to the wounded man. He even washed the wound and bandaged it many times. When required, he brought and gave the man water to drink. The king went out of his way to be good and kind to the man. All this happened after the wounded man came running, wounded, to the hermit's hut.

### **English Workshop | Q 7. (e) | Page 58**

#### **Answer the following question.**

Do you think the hermit knew, beforehand, not only about the king's arrival but about the ambush by his enemy? Think a little about this and say what you really feel.

### **SOLUTION**

I think the hermit somehow knew everything before the king arrived. He must have known about the plan of the king's enemy and so was able to deal with it purposefully when the king arrived. News about the ambush must definitely have come to his ears. Otherwise, he would not have been able to answer the king's questions in such a real and practical way. He was a hermit, a wise man, and nothing of importance would have escaped his consideration.



### English Workshop | Q 8 | Page 59

Consider this list of the different things that happened and rearrange them in the order of time, that is, what happened first, what happened next, and so on. Read the related paragraph again if you are uncertain.

- (a) The bearded man resolved to kill the king.
- (b) The king went alone to see the hermit.
- (c) The king executed the bearded man's brother.
- (d) The king spent the night at the hermit's hut.
- (e) The bearded man laid an ambush to kill the king.
- (f) The king's bodyguards recognised and wounded the bearded man.
- (g) The bearded man came out of the ambush.

### SOLUTION

1. The king went alone to see the hermit.
2. The king spent the night at the hermit's hut.
3. The king executed the bearded man's brother.
4. The bearded man resolved to kill the king.
5. The bearded man laid an ambush to kill the king.
6. The king's bodyguards recognised and wounded the bearded man.
7. The bearded man came out of the ambush.

### English Workshop | Q 9 | Page 59

Read the story in your own language, summarize the following aspects of the story in 4 to 5 lines each in your own language. Write it in your notebook.

- (a) King's problem : \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) Attempts made to find a solution : \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) Climax : \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) Solution : \_\_\_\_\_
- (e) Message : \_\_\_\_\_

### SOLUTION

**King's problem:** The king felt that if he knew the right time to begin anything, the right people to listen to or avoid, and the right occupation to take up, he would be able to rule his kingdom well.

#### Attempts made to find a solution :

The king made a proclamation of rewarding handsomely those who could answer his questions. Unsatisfied by the answers he received, he visited a renowned wise hermit convinced he would get his answers from him.

#### Climax:

The king finally goes out to meet the hermit one last time after making peace with his enemy who had come there with the intention of killing him. This is when the hermit



speaks to the king and points out that the king already had the answers to his questions. He proceeds to explain what he means thereafter.

### **Solution :**

The king got his answers through all that he experienced throughout the day with the hermit. The actions and wisdom of the hermit gave the answers to the king's questions. The most important time is 'now', the most important person is the one you are with at that point in time and doing good for the person who is with you in the most important work, were the answers that he found with the hermit's help.

### **Message :**

You have been sent into this world to do good deeds so do all the good you can to everyone around you. Love others as you would expect others to love you because love is the base of human existence.

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, to all the people you can, as long as you can."

### **English Workshop | Q 10. (A) (1) | Page 59**

**The following compound words from the story are spelled in a jumbled order. Rearrange the letters to make them meaningful.**

a r e e t u k d n

### **SOLUTION**

#### **Undertake**

### **English Workshop | Q 10. (A) (2) | Page 59**

**The following compound words from the story are spelled in a jumbled order. Rearrange the letters to make them meaningful.**

y o n n a e

### **SOLUTION**

#### **Anyone**

### **English Workshop | Q 10. (A) (3) | Page 59**

**The following compound words from the story are spelled in a jumbled order. Rearrange the letters to make them meaningful.**

s t a p s i e m

### **SOLUTION**

#### **Time pass**

### **English Workshop | Q 10. (A) (4) | Page 59**

**The following compound words from the story are spelled in a jumbled order. Rearrange the letters to make them meaningful.**

d u b g y r o a d



### **SOLUTION**

#### **Bodyguard**

**English Workshop | Q 10. (A) (5) | Page 59**

The following compound words from the story are spelled in a jumbled order.

Rearrange the letters to make them meaningful.

f r a w e r a

### **SOLUTION**

#### **Warfare**

**English Workshop | Q 10. (A) (6) | Page 59**

The following compound words from the story are spelled in a jumbled order.

Rearrange the letters to make them meaningful.

h e e d a r f o n b

### **SOLUTION**

#### **Before hand**

**English Workshop | Q 10. (A) (7) | Page 59**

The following compound words from the story are spelled in a jumbled order.

Rearrange the letters to make them meaningful.

h e i l n e w a m

### **SOLUTION**

#### **Mean while**

**English Workshop | Q 10. (A) (8) | Page 59**

The following compound words from the story are spelled in a jumbled order.

Rearrange the letters to make them meaningful.

n e v h i g r e t y

### **SOLUTION**

#### **Everything**

**English Workshop | Q 10. (B) (1) | Page 59**

From the story, find the collocation of the following.

\_\_\_\_\_ important.

### **SOLUTION**

**must** important.

**English Workshop | Q 10. (B) (2) | Page 59**

From the story, find the collocation of the following.

\_\_\_\_\_ intently.



### SOLUTION

joying intently.

**English Workshop | Q 10. (B) (3) | Page 59**

From the story, find the collocation of the following.  
frail and \_\_\_\_\_.

### SOLUTION

frail and weak.

**English Workshop | Q 10. (B) (4) | Page 59**

From the story, find the collocation of the following.  
widely \_\_\_\_\_.

### SOLUTION

widely Renowned.

**English Workshop | Q 10. (B) (5) | Page 59**

From the story, find the collocation of the following.  
\_\_\_\_\_ time.

### SOLUTION

right time

**English Workshop | Q 10. (B) (6) | Page 59**

From the story, find the collocation of the following.  
\_\_\_\_\_ blood.

### SOLUTION

warm blood.

**English Workshop | Q 10. (B) (7) | Page 59**

From the story, find the collocation of the following.  
simple \_\_\_\_\_.

### SOLUTION

simple clothes.

**English Workshop | Q 10. (B) (8) | Page 59**

From the story, find the collocation of the following.  
\_\_\_\_\_ closed.

### SOLUTION

eyes closed.

**English Workshop | Q 10. (B) (9) | Page 59**

From the story, find the collocation of the following.

\_\_\_\_\_ asleep.

**SOLUTION**

fell asleep.

**English Workshop | Q 10. (B) (10) | Page 59**

From the story, find the collocation of the following.

\_\_\_\_\_ peace.

**SOLUTION**

melt peace.

**English Workshop | Q 11.1 | Page 59**

Say whether the Verbs underlined in the sentence is finite (limited by the number or person of the subject) or non-finite (not governed by the subject, number, or person).

He decides to go to a hermit.

**SOLUTION**

Finite, non-finite.

**English Workshop | Q 11.2 | Page 60**

Say whether the Verbs underlined in the sentence is finite (limited by the number or person of the subject) or non-finite (not governed by the subject, number, or person).

I have come to you, wise hermit.

**SOLUTION**

Finite.

**English Workshop | Q 11.3 | Page 60**

Say whether the Verbs underlined in the sentence is finite (limited by the number or person of the subject) or non-finite (not governed by the subject, number, or person).

He gave the reward to none.

**SOLUTION**

Finite.

**English Workshop | Q 11.4 | Page 60**

Say whether the Verbs underlined in the sentence is finite (limited by the number or person of the subject) or non-finite (not governed by the subject, number, or person).

The hermit was digging the ground.



### **SOLUTION**

#### **Non-finite.**

#### **English Workshop | Q 11.5 | Page 60**

Say whether the Verbs underlined in the sentence is finite (limited by the number or person of the subject) or non-finite (not governed by the subject, number, or person).

I pray for you to answer my questions.

### **SOLUTION**

#### **Non-finite.**

#### **English Workshop | Q 11.6 | Page 60**

Say whether the Verbs underlined in the sentence is finite (limited by the number or person of the subject) or non-finite (not governed by the subject, number, or person).

“Forgive me.”

### **SOLUTION**

#### **Finite.**

#### **English Workshop | Q 11.7 | Page 60**

Say whether the Verbs underlined in the sentence is finite (limited by the number or person of the subject) or non-finite (not governed by the subject, number, or person).

The sun began to sink.

### **SOLUTION**

#### **Non-finite.**

#### **English Workshop | Q 12 | Page 60**

Narrate an experience of your own that has helped you to realise that ‘Patience is bitter, but its fruit is sweet.’ Write it in your notebook, in about 20 lines.

### **SOLUTION**

Patience is bitter, but its fruit is sweet! It was Rousseau, a philosopher from Geneva. Switzerland who said, Patience is bitter. but its true Is sweet.

I realized the truth of this statement when I was in Std. X. It was an important year for me. My school was far from my home. So were my classes. I had to spend a lot of time walking in order to reach either school or classes. This meant a lot of waste of precious time that I could use very well for study.

I was an only child and my father had passed away four years ago. My mother would tell me, Have patience. Things will work out. But I really could not understand her. The rainy months passed by with me trudging anxiously to school or to the



classes. If I was lucky, someone would give me a lift. My studies were suffering. I was lagging behind in keeping up with homework and revision.

Then one day the postman delivered a letter Mother read it in excitement.

"You know what? There is good news. Your uncle from the US is coming to visit us. He is your dad's brother. The last time he saw you was when you were a baby

"Oh. I said, wondering how that could be good for us. On the contrary, I would have to take my uncle visiting and that would take up more of the time I required for the earnest study.

The day arrived. My uncle came over. A jolly fellow. full of stories and fun and small delightful gifts. In the afternoon I took his leave saying I had to go to school and then classes.

'How are you going to? he asked.

I put my head down and said, 'Walking

"Come, I'll take you by autorickshaw, he said. And so we went.

"It's quite a distance, my uncle commented.

I nodded silently

In the evening when I came home, I could not believe my eyes. There, resting against the wall was the most beautiful bicycle I had ever seen.

Mother and my uncle came out to greet me

This is yours, boy. No more walking long distances for you!

Tears welled up in my eyes and I ran and hugged my uncle.

Thank you so much,' I said. Indeed, my patience had been rewarded with sweet fruit!

### English Workshop | Q 13 | Page 60

After reading this story, develop a dialogue with 2 of your classmates about the characters in the story. Besides the tactful introduction to the conversation and write 8 to 10 sets of dialogues.

### SOLUTION

**Myself:** Hey, did you like the story, Three Questions"?

**Student 1:** Yes. I was particularly impressed with the king. He was very humble. He was eager to know more about life.

**Myself:** Yes, he did not imagine that he knew everything just because he was king.

**Student 2:** I liked the hermit. He was quite a cool character.

**Myself:** He was very wise. He knew beforehand that the king would come to him. He also knew the solution to the king's problem. even before the incidents occurred.

**Student 1:** Yes. And the surprising thing is that the king indirectly got the answers to his questions from a long-forgotten enemy.

**Myself:** The story is very cleverly written, woven around these three characters. One seeks answers to questions. One knows the answers to the questions. One is the medium through which the answers are given.

**Student 2:** If the king's bodyguards had not attacked the man, he would not have come to the hermit's hut and met the king

**Myself:** If the man had not been wounded and the king had not bound his wounds and



saved his life, the man would not have forgiven him for a cruel wrong doing in the past.

**Student 1:** Yes, Leo Tolstoy wanted to give us the message of forgiveness and doing well even to our enemies. Through the three characters in the story and their interactions, the writer brought out his message very well.

**Myself:** Indeed, a well-written story, and one from which we learn such a lot!

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**From the library or Internet, read the story 'How much land does a man need?' by Leo Tolstoy and write a review of the same, covering the following points.**

- Background of the story
- Characters
- Plot/Theme
- Climax
- Message/Moral

If necessary, the students can read the same story two or three times to understand all the points.

### **SOLUTION**

#### **Background of the story:**

Leo Tolstoy wrote "How much land does a man need?" against the backdrop of massive changes in the 19th century in Russia. Until the emancipation of Russian serfs by Czar Alexander II, the peasants were virtual slaves of landowners and aristocrats, Tolstoy wrote this story after the Serfs had already got their freedom for 25 years. They now had rights and their own land. There was progress among the peasants but Tolstoy was apprehensive about whether the peasants' progress brought changes they would regret. This story brings a harsh warning of unchecked materialism which is clearly established through the fate of Pahom, the protagonist of the story, and his sad, untimely death.

**Characters** - Pahom (the protagonist), his wife, his sister-in-law, the Bashkirs, and the Devil.

**Plot/Theme** - Pehom, a Russian peasant, overhears his wife and her sister having an argument over whether it is better to live in the country or the city. This lands Pahom to make the dangerous declaration that if he had just enough land, he would not even fear the Devil. The Devil hears this boast and decides to put this to the test and exploits the greed of Pahom. The story relates to Pahom's success in buying land, yet also his dissatisfaction.



**Climax** - Pahom comes to know about the Bashkir region where very fertile land can be purchased very cheaply. The Bashkirs agree to sell him for 1000 roubles, as much land as he can pace off in a day as long as he returns before the end of the day to the starting point. Pahom walks far, trying to get as much as land as possible, but when he sees more fertile land ahead of him, greed overtakes his senses and he keeps walking further and further away without realizing it would be difficult for him to return to the starting point. In his rush to get back to the starting point. In his rush to get back to the starting point which he succeeds in, he collapses and dies. When he dies the Baskhins ask Pahoms servant to bury him on the same land and he ends up with six feet of land, enough to bury him instead of all the land that he had acquired.

**Message/Moral:**

The story tells us about the destructive consequences of human ambition & greed. The message is clear, a warning against biting off more than you can chew. The story shows us how human nature pushes us to want more and more. We are never content, no matter how well off we may be. While trying to improve our standard of living, we put ourselves in danger of ending up with nothing, It gives us the message, how greed and excessive desire for earthly desires can destroy a person.

