

ENGLISH

CHAPTER 7: FAIR PLAY



FAIR PLAY

~Summary~

-by Munshi Premchand

Jumman Shaikh and **Algu Chowdhry** were **best friends**. Jumman Shaikh had an **old aunt**, and she had some property on her name. The aunt needed someone to take care of her till her death. So Jumman agreed to do that in **exchange for the property**. Although things went well for a couple of years, Jumman and his wife started mistreating the aunt. She asked Jumman for a **monthly allowance** to set up a separate kitchen, and Jumman refused to pay his aunt. Soon after that, the aunt took her case to the **village panchayat**.

The **aunt** nominated **Algu Chowdhry** as the **Head Panch**. Algu and the villagers went through the case carefully. Although Jumman was Algu's **best friend**, Algu decided to stand by justice. He ordered Jumman to pay the monthly allowance, and if not, he should return the property back. Jumman became **unhappy** and started treating Algu as his **enemy**.

A few months later, Algu **approached** the **panchayat** for a case of his own. Algu had once owned two bullocks. One of them died, and he sold the other one to a man called **Samjhu Sahu**. However, the bullock died within a month, before he could get paid for it. Although the bullock was healthy when he had sold it, Sahu refused to pay him. Algu took the case to the panchayat.

When Sahu nominated Jumman as the **Head Panch**, the latter realised his responsibilities. He went through the case carefully and decided that Algu was innocent. He asked **Sahu** to pay the **price of the bullock to Algu**. Algu was **surprised** and was very **happy**. Soon after that, both the friends **embraced**, and they were **reunited**.





Panchayat turned the friends into enemies, and then turned them back to friends

~Conclusion~

Both Jumman and Algu choose justice over personal biases. Their story concludes that justice and truth are most important. They should not be comprised with for the sake of personal friendships.



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NCERT SOLUTIONS

Questions (Page No. 91-92)

(Working with the Text)

Question 1. Match the sentences under I with those under II

I

- a. Jumman and Algu were the best of friends.
- b. Jumman's aunt transferred her property to him.
- c. The aunt decided to appeal to the panchayat.
- d. Algu was unwilling to support the aunt.
- e. Jumman was very happy to hear Algu's name as head Panch.

II

- a. He believed that his friend would never go against him.
- b. She wanted justice.
- c. In the absence of one, the other took care of his family.
- d. The condition was that he would be responsible for her welfare.
- e. The bond of friendship between him and Jumman was very strong.

Answer:

Jumman and Algu were the best of friends.	In the absence of one, the other took care of his family.
Jumman's aunt transferred her property to him.	The condition was that he would be responsible for her welfare.
The aunt decided to appeal to the panchayat.	She wanted justice.
Algu was unwilling to support the aunt.	The bond of friendship between him and Jumman was very strong.
Jumman was very happy to hear Algu's name as head Panch.	He believed that his friend would never go against him.

Question 2. Who says this to whom and why?

- “My wife knows best how to run the house.”
- “But is it right, my son, to keep mum and not say what you consider just and fair?”
- “What have you to say in your defence?”
- “I can’t pay you a penny for the wretched beast you sold me.”
- “Victory to the panchayat. This is justice.”

Answer:

- Jumman says this to his aunt because his aunt was asking for a monthly allowance.
- Jumman’s aunt says this to Algu because he was unwilling to support the aunt by going against Jumman.
- Algu says this to Jumman when Algu is made a Panch by Jumman’s aunt. He said this because he wanted to be unbiased.
- Sahu said so to Algu because the bullock that Algu had given to Sahu died in a month and Sahu had not paid Algu for the bullock.
- Algu shouts this to the people around when Jumman gives a fair judgement.

Question 3. Answer the following questions.

- “Then the situation changed.” What is being referred to? (2)
- When Jumman’s aunt realised that she was not welcome in his house, what arrangement did she suggest? (3)
- What was the villagers’ reaction when the aunt explained her case to them? (4)
- Why was Jumman happy over Algu’s nomination as head Panch? (6)
- “God lives in the heart of the Panch.” the aunt said. What did she mean? (6)
- What was Algu’s verdict as head Panch? How did Jumman take it? (7, 8)
- Algu found himself in a tight spot. What was his problem? (9)
- Why was Algu upset over Jumman’s nomination as head Panch? (12, 13)
- What was Jumman’s verdict as head Panch? How did Algu take it? (14, 15)
- Which of the following sums up the story best?
 - “I also know that you will not kill your conscience for the sake of friendship.”
 - “Let no one deviate from the path of justice and truth for friendship or enmity.”

- “The voice of the Panch is the voice of God.”

Give a reason for your choice.

Answer:

- The situation of the aunt in Jumman’s house changed. Earlier she was being taken care of but things changed and she was ill-treated.
- She suggested that she get a monthly allowance from Jumman as she could not handle the insult any more. She wanted to cook separately.
- The villager’s gave mixed reactions. Some sympathized with her, some laughed at her and some others said that she should try to make up with Jumman and his wife.
- Jumman was happy over Algu’s nomination as head Panch because Algu was his friend and he knew that he would not give a judgement that went against him.
- She meant to remind Algu that Panch holds a position equal to God so he should never be biased. He should be just and fair.
- Algu gave a verdict that shocked Jumman. He asked Jumman to pay a monthly allowance to his aunt. Jumman was very upset at this judgement and he began to consider Algu as his enemy.
- Algu had sold a bullock to Sahu. Sahu had promised that he would pay for the bullock in a month. But the bullock died within a month.
Algu found himself in a tight spot because Sahu refused to pay money for the bullock as it died.
- Algu was upset over Jumman’s nomination as head Panch because he was certain that Jumman would take revenge of the judgement that Algu has given earlier.
- When Jumman was made the head Panch, he thought for a while if he should take revenge. But he realized that he was sitting in the position of a Panch. He had to be unbiased. Jumman’s verdict was that Sahu should pay Algu the amount of the bullock.
Algu was extremely happy at the verdict. He began to shout that it was the victory of the Panchayat.
- In my opinion, “Let no one deviate from the path of justice and truth for friendship or enmity” sums up the story the best as it clearly shows why Jumman and Algu were not able to give wrong verdicts being at the position of Panch. Justice should always prevail.

Questions (Page No. 92-93) (Working with the Language)

Question 1. Replace the italicized portion of each sentence below with a suitable phrase from the box. Make necessary changes, wherever required.

look after, swallow, make it up, keep mum, go into, ease one's conscience, as ill luck would have it, a tight spot, take chances, my heart sank

- a. The best way to avoid an unnecessary argument is to remain silent.
- b. Unfortunately, the train I was trying to catch was cancelled.³ He has been told not to take risks while driving a car through a crowded street.
- c. He has been told not to take risks while driving a car through a crowded street.
- d. The patient needs to be properly taken care of.
- e. Why don't the two of you end your quarrel by shaking hands?
- f. I was in a difficult situation till my friends came to my rescue.
- g. When I saw a pile of dirty dishes, I felt very disappointed.
- h. I will examine the matter carefully before commenting on it.
- i. They criticized him in the meeting but he accepted without protest all the criticism.
- j. It will free me from worry to know that I had done nothing wrong.

Answer:

- a. The best way to avoid an unnecessary argument is to **keep mum**.
- b. **As ill luck would have it**, the train I was trying to catch was cancelled.³ He has been told not to **take chances** while driving a car through a crowded street.
- c. He has been told not to **take chances** while driving a car through a crowded street.
- d. The patient needs to be properly **looked after**.
- e. Why don't the two of you **make it up** by shaking hands?
- f. I was in **a tight spot** till my friends came to my rescue.
- g. When I saw a pile of dirty dishes, **my heart sank**.
- h. I will **go into** the matter carefully before commenting on it.
- i. They criticized him in the meeting but he **swallowed** all the criticism.'
- j. It will **ease my conscience** to know that I had done nothing wrong.

Question 2. Look at the following phrases and their meanings. Use the phrases to fill in the blanks in the sentences given below.

set up — put in place or start

set aside — save or keep for a particular purpose

set down — write or record

set out — start on a journey

set in — begin and seem likely to continue

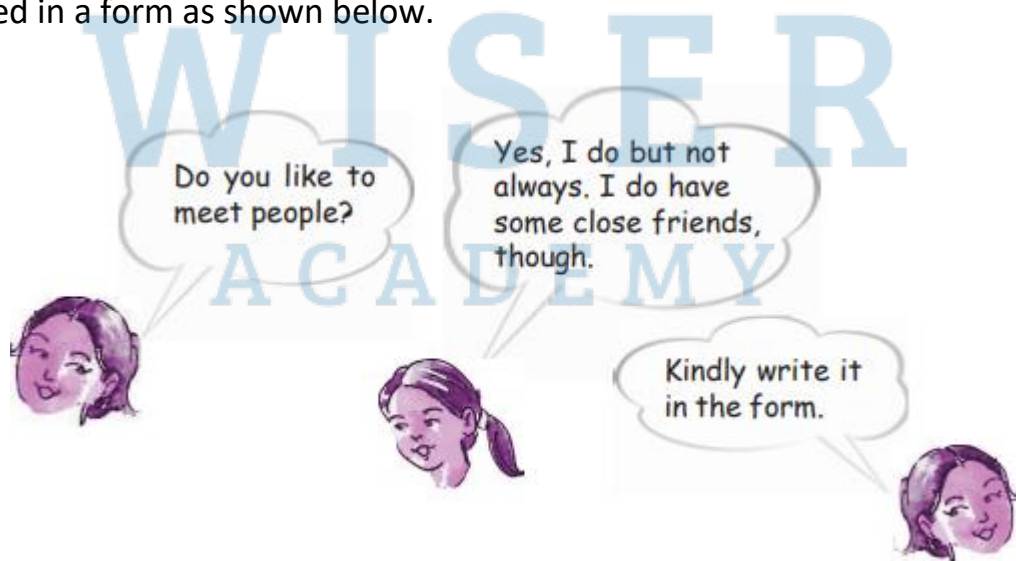
- Why don't you ----- your ideas on paper?
- A fund has been ----- for the soldiers' families.
- We should ----- a little money every month.
- You should buy some woollens before winter -----.
- They ----- on the last stage of their journey.

Answer:

- set down
- set up
- set aside
- sets in
- set out

Questions (Page No. 94-95) (Speaking and Writing)

Question 1. Look at the following picture. One asks a question, the other answers it. Then the answer is noted in a form as shown below.



Questions	Yes/No	Additional Response
1. Do you like to meet people?	Yes I do, but not always.	I do have some close friends, though.
2. Do you like the area you live in?	No, I don't.	But I have no choice.

Answer: Do it yourself.

Question 2. Work in small groups. Ask your partner the questions given below. If possible, ask him/her a reason for saying Yes or No. Then tick Yes/No, whichever is proper.

- a. Do you have a separate room for sleep and study? Yes/No
- b. Would you prefer to live in a joint family? Yes/No
- c. Do you get on with people? Yes/No
- d. Do you like the area you live in? Yes/No
- e. Do you find the place overcrowded? Yes/No
- f. Do you use public transport? Yes/No
- g. Would you like a vehicle of our own? Yes/No
- h. Do you like reading? Yes/No
- i. Would you like to be a teacher/doctor/engineer/architect? Yes/No

Answer: Do it yourself.

Question 3. Now that you have completed the above project, write a brief report stating what you did, how you did it and the conclusion.

Answer: I asked the above questions to my friend and he gave me all the answers quite frankly. He told me the reasons for his answers. My friend asked the above questions to me as well. I too responded properly to him and told him the reasons for yes or no.

This gave us a better understanding of what we like and what we don't. Also, it let us know each other's choices and circumstances in a better way.

Questions (Page No. 95) (Dictation)

Question 1. Your teacher will speak the words listed below. Write against each a word of opposite meaning.

Examples: liquid solid

hard soft

- a. old -----
- b. wet -----
- c. open -----
- d. blunt -----
- e. forget -----

Answer:

- a. old – new
- b. wet – dry
- c. open – close
- d. blunt – sharp
- e. forget – remember



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