

4

Tenali Paints a Horse

Look at the picture and answer the questions that follow.



1. Look at the title and guess what you are going to read about.
2. Who do you think is the person with the turban?
3. Can you name the person sitting on the throne?
4. What do you think Tenali Raman will do in the story?
5. Can you share a story about Tenali Raman?

A. Reading

Read the following drama and answer the questions that follow:

Tenali Raman was a poet and jester at the court of King Krishnadevaraya of Vijayanagar. He was famous for his wit and intelligence. This interesting play provides an example of his wit. Read the drama and answer the questions that follow.

Characters:

Raja Krishnadevaraya: King of Vijayanagar
 Tenali Raman: Poet and jester at the court
 1st courtier
 2nd courtier
 3rd courtier
 4th courtier

SCENE 1

One day, Raja Krishnadevaraya and his courtiers watch as an artist shows his paintings to the king. The king and most of his courtiers are impressed with the paintings. However, one of the courtiers, Tenali Raman, looks displeased.

Raja : That is really a beautiful painting. I can almost feel the peace of the village scene. You are a very talented artist. Here is a bag of gold for you. We shall be very pleased if you can stay on at our court and make more beautiful paintings like these.

Artist : Your Highness is very kind. It will be an honour to paint for Your Majesty.

Tenali : I do not think they are such good paintings at all!

Raja : How can you say that? I think they are perfectly lovely.



Tenali : For one thing, where is the other side of these two men? You can only see their one side. For another, where is the face of that cow?

Raja : What an ignorant fool you are! Everything cannot be painted. You must imagine the bits that are missing.

Tenali : I bet I can paint better than that. Well, I could if I had the paints.



Raja : I bet a bag of gold that you can't. I'll give you the paints and the paper. You may also take leave from the court for a month. If at the end of the month you bring me a painting that is half as good as the ones we saw today, I promise you a bag of gold and the title 'King of Artists!'

Tenali : I agree. After a month I will show you a better painting than that one.

(The courtiers start smiling thinking that he would lose the bet. They know Tenali Raman cannot paint at all. Tenali looks at the giggling courtiers angrily and walks out.)

1st Courtier : You have really caught him out, Sir. He thinks he's the smartest person in the world.

2nd Courtier : He has really painted himself into a corner. I'd like to see him get out of that one.

Raja : I wouldn't be too certain of that. He really is very clever.

SCENE 2

(A month is over. The courtiers are waiting eagerly for Tenali to bring in his painting. They are smiling and whispering to each other.)

Raja : So, what do we do today?

1st Courtier : Sir, the day has arrived when Tenali Raman shows you his painting.

Raja : Where's he? It's late and almost time for my lunch.

2nd Courtier : Perhaps he's so busy with his painting that he has lost track of the days.

3rd Courtier : Perhaps his painting is so good that he can't bear to part with it.

Raja : Well, I can't wait anymore. Somebody should go to his house and tell him that he has lost his bet and the bag of gold.

4th Courtier : It's only fair that if he doesn't make good his boast, he should pay a penalty. I feel he should pay the court a bag of gold.

1st Courtier : Indeed, yes. I agree, Sir, that he should.

3rd Courtier : Ah, there he is. He seems to have brought it. But it is covered with cloth.

(Tenali comes in with two men carrying a painting covered with a sheet of cloth. When Tenali gestures, the men lift the cloth to display an empty canvas. The painting has only a few curved strokes of black on the right-hand edge and a few lines of green at the bottom below it.)

Tenali : Good afternoon, Sir. See what a beautiful horse I have drawn. It's a magnificent black stallion with a white star on its forehead. Look at the polished leather saddle on it. Hmm, I wonder if I should have the reins trail like that.



- Raja : What's this? I cannot see a horse! This is very insulting. You're trying to make a fool of me. There's nothing on this canvas.
- Tenali : Well, you were the one who told me that we had to use our imagination when we looked at paintings. Imagine that the rest of the horse is just outside the canvas grazing at some lush green grass. Look, you can see the edge of its tail in that corner.
- Raja : You old rascal, you have got the better of me. Minister, where is that bag of gold? Give it to Tenali Raman, the cleverest man in my kingdom!

Glossary

- wit(n): the ability to say clever and amusing things
- jester(n): a man who tells jokes and funny stories
- gestures(n): signals with hand
- stallion(n): an adult male horse



How well have I read?

Fill in the boxes using yes/ somewhat/ no.	
I enjoyed reading the passage.	
I got the idea of the passage on my own.	
I got the idea with the help of my friends in the group.	
The teacher helped me to understand the passage.	
I used the glossary given at the end of the passage.	

I. Answer the following questions:

1. Why did Tenali Raman look displeased?
2. How did the King reward the artist? What would you have done if you had been in the king's place?
3. Why did the King call Tenali Raman an ignorant fool?
4. What do you think is the reason for the courtiers' sniggering?
5. What was the bet between the king and Tenali Raman?
- *6. If you were Tenali Raman, would you accept the bet?
7. How did Tenali Raman win the bet?
8. Could you predict that Tenali Raman would win the bag of gold?
- *9. If you were Tenali Raman, what would you do?
- *10. Can you suggest a different ending to the play? Discuss it in your group.

B. Vocabulary

I. Fill in the blanks with suitable words given below.

covered imagination jester pleased penalty

1. Birbal was a _____ in the court of Akbar.
2. The teacher was _____ with the nice work done by his pupils.
3. Sarada paid a _____ for not paying the fees on time.
4. When I visited Kashmir, the mountains were _____ with snow.
5. You should use your _____ when you look at a painting.

II. Phrasal verbs

A phrasal verb is a phrase which consists of a verb and a preposition or an adverb or both, the meaning of which is different from the meaning of its separate parts.

You have really **caught him out**, Sir.

Perhaps his painting is so good that he can't bear to **part with** it.

The words in bold are phrasal words. The phrase 'caught out' means 'showed that somebody does not know much.' The phrase 'part with' means 'to give something to somebody else, especially something that you would prefer to keep.'

- I. Consult a dictionary and list other phrasal verbs beginning with ‘catch’ and ‘part’. Write some sentences of your own for each phrasal verb.**
- II. Read the following passages, circle the phrasal verbs, and guess their meanings. You may choose the meanings from the list given in the box. Write the phrasal verbs and their meanings in your notebook. Write one sentence of your own for each phrasal verb.**

managing, investigating, compensated for, avoid or escape, taking care of, notice someone, succeed.

1. Ramana Rao’s house was robbed of. Venkateswara Rao, the inspector of police who was looking into the case released the picture of the suspect and asked the people to look out for him. In a press release, he said that he had some clues and that the robber couldnot get out of the case.
2. Bhanu joined a new company. In the beginning, she had problems with her manager. But now she is getting on with her new boss very well. Initially, she had problems with her paying-guest accommodation too. But the superb food her host served made up for the uncomfortable room. Now the problem is with looking after the host’s children. They are like little devils. God only knows how she would get through this.

III. Idioms

Read the following sentence from the play:

It’s only fair that if he doesn’t make good his boast...

The underlined phrase is an idiom. What is an idiom? An idiom is a phrase similar to the phrasal verbs you have just learnt. It is difficult to guess the meaning of an idiom by looking at the individual words. Here ‘make good’ means ‘to carry out a promise’. Some other idioms that begin with make are: *make merry*, *make do*, *make it*, *make the most of something*, *make something of yourself*, and *make like*.

Look up these idioms in a dictionary and find out what they mean.

Here are some more idioms. Guess their meanings and use them in your own sentences:

1. once in a blue moon
2. bury the hatchet
3. to make both ends meet
4. to burn the midnight oil



C. Grammar

I. Short forms

You have already learnt that an apostrophe shows that something belongs to someone or something before it. It has another use. When one or more letters are omitted in a phrase, an apostrophe is put where they have been left out; thus making it a short form of the original word. Short forms are used when we write a conversation, as it was done in the play you read. However, when these elements are used as main verbs, (Kamala is a lawyer) or used for emphasis (I will do it.), they are not contracted.

Full form		Short form	Full form		Short form
can not	-	can't	will not	-	won't
we have	-	we've	I would	-	I'd
I am	-	I'm	you will	-	you'll

1. Pick out some short forms(contracted forms) used in the play and write their full forms in your notebook as shown above.
2. Read the conversation between Sarada and Usha and rewrite it in your notebook using the short forms.

Sarada : What are you going to do after school?

Usha : I will go home and take rest for an hour.

Sarada : Then, when will you cook supper for your children?

Usha : I need not cook today. I have made some *Pulihora* in the morning. We will eat it for supper too.

Sarada : Forgot to tell you this. I planned a quiz for 6th class children. Are you coming tomorrow?

Usha : I will not. I am taking leave for two days.

Sarada : Why? Are you going somewhere?

Usha : I would love to do that. But my mother-in-law is visiting us tomorrow.

Sarada : Then you will have a hard time, I suppose.

Usha : I do not think so.

II Adverbs of manner

Revision:

Adjectives describe nouns. Eg. Mani is a safe driver.



Adverbs describe verbs. Eg. Mani drives safely.



We can make adverbs from adjectives by adding -ly as shown below:

Adjective	+ ly	=	adverb
safe	+ ly	=	safely
eager	+ ly	=	eagerly

However, you should remember that all adverbs are not formed in the same way. For example you can't add -ly to the following adjectives to make adverbs: good, fast.

Adverbs of manner tell us the manner in which something happens. They are usually placed after the main verb or after the object.

Look at the following sentences from the play you have read

1. The courtiers are waiting eagerly for Tenali to bring in his painting.
2. Tenali looks at the giggling courtiers angrily and walks out.

In the first sentence the adverb 'eagerly' comes after the main verb 'waiting'.

In the second sentence the adverb 'angrily' comes after the object 'courtiers'.

Complete the following sentences with the correct form of the words in brackets. Tick (✓) the sentences where the adverb of manner is put after the object and put a cross(x) against the sentences where the adverb of manner is put immediately after the main verb.

1. Sriram speaks _____ English. He speaks English _____. (correct)
2. Saleem is a _____ tailor. He makes dresses _____. (careless)
3. You always speak _____. Please speak _____. (loud, quiet)
4. Be _____ and do your homework _____. (careful, correct)
5. Nandu is a _____ reader. He reads books very _____. (slow)
6. Please be _____ or do your work _____. I want to sleep. (quiet)
7. My mother shouted _____ when I showed my progress card.(loud)
8. Please listen _____.(careful)
9. P.T.Usha is a _____ runner. She runs very _____. (fast)
10. Raghavathi is a _____ teacher. She teaches very _____. (good, well)



D. Writing

I. Imagine that you were the King Krishnadevaraya. Now give an account of what had happened in your court. You can start like this:

One day, an artist came to my court and showed me some paintings. They were very beautiful. I liked them very much. Everyone in the court liked them except Tenali Raman...

How well did I write?

Fill in the boxes using yes/ somewhat/ no.	
I was able to explain / describe / narrate well.	
The sentences I used were properly connected.	
I was able to express my ideas in apt words.	
The ideas were arranged in proper sequence.	
I used proper punctuation marks.	

How well did I edit my work?

Fill in the boxes using yes/ somewhat/ no.	
I deleted the excess words.	
I corrected the wrong forms of words.	
I corrected the punctuation errors.	
I added new words wherever necessary.	
I corrected the misspelt words.	

E. Study Skills

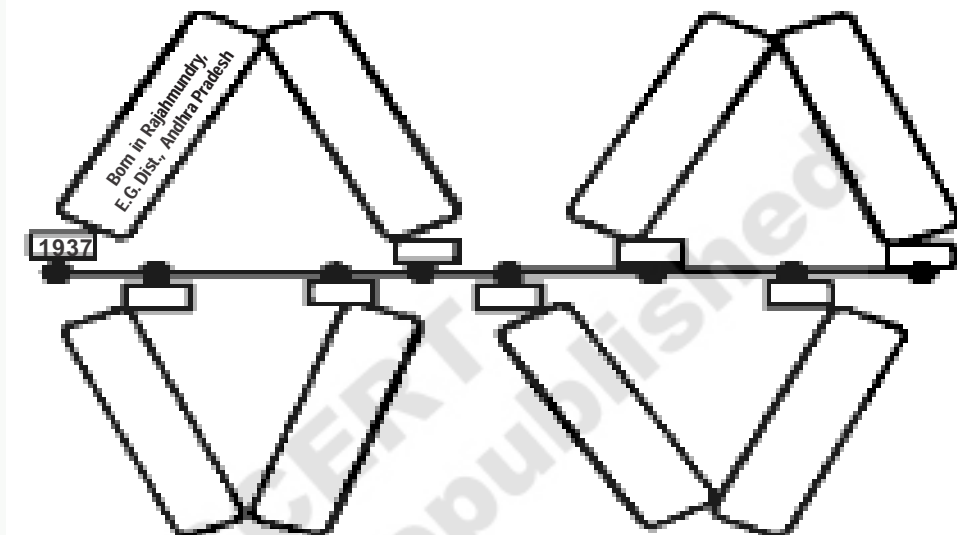
Jesters used to entertain people with their wit and humour. Now we have comedians in films doing that job. Here is an interesting passage about one such comedian Mr. Rajababu. Read on:

Sri Rajababu was a famous comedian in Tollywood. He was born in Rajahmundry, East Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh on 20 October 1937. He entered Tollywood in 1960 and acted until 1981. In his 21 year film career, he acted in more than 550 movies.

Can you imagine what he was doing before entering the Telugu Film Industry? Believe it or not, he was working as a Telugu teacher! Imagine how much fun his students might have had. Between 1955 and 60 he acted in many dramas. 1960 was a milestone in his life because that was the year in which he had his first chance to act in a film called 'Samajam'. From that time onwards he never looked back. He married Lakshmi Ammalu in 1965. In 70's he had become a very popular comedian and won many Filmfare Awards. His combination with Ramaprabha was a super hit and they were considered the best comedy pair.

In 1972 he acted as a hero for the first time in the movie 'Tata Manavadu.' He acted as a hero in four more films. He produced films too. In 1974 he produced the film 'Evariki Vare Yamuna There'. His film career came to an end in 1981 with the film 'Gadasari Atta Sogasari Kodalu'. He could not act because of his ill health. This wonderful comedian, who was fondly called 'Haasya Nata Chakravarthi' passed away on 7 February, 1983.

Now, show the important events in the life of Mr. Rajababu on the timeline given below:



F. Listening and Speaking

Your teacher will read the story 'The Miser'. Listen carefully and answer the following questions:

1. Why did the rich man eat cheap food?
2. Did the rich man like the smell of fish? Do you think he likes eating fish too?
- *3. If you had a lot of money, would you be a miser? Give reasons.
4. "Please cook it every day. I like the smell very much." Who said this?
- *5. Do you think the watchman is honest? Support your answer.

- I. **Work in groups. Some groups can work on scene 1 and the others on scene 2. Rehearse and then present it before the class.**
- II. **Put yourself in the shoes of Tenali Raman and narrate what had happened in the court.**



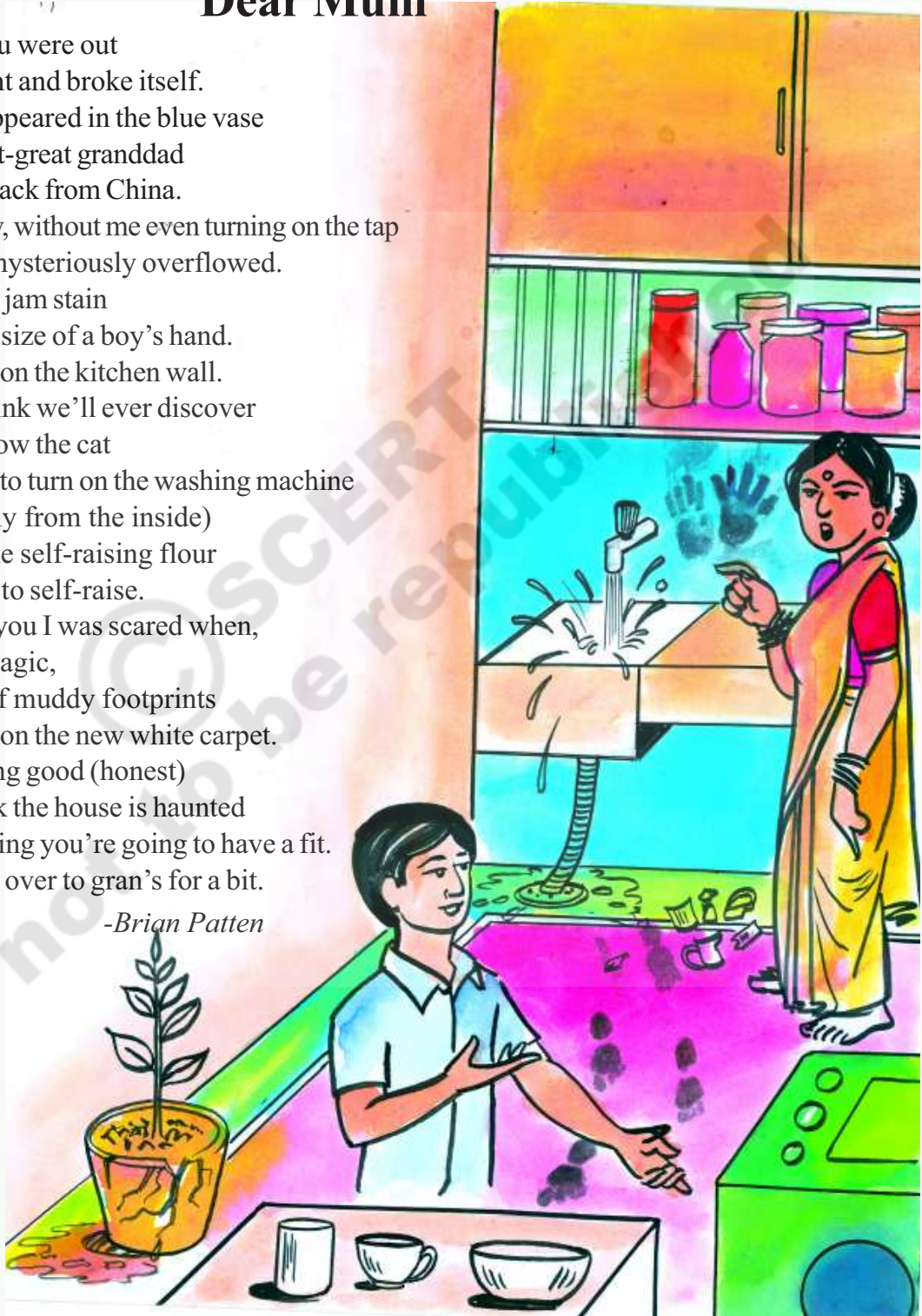
G. Poem

Read the following poem:

Dear Mum

While you were out
a cup went and broke itself.
a crack appeared in the blue vase
your great-great granddad
brought back from China.
Somehow, without me even turning on the tap
the sink mysteriously overflowed.
A strange jam stain
about the size of a boy's hand.
appeared on the kitchen wall.
I don't think we'll ever discover
exactly how the cat
managed to turn on the washing machine
(especially from the inside)
or how the self-raising flour
managed to self-raise.
I can tell you I was scared when,
as if by magic,
a series of muddy footprints
appeared on the new white carpet.
I was being good (honest)
but I think the house is haunted
So, knowing you're going to have a fit.
I've gone over to gran's for a bit.

-Brian Patten



Glossary

mysteriously (adv):	strangely
scared (adj):	frightened of something
haunted (adj):	(of a building) believed to be visited by ghosts
have a fit:	to be very shocked, upset or angry
self-raising flour (n)	flour that contains a substance which makes cakes swell when they are cooked
gran (n):	grandmother

How well did I read?

Fill in the boxes using yes/ somewhat/ no.	
I enjoyed reading the poem.	
I was able to interpret the poem on my own.	
I got the idea with the help of my friends in the group.	
The teacher helped me to understand the poem.	
I used the glossary given at the end of the poem.	

I. Answer the following questions:

- Who do you think is responsible for all the mischievous deeds?
- Why was there a strange jam stain on the kitchen wall?
How do you think did it happen?
- Did the boy play only indoors? Support your answer?
- What do the muddy foot prints on the carpet suggest?

II. Work in pairs and discuss.

- Have you ever been mischievous? Share with your partner some mischievous deeds that you have done in the past.
- If you were mischievous like the boy in the poem, how would your mother react?

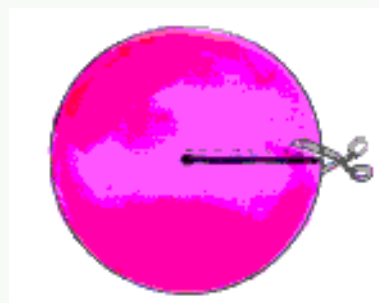
H. Project

I. Read one or two stories about Tenali Raman and share them in your groups.

II. Make a fun cap.

Kings have gone. Jesters have gone. Now we have only jokers in circuses or comedy shows. They wear fancy dresses and a round cap on their heads. If you follow the directions given below, you can make one for you.

- Take a round color drawing sheet and cut it along the dotted lines.



2. Hold both the corners of the sheet and overlap the cut parts to fit like a cap. Use two paper clips to hold the shape or apply gum along the edge to fix.
3. Decorate your cap by pasting shapes of different colours. (e.g. triangles, flowers, squares, circles, etc.)
4. Cut long strips of different colours.
5. Make a small cut on the top of your cap and push the ends of the long strips inside through the hole and paste them inside.



I. Extensive Reading

Read the following story :

The Emperor's New Clothes

Many years ago there was an Emperor who was so fond of new clothes that he spent all his money on them. One day, two men came to the Emperor's court. "We're weavers," they said. "We can make the most beautiful cloth in the world." The Emperor was very happy.

"Our cloth is also very special," said the men. "Only wise men can see it, fools cannot."

"That's very good," thought the Emperor. "When I wear clothes made with it, I will know who is wise and who is foolish."

The Emperor gave the men a lot of money. "Start weaving at once," he told them.

They set up two looms, and pretended to be very busy, though they had nothing at all on the looms. They asked for the finest silk and the purest gold thread. They put these in their own bags, and they worked at the empty looms until late at night.

"I should like to know how those weavers are getting on with my cloth," thought the Emperor. "Only wise men can see the cloth. I'll send my old minister, who is the wisest man in the court." So the good old minister went into the room in which the men were working at the empty looms. "What can be the meaning of this?" thought the old man, opening his eyes very wide. "I cannot see anything on the looms!"

“Come a little nearer,” said the men to the minister. “Isn’t the cloth beautiful?”

They pointed to the empty looms. The poor old minister looked hard; he could see nothing on the looms, for nothing was there.

“What!” he thought. “Is it possible that I am a fool?” “Well, Sir,” said one of the men, “how do you like the cloth?”

“Oh, it’s splendid!” said the minister.

Now the Emperor thought he would like to see the cloth. So he called his officers and went with them to the weavers’ room. “Isn’t the cloth beautiful!” said the old minister, pointing to the empty looms. “How is this?” said the Emperor to himself. “I can see nothing at all. Am I a fool?” “Oh, it’s beautiful!” said the Emperor aloud.

All the officers looked keenly. They saw nothing on the looms. But they all said, “It’s very beautiful!” “For the great procession next week,” said the old minister, “kindly wear robes made of this cloth.” The Emperor agreed.

The weavers worked harder than ever. At last they said the cloth was ready. They cut in the air with a huge pair of scissors; they stitched the clothes with needles without any thread in them.

“See!” they cried at last. “The Emperor’s new clothes are ready.”

The Emperor went to the weavers with his officers. The weavers raised their arms in the air, and said, “These are the trousers. And this is the coat.”

“It’s so light,” said one of them. “You won’t even feel the cloth,” said the other.



“That’s the beauty of it,” said one officer. “Yes,” said all the others. “That’s the beauty of it.” But they couldn’t see anything; there was nothing to see.

“Will Your Majesty take off your clothes?” said the men. “Then you can put on your new clothes.” The Emperor took off all his clothes. The men made a show of putting new clothes on him. The Emperor stood in front of a mirror and turned round and round. “How well his Majesty looks in his new clothes!” cried all his officers.

Then the Emperor walked along in the procession. People in the streets cried, “How beautiful the Emperor’s new clothes are!” “But he’s got nothing on at all!” said a little child. And one person said to the other, “He has nothing on at all. He has nothing on.” “He has nothing on!” cried all the people. The Emperor felt unhappy. He knew that the people were right; he had nothing on. But the procession had to go on.

Answer the following questions:

1. Was the King wise?
2. What would have happened if the old minister had told the King the truth?
3. Why did everyone pretend that they could see the cloth?
4. There are people who cheat as the weavers did. Share with your classmates what you know about such cheats.

If everything you touched became gold, would you be happy?

King Midas was a very greedy king. Even though he was very rich, he always craved for more and more. Every day he prayed God for more and more. One day, God appeared before him and granted him a wish. Midas asked, “Give me golden touch – everything I touch should become gold.” God smiled and granted him the golden touch saying, “Anything that you touch will turn into gold.” The King was delighted with his good fortune. Everything he touched turned into gold. He turned trees, grass, tables, chairs, flowers, and vases into gold. He thought that he must be the richest man in the world.

But in the evening, when he sat down for supper, King Midas was not so happy. His food turned into gold the moment he touched it and he had to go to bed without any food! However, King Midas was too greedy to be sad about it.

The next morning, the King’s daughter ran to hug her father. But alas! The minute she kissed him, she turned into a gold statue! King Midas, who loved his daughter very much, was very sad and he ran to the temple for help. He cried, “God, please help me, I don’t want to be rich anymore. I only want my beloved daughter back.” God changed everything back to normal. King Midas had learnt his lesson and was never greedy again.