

ENGLISH

CHAPTER 3: TARO'S REWARD



TARO'S REWARD

~Summary~

-by Anamta Khan

Taro was a young **woodcutter**. He lived with his aged parents in an **old** hut. One evening, a strong **wind** blew into the hut, and the **father** shivered. He wished for a cup of an **expensive** drink called **saké**. But Taro didn't have enough money, so he decided to work **harder**. The next day, when he was at his work, he discovered a **waterfall** whose water tasted like **saké**. He brought some of it to his father to drink. The father's **health** improved after he drank the magic saké. The story of sake spread around the **village** by nightfall through a **lady** who visited Taro in the afternoon. Everyone visited Taro's house that evening to taste the saké, and Taro's saké container became **empty**. When Taro went back to the waterfall the next morning, all his **neighbours** were there to take home the saké. But the waterfall gave only plain and cold **water** to them. But when Taro tasted it, it was the **delicious** saké. The magic waterfall gave the saké to the **thoughtful** son. When the **Emperor** of Japan heard about the incident, he rewarded him with 20 **gold** coins. He also **named** the waterfall after Taro. Hence, the thoughtful son was **rewarded** both by the waterfall and the emperor.

~Conclusion~

This is the story of the magical waterfall that not only gave Taro a gift of fine wine, but also earned him the reward of valuable gold from the Emperor. This is because the world rewards only those who are honest and loving. It proves that the virtues of honesty and hard work are always rewarded.

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NCERT SOLUTIONS

Questions (Page No. 34-35) (Working with the Text)

Question 1. Answer the following questions.

- Why did Taro run in the direction of the stream?
- How did Taro's father show his happiness after drinking saké?
- Why did the waterfall give Taro saké and others water?
- Why did the villagers want to drown Taro?
- Why did the Emperor reward Taro?

Answer:

- Taro run in the direction of the stream because earlier he had never heard or seen a rushing stream in the forest also, he was thirsty.
- After drinking sake, Taro's father shows his happiness by doing a little dance in the middle of the floor.
- The waterfall give Taro saké and others water because he was a thoughtful son who honoured and obeyed his parents always and worked very hard to give them everything they needed while others were greedy.
- The villagers want to drown Taro because they thought that he had tricked them by telling that stream gives sake.
- The emperor rewarded Taro for as he honoured and obeyed his parents. This was done to encourage all the children to honor and obey their parents.

Question 2. Mark the right item.

1. Taro earned very little money because
 - a. he didn't work hard enough.
 - b. the villagers didn't need wood.
 - c. the price of wood was very low.
2. Taro decided to earn extra money
 - a. to live a more comfortable life.
 - b. to buy his old father some saké.
 - c. to repair the cracks in the hut.
3. The neighbour left Taro's hut in a hurry because
 - a. she was delighted with the drink.
 - b. she was astonished to hear Taro's story.
 - c. she wanted to tell the whole village about the waterfall.

Answer:

1. Taro earned very little money because
 - c. the price of wood was very low.
2. Taro decided to earn extra money
 - b. to buy his old father some saké.
3. The neighbour left Taro's hut in a hurry because
 - c. she wanted to tell the whole village about the waterfall.

Questions (Page No. 35-36) (Working with the Language)

Question 1. Strike off the words in the box below that are not suitable.

Taro wanted to give his old parents everything they needed.

This shows that he was ...

thoughtful	hardworking	loving	honest
considerate	trustworthy	efficient	kind

Answer: honest, trustworthy, efficient.

Question 2.

1. "This made Taro sadder than ever."

'This' refers to

- a. a strong wind that began to blow.
- b. Taro's father's old age.
- c. Taro's inability to buy expensive saké for his father.

(Mark the right item.)

2. "This, said the emperor, was to encourage all children to honour and obey their parents."

'This' refers to

- a. the most beautiful fountain in the city.
- b. rewarding Taro with gold and giving the fountain his name.

c. sending for Taro to hear his story.

(Mark the right item.)

Answer:

1. "This made Taro sadder than ever."

'This' refers to

c. Taro's inability to buy expensive saké for his father.

(Mark the right item.)

2. "This, said the emperor, was to encourage all children to honour and obey their parents."

'This' refers to

b. rewarding Taro with gold and giving the fountain his name.

Question 3. Arrange the words below in pairs that rhyme.

Example: young – lung

money – sunny

young	sad	money	chop	lung	last
wax	could	bad	sound	axe	wood
way	stop	sunny	fast	round	day

Answer:

sad	bad
chop	stop
last	fast

wax	axe
could	wood
sound	round
way	day

Question 4.

1. Fill in the blanks with words from the box.

lonely	little	hard	young
thoughtful	delicious	beautiful	

A _____ woodcutter lived on a _____ hillside. He was a _____ son who worked _____ but earned _____ money. One day he saw a _____ waterfall hidden behind a rock. He tasted the water and found it _____.

2. Find these sentences in the story and fill in the blanks.

- This made Taro _____ than ever. (3)
- He decided to work _____ than before. (3)
- Next morning, Taro jumped out of bed _____ than usual. (4)
- He began to chop even _____. (4)
- Next morning, Taro started for work even _____ than the morning before. (10)

Answer:

1. A **young** woodcutter lived on a **lonely** hillside. He was a **thoughtful** son who worked **hard** but earned **little** money. One day he saw a **beautiful** waterfall hidden behind a rock. He tasted the water and found it **delicious**.

2.
 - a. This made Taro **sadder** than ever.
 - b. He decided to work **harder** than before.
 - c. Next morning, Taro jumped out of bed **earlier** than usual.
 - d. He began to chop even **faster**.
 - e. Next morning, Taro started for work even **earlier** than the morning before.

Questions (Page No. 36-37)
(Speaking And Writing)

Question 1. Speak the following sentences clearly but as quickly as you can. Learn them by heart.

- a. How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck would chuck wood.
- b. Betty bought a bit of butter, but the bit of butter was a little bitter so she bought some better butter to make the bitter butter better.

Answer: Activity to be done by yourself.

Question 2.

1. The story 'Taro's Reward' shows that Taro is thoughtful, hardworking and also wise. Read aloud the parts of story that show these qualities in Taro.

2.
 - a. Like Patrick in the story 'Who Did Patrick's Homework', Taro is helped by magic. Do you believe in magic? What are the magical things that happen in these stories?
 - b. Which story do you like better, and why? Do you know such stories in other languages? Discuss these questions in class.

3. Now write a paragraph or two about these two stories, comparing them.

Answer:

1. "All day long he chopped wood in the forest. Though he worked very hard, he earned very little money. This made him sad, for he was a thoughtful son and wanted to give his old parents everything they needed."

"But Taro had been wise enough to slip behind a rock when he saw how things were going."

2.

- a. Yes, I believe in magic. But I also know that it is a matter of playing tricks that require practice. In Patrick's story, there is an elf that helps him to do his homework. In Taro's story, the magical things happen when the water of the beautiful little waterfall behind the rocks taste like saké.
- b. Honestly speaking, I do like both the stories as they are interesting and have a hint of magic in them. However, I really appreciate Taro's story as it teaches us a major lesson that hard work always pays off and that we should always respect and obey our parents who sacrifice so much for our sake.

(For the second part of the question, please attempt by yourself).

3. The story "Who did Patrick's homework?" is an interesting story about a young boy who hated doing his homework. One day he saves an elf from the cat and the little man grants him a wish. Patrick asks the little man to do his homework until the end of his semester and the elf complies with it. This is a very natural story of all students who hate homework and want someone else to complete their pending work.

On the contrary, "Taro's Reward" is the story of a young and hardworking woodcutter who is a thoughtful son to his parents. He tries his best to keep his parents happy and even God favours his thoughtfulness and rewards him. A magical waterfall offers saké instead of plain water for his old father to drink. This story has a moral lesson that hard work always pays off and that we should always respect and obey our parents who sacrifice so much for our sake.

Question 3.

1. Listen to these children. What are they talking about?



2. Work in groups. Come to some agreement on each of the activities given below. Decide which is the most interesting, dullest, most dangerous, safest, most rewarding, most exciting.

cooking	fishing	playing football
knitting	dancing	listening to music
reading	sewing	mountain climbing
walking	swimming	learning languages
painting	watching TV	stamp collecting

Answer:

1. The three boys are discussing their problems. The first boy considers swimming to be more difficult than driving. The second boy disagrees with it. He thinks that swimming is much less difficult than driving. However, the third boy thinks that learning English is the most difficult task in comparison to swimming and driving.

2. **most interesting:** dancing, watching TV, listening to music

dullest: knitting, sewing, learning languages

most dangerous: mountain climbing

safest: walking, stamp collecting

most rewarding: cooking, reading, fishing, painting

most exciting: playing football, swimming

Questions (Page No. 21-22) (Dictation)

Question 1. Your teacher will speak the words given below. Write against each two new words that rhyme with it.

- a. bed _____
- b. wax _____
- c. fast _____
- d. chop _____
- e. young _____

Answer:

- a. bed **red, shed**
- b. wax **axe, tax**
- c. fast **last, cast**
- d. chop **hop, shop**
- e. young **tongue, unsung**

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