

Worksheet 12: Reading Comprehension 2

Name: _____ Class: _____ Roll No.: _____ Date: _____

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

“Rama has ten mangoes with which he wants to earn fifteen annas. Krishna wants only four mangoes. How much will Krishna have to pay?”

Swaminathan gazed and gazed at this sum, and every time he read it, it seemed to acquire a new meaning. He had the feeling of having stepped into a fearful maze ... His mouth began to water at the thought of mangoes. He wondered what made Rama fix fifteen annas for ten mangoes. What kind of man was Rama? ...

“Have you done the sum?” father, asked, looking over the newspaper he was reading. “Father, will you tell me if the mangoes were ripe?”

Father regarded him for a while and smothering a smile remarked: “Do the sum first. I will tell you whether the fruits were ripe or not, afterwards.”

Swaminathan felt utterly helpless. If only father would tell him whether Rama was trying to sell ripe fruits or unripe ones! Of what avail would it be to tell him afterwards? He felt strongly that the answer to this question contained the key to the whole problem. It would be scandalous to expect fifteen annas for ten unripe mangoes.

“Father, I cannot do the sum,” Swaminathan said pushing away the slate...

“You seem to be an extraordinary idiot. Now read the sum. Come on. How much does Rama expect for ten mangoes?”

“Fifteen annas of course,” Swaminathan thought, but how could that be its price, just price? It was very well for Rama to expect it in his avarice. But was it the right price? And then there was the obscure point whether the mangoes were ripe or not. If they were ripe, fifteen annas might not be an improbable price. If only he could get more light on this point!

“How much does Rama want for his mangoes?” “Fifteen annas,” replied Swaminathan without conviction.

“Very good. How many mangoes does Krishna want?”

“Four”

“What is the price of four?”

Father seemed to delight in torturing him. How could he know? How could he know what that fool Krishna would pay?

A. Complete the sentences:

1. Rama wants to make ten annas _____.
2. Every time Swaminathan read the sum, _____.
3. Father was reading the newspaper while he was trying to _____.
4. Swaminathan wanted to know whether the mangoes _____
_____.

B. Answer the following questions.

1. What is Swaminathan asked to solve?

2. Why does Swaminathan get the feeling that he has stepped into a fearful maze?

3. Cite one instance from the passage which shows that Swaminathan's father had a sense of humour.

4. On what did Swaminathan feel that the solution to the whole problem lay?

5. Swaminathan felt that his father was torturing him. Why?

C. Which words in the passage mean:

1. disreputable: _____
2. greed: _____
3. not known; uncertain: _____
4. unlikely: _____