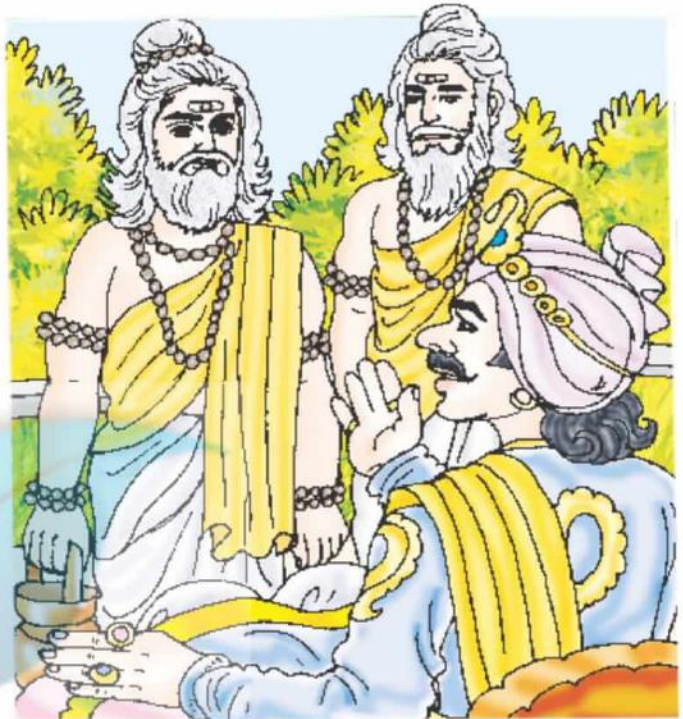


Chapter 1

Picture That Came Alive

Vikramaditya was a great king who ruled in India a long time ago. His capital was the beautiful city of Ujjain. It had broad streets and splendid buildings. King Vikramaditya himself had a beautiful palace with a very famous throne. It was said that the carved black marble throne on which he sat helped him to make wise judgements.

One day, King Vikramaditya was seated on his throne looking out at the semul trees which filled the sky with red blossoms. Just then two hermits came up to him with a question. The king thought for a while. When he gave his opinion it was full of knowledge and wisdom. This pleased the hermits very much. As a reward they gave him a piece of chalk. They said that whatever he drew with it in the day would come alive at night.



The king was very happy with the gift. He shut himself up in a room with high, blank walls and spent the whole day drawing pictures. He first drew pictures of gods and goddesses. He drew Siva and Parvati on the icy peak of Mount Kailash. He drew Indra's shining heaven. He drew Ganesh and Hanuman. At night all these figures came to life and spoke to him. The King was simply delighted.

The next day he drew armies and scenes of great battles with horses, elephants and camels. He drew soldiers carrying colourful flags. He drew mighty heroes with bows and arrows riding on chariots. These too, came to life at night.

Teacher's Note: Take the pupils out to show them a magic show.

And so, it went on for weeks and weeks. By day the king drew all the beautiful, good, and great things that he could think of and saw them come alive at night. He was so busy in creating and seeing beautiful pictures that he forgot about his duties and his queens.



His ministers were worried for his kingdom was being neglected. They grumbled to the Prime Minister that decisions were not being taken and judgements were due. But the Prime Minister dared not disturb the king when he was enjoying himself so much. The queens were very upset because they had not seen the king for days. They didn't know what to do.

Finally, one night, when they could not bear it any longer, the queens rode up to the hall where the king was busy looking at his pictures. The king turned around at the sound of their bitter crying and asked, "Why are your beautiful faces sad and your lotus eyes full of sorrow?"

After some hesitation the oldest queen waved at all the other queens and complained, "O might King, you promised to spend your life with us and never neglect us. Yet, we haven't seen you now for days. You have neglected not only us but your kingdom as well."

Now, the king was so interested in the pictures on his walls that he did not really pay any attention. His queens waited for some time and then went away.

The youngest queen, called Rooprekha, however, was not willing to leave it at that. She was clever and wiser than the rest and decided to try again next day. So the next morning, when the pictures were still, Rooprekha, who had sparkling eyes, went into the king's room. The king was resting a little before starting to draw again.

Rooprekha spoke to him in a low, musical voice. "O King," she said, "it is not right that you ignore us and all your subjects for the sake of these pictures."

The king opened his eyes and smiles. "What can I do for you then ?" he asked.

The queen lowered her eyes and said softly, "If you agree to grant me a boon, then give me the chalk that is in your hand."

The king suddenly saw the wisdom of what she was saying. He realized that for a while he had lost his senses. He handed over the chalk to the young queen. She hid it away so that it could not be found ever again. And so, the queens and the kingdom of Ujjain got their wise king back.

Words to Learn

splendid
mighty

carved
neglected

judgement
hesitation

hermit
boon

delighted
chariots

Skill Test

WORK OUT

A. Write T for true or F for false :

1. Vikramaditya was the Prime Minister of Ujjain.
2. The king did not have an answer to the hermit's question.
3. Vikramaditya did not draw pictures of Siva and Parvati.
4. The pictures came to life at night.
5. The ministers were afraid of the king.

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B. Answer the following questions :

1. Who gave Vikramaditya the piece of chalk why?
.....
2. What could he do with the chalk ?
.....
3. What kind of pictures did the king draw on the first day and the next day ?
.....
4. Why were the king's ministers worried ?
.....
5. Why were the queens unhappy ?
.....

GRAMMAR**A. Read this :**

Rooprekha's plan → The plan of Rooprekha.

Now rewrite the following phrases putting apostrophes in the right place :

1. The nurses cap
2. The cats kitten
3. The girls dress
4. The babys bottles
5. The policemans gun

B. Pronouns are words used in place of nouns :

For example : King —he, Rooprekha —she, book — it

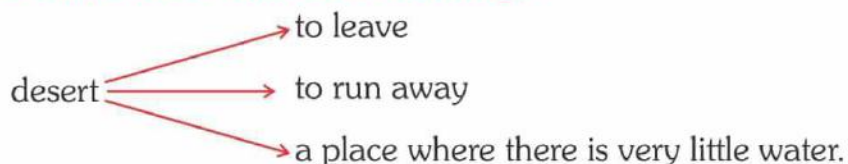
I, we, you, us, he, she, him, her, it, they, etc. are pronouns.

Replace the underlined words with suitable pronouns :

1. This is my bag. This bag is made of leather.
.....
2. Pooja and Rachna are cousins. Pooja and Rachna are in the same class.
.....
3. The princess is very beautiful. The princess lives in a palace.
.....
4. Mrs. Sharma is my teacher. Mrs. Sharma teaches me English. English is my favourite subject.
.....

VOCABULARY**A. Some words have more than one meaning :**

Example :



Now look up your dictionary for the different meanings of the following words :

1. watch
2. tear
3. figure
4. cry

B. Match the opposites :

Column A

beautiful
city
wise
question
reward
happy
high
night
heaven
busy

Column B

village
foolish
punishment
low
day
hell
sad
answer
ugly
idle

FUN TIME

Find out the names of ten kings and queens of India in this word grid :

H	V	V	X	X	S	C	C	L	O	H	K
A	S	H	O	K	A	C	C	A	O	U	R
R	V	W	Z	Y	M	C	C	X	O	M	I
S	V	W	Z	Y	U	J	B	M	B	A	S
H	V	W	Z	Y	D	E	A	I	A	Y	H
V	A	K	B	A	R	H	R	B	R	U	N
A	P	A	P	P	A	A	P	P	P	N	A
R	O	N	O	O	G	N	O	I	O	O	D
D	Z	I	Z	Z	U	G	Z	Z	Z	Z	E
H	X	S	X	X	P	I	X	X	X	X	V
A	M	H	N	O	T	R	P	Q	Q	Q	A
N	L	K	S	H	A	H	J	A	H	A	N
A	B	A	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K