

## Chapter 4.4: The Height of the Ridiculous

### WARMING UP [PAGES 169 - 170]

#### Warming Up | Q 1 | Page 169

The teacher writes incomplete sentences on the board. He/She asks the students to complete them in their notebooks.

- Today, I am happy because\_\_\_\_\_.
- Today after the class, I wish\_\_\_\_\_.
- Tomorrow, I feel that\_\_\_\_\_.
- I want to laugh because\_\_\_\_\_.
- Today, the class seems to be cheerful about\_\_\_\_\_.

### SOLUTION

- Today I am happy because my grandparents are coming for a holiday
- Today after the class. I wish to eat an ice cream
- Tomorrow, I feel that I will go for a movie.
- I want to laugh because I am very happy
- Today. the class seems to be cheerful about the forthcoming football match.

#### Warming Up | Q 2 | Page 169

The teacher writes an incomplete sentence and asks the students to complete it in a funny way.

### SOLUTION

For example,

- Mother gave me cheese but the cat ate it.
- I went to the market and bought an elephant

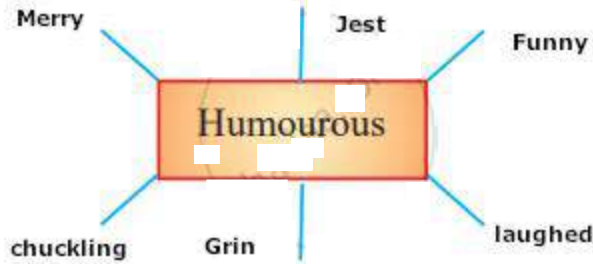
#### Warming Up | Q 3 | Page 170

Give the words related to:



### SOLUTION





**Warming Up | Q 4 | Page 169**

Pick out the word from the given box and write it in the correct columns below.

jump, narrow, cable, live, queen, butter, tree, kitten, van, yellow, dale, happy, night, printer, star, sober, paper, cloud, pearl, within, bike, began, slender.

Here the focus is not on the spellings but the pronunciation of the words.

<b>Words with one syllable</b>	<b>Words with two syllables</b>

**SOLUTION**

<b>Words with one syllable</b>	<b>Words with two syllables</b>
Jump, live, queen, van, dale, night, star, cloud, pearl bike	arrow, cable, butter, kitten, yellow, happy, printer, sober, paper, within, began, slender

**Warming Up | Q 5.a) | Page 170**

Count the syllables and underline the appropriate number in the box.

<b>Elephant</b>
1 2 3

**SOLUTION**

<b>elephant</b>
1 2 <u>3</u>

**Warming Up | Q 5.b) | Page 170**

Count the syllables and underline the appropriate number in the box.

<b>mirror</b>
1 2 3

**SOLUTION**

mirror
1 <u>2</u> 3

**Warming Up | Q 5.c) | Page 170**

Count the syllables and underline the appropriate number in the box.

bus
1 2 3

**SOLUTION**

bus
<u>1</u> 2 3

**Warming Up | Q 5.d) | Page 170**

Count the syllables and underline the appropriate number in the box.

kangaroo
1 2 3

**SOLUTION**

kangaroo
1 2 <u>3</u>

**Warming Up | Q 5.e) | Page 170**

Count the syllables and underline the appropriate number in the box.

rough
1 2 3

**SOLUTION**

rough
<u>1</u> 2 3

**Warming Up | Q 5.F) | Page 170**

Count the syllables and underline the appropriate number in the box.

<b>insect</b>
1 2 3

**SOLUTION**

<b>insect</b>
1 <u>2</u> 3

**Warming Up | Q 5.g) | Page 170**

Count the syllables and underline the appropriate number in the box.

<b>telephone</b>
1 2 3

**SOLUTION**

<b>telephone</b>
1 2 <u>3</u>

**Warming Up | Q 5.h) | Page 170**

Count the syllables and underline the appropriate number in the box.

<b>monkey</b>
1 2 3

**SOLUTION**

<b>monkey</b>
1 <u>2</u> 3

**Warming Up | Q 5.i) | Page 170**

Count the syllables and underline the appropriate number in the box.

<b>bucket</b>
1 2 3

**SOLUTION**

bucket
<u>1</u> 2 3

**Warming Up | Q 5.j) | Page 170**

Count the syllables and underline the appropriate number in the box.

biscuit
1 2 3

**SOLUTION**

biscuit
1 <u>2</u> 3

**Warming Up | Q 6 | Page 170**

Write the names of any five of your friends and mention the number of syllables in each name.

**SOLUTION**

Name	Number of syllables
Rohan	2
Namrata	3
Poonam	2
Jai	1
Nilima	3

**ENGLISH WORKSHOP [PAGES 172 - 173]****English Workshop | Q 1 | Page 172**

Find out expressions from the poem that indicate funny moments.

For example, I laughed as I would die.

## SOLUTION

1. was all upon the grin
2. The grin grew broad
3. And shot from ear to ear
4. He read the third; a chuckling noise
5. The fourth; he broke into a roar
6. The fifth; his waistband split;
7. The sixth; he burst five buttons off;
8. And tumbled in a fit.

## English Workshop | Q 2 | Page 172

Order of sequence:

Arrange the following reactions in their proper order, as per the poem.

- (a) His waistband split
- (b) The grin grew broad.
- (c) Sleepless eye.
- (d) Was all upon the grin.
- (e) He broke into a roar.
- (f) He burst five buttons off

## SOLUTION

1. Was all upon the grin
2. The grin grew broad
3. He broke into a roar
4. His waistband split
5. He burst five buttons
6. Sleepless eye

## English Workshop | Q 3 | Page 172

Form pairs and find out the various rhyming words in the poem and two of your own. Complete the following table.

Words	Rhyming words	
	From the poem	More of your own
1. ear		
2. within		
3. man		
4. split		
5. way		
6. him		

7. die		
8. mood		

### SOLUTION

Words	Rhyming words	
	From the poem	More of your own
1. ear	Hear	fear, dear
2. *within	Grin	sin, bin
3. man	Can	fan, ran
4. split	Fit	knit, lit
5. way	Pay	Way, ray
6. him	Limb	Dim, rim
7. die	I	Fly, shy
8. mood	Good	Food, wood

### English Workshop | Q 4 | Page 173

Match the lines with the Figures of Speech.

Lines	Figures of Speech
1. In wondrous merry mood	Tautology
2. They were so queer, so very queer.	Alliteration
3. And saw him peep within	Onomatopoeia
4. The grin grew broad.	Repetition
5. And shot from ear to ear.	Hyperbole
6. He broke into a roar.	Repetition
7. Ten days and nights with sleepless eye	Transferred Epithet



## SOLUTION

Lines	Figure of speech
1. In wondrous merry mood	Tautology Inversion
2. They were so queer, so very queer.	Repetition
3. And saw him peep within	hyperbole
4. The grin grew broad.	Alliteration
5. And shot from ear to ear.	Hyperbole
6. He broke into a roar.	Onomatopoeia
7. Ten days and night with sleepless eye	Transferred Epithet

## English Workshop | Q 5 | Page 173

Copy any two stanzas of the poem in the lines below. Using a coloured pen underline the stressed syllables in each line and put a stress-mark (ˈ) over each.

## SOLUTION

Stressed words from 1st and 2nd Stanzas:

Wondrous, thought, exceedingly, queer, die, way, I

I wr'ote s'ome li'nes once a time

In w'ondrous 'merry 'mood

And thought as usual 'men wo'uld say

They were exce'eding go'od

They were so que'er, so very que'er

I la'ughed as I would d'ie

Albe'it, in the general way,

a sober man am 'I



### English Workshop | Q 6 | Page 173

Complete the lines of the poem by choosing proper pairs of rhyming words and make it meaningful.

We returned home late, one \_\_\_\_\_,  
In the window, there glowed a \_\_\_\_\_. Burglars !! was our very  
first \_\_\_\_\_;  
For defence, sticks 'n stones we \_\_\_\_\_. "Let's grab the loot  
and \_\_\_\_\_,"  
was uttered soft, by \_\_\_\_\_.  
The door we softly \_\_\_\_\_,  
And then we were truly \_\_\_\_\_.  
Oops! Before, outside, we'd \_\_\_\_\_, The television had been  
left \_\_\_\_\_.  
(run, shocked, gone, night, sought, on, someone, thought, light, unlocked)

#### SOLUTION

We returned home late, one. **Night**  
In the window, there glowed a **light**  
Burglars!! was our very first **thought**  
For defence, sticks 'n stones we **sought**  
"Let's grab the loot and **run**  
was uttered soft, **someone**  
The door we softly we **unlocked**  
Oops! Before, outside, we'd **gone**  
The television had been left **on**

### English Workshop | Q 7 | Page 173

Form groups in your class and together compose a short humorous poem. Use jokes, experiences, etc. and convert it to a poetic form. Write and decorate it on chart-paper and put it up in your class, in turns.

#### SOLUTION

Students Do it your own

### English Workshop | Q 8 | Page 173

Go through the poem and write an appreciation of the poem in a paragraph format.

#### SOLUTION

The poem 'The Height of the Ridiculous' by Oliver Wendell Holmes is a humorous poem written for enjoyment. with plenty of funny expressions. The main purpose of the poet is to simply entertain his audience. The rhyme scheme of the poem is ab cb. There are many figures of speech, like Hyperbole, Tautology, Onomatopoeia, Alliteration, etc. but the one that stands out is Transferred Epithet. In the

line Ten days and nights, with sleepless eye' the adjective 'sleepless' should be for the man and not for the eye. This is a humorous poem. The special feature of the poem are the expressions that indicate funny moments. The reader forms a mental picture and enjoys the poem. My favorite line is 'The sixth, he burst five buttons. I like this line because I can imagine the way the man must have been laughing till he burst the buttons on his coat. I like the poem because it is a light Simple and entertaining poem.

### English Workshop | Q 9 | Page 173

#### Project :

Reading a poem.

Arrange the poetry reading competition. Select the poem of your choice.

- Read the poem silently.
- Repeat the reading of the poem.
- Focus on the pauses, stresses, intonation etc.
- Pay attention to the proper pronunciations.

#### **SOLUTION**

Do it yourself.