

## Grade VI

### Prose.3 Taro's Reward

#### Summary of the Chapter

#### Taro Was Loving Son and Lived with Parents

A Young woodcutter named Taro lived with his parents on a lonely hillside. He worked hard to fulfil his parents' wishes. He used to work hard, but earned very little money. He was sad because he wanted to make his parents happy.

One evening, everyone was sitting in their hut and started feeling very cold. Taro's father wanted to have a cup of sake as it could warm him and benefit his heart. Taro became sad as the sake was very expensive and he could not afford it. He decided to work harder and earn more money.

#### Taro Saw a Waterfall Hidden Behind a Rock

Next day Taro went to the forest earlier than usual. He chopped and cut more woods. He was tired and thirsty. His mouth was dry and his face was wet with sweat. But he kept thinking about his father that he wanted to have sake. He thought he must earn extra money to buy sake for this father and warm the old man's bones.

He heard some sound of rushing water. He had never heard or seen any stream in the part of the forest. But he was thirsty and dropped his axe and ran in the direction of the sound. He discovered a beautiful little waterfall. He had some water and found it was the delicious sake instead of cold water. Taro filled a pot for his father and went to his home. His father was delighted with the sake. A lady came to his house and Taro's father offered her a cup of sake. The lady thanked him. Taro told her the story of the magic waterfall. After finishing the delicious drink, she quickly went outside and spread the story to the entire village.

#### People Visited Taro's House to Taste the Sake

There was long procession of visitors to Taro's house. Each man heard the story of the waterfall and took a sip of the sake. Taro's neighbours went to the waterfall to get the magic sake. Taro went to the waterfall with the largest pot he owned to fill it with the sake. He found all of his neighbours were present there and were carrying pitchers, jars, buckets etc to get the magic sake. A villager knelt and held his mouth under the waterfall to drink. He said it was just cold water and not the sake.

They got angry and shouted that they will kill Taro. Taro heard them that they were planning to kill him. He moved silently from there. Taro checked it himself whether it was the same fine sake: After the villagers have gone from there, Taro went near the waterfall to check if it was the same fine sake. He put the liquid to his lips and found it to be the same delicious sake. But it was the cold water for everyone else.

The emperor of Japan came to know about Taro's story. He called him and rewarded him with twenty pieces of gold for having been so good and kind to his parents. He named the most beautiful fountain in the city after Taro. The emperor said all the children must honour and obey their parents in these points.

### NCERT Corner

#### Working with the Text

(NCERT Pages 34 and 35)

##### A. Answer the following questions.

##### 1. Why did Taro run in the direction of the stream?

Taro heard the sound of rushing water in the forest, but could not believe it as he has never seen or heard the sound in that area. He moved in the direction to find it as he was thirsty.

##### 2. How did Taro's father show his happiness after drinking sake?

Taro's father was delighted to have the sake, After he swallowed the liquid, he stopped shivering. He started dancing on the middle of the floor to show his happiness.

##### 3. Why did the waterfall give Taro sake and others water?

The waterfall gave sake to Taro because he was a thoughtful son. He was rewarded as he showered love and care to his parents. It gave cold water to others as they did not have this quality or they were greedy.

##### 4. Why did the villagers want to drown Taro?

The villagers wanted to drown Taro in the waterfall because they thought they have been cheated by him. They went to the waterfall to get the magic, sake, but got only cold water.

##### 5. Why did the Emperor reward Taro?

The emperor rewarded Taro as he was very good and kind towards his parents. The emperor wanted to encourage other children to respect and obey their parents.

**6. Mark the right item.**

**1. Taro earned very little money because**

- (i) he didn't work hard enough
- (ii) the villagers didn't need wood.
- (iii) The price of wood was very low.
- (iii) The price of wood was very low.

**2. Taro decided to earn extra money**

- (i) to live a more comfortable life.
- (ii) to buy his old father some sake.
- (iii) To repair the cracks in the hut.
- (ii) to buy his old father some sake

**3. The neighbour left Taro's hut in a hurry because**

- (i) She was delighted with the drink
- (ii) She was astonished to hear Taro's story.
- (iii) She wanted to tell the whole village about the waterfall
- (iii) She wanted to tell the whole village about the waterfall

**Working with Language**

(NCERT Pages 35)

**A. 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

thoughtful, considerate, loving, kind

**B. 1. "This made Taro sadder than ever".**

"This refers to

- (i) a strong wind that began to blow.
- (ii) Taro's father 's old age.
- (iii) Taro's inability to buy expensive sake for his father  
(mark the right item)
- (iii) Taro's inability to buy expensive sake for his father.

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

"This refers to

- (i) the most beautiful fountain in the city.
- (ii) Rewarding Taro with gold and giving the fountain his name.
- (iii) Sending for Taro to hear his story

(Mark the right item.)

- (ii) rewarding Taro with gold and giving the fountain his name.

C. 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

Sad - bad chop - Stop

Last - Fast Wax - Axe

Could - Wood Sound - Round

Way - Day

D. 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.....

Ans. young, lonely, thoughtful, hard, little, beautiful, delicious

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

- (i) This made Taro.....than ever.
- (ii) He decided to work .....than before,
- (iii) Next morning, Taro jumped out of bed.....
- (iv) He began to chop even.....

- (v) Next morning, Taro started for work even .....than the morning before
- (i) sadder      (ii) harder      (iii) earlier
- (iv) Faster      (v)earlier

### Speaking and Writing

(NCERT Pages 36 and 37)

**A. Speak the following sentences clearly, but as quickly as you can, Learn them by heart.**

- (i) How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck would chuck wood.
- (ii) 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.

Do it yourself in the classroom.

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

- (i) For he was a thoughtful son and wanted to give his old parents everything they needed.
- (ii) Though he worked very hard, he earned very little money.
- (iii) But Taro had been wise enough to slip behind a rock.

**2. (i) 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?**

I don't believe in magic and it has nothing to do anything with our real life. These stories are imaginative and are not inspired by real life events. But there are some supernatural powers which exist and work on their own.

In case of Patrick, there was a little man who changed Patrick's life and then suddenly disappeared. In case of Taro, there was a waterfall which gave delicious sake to Taro, but gave cold water to other villagers. Both were magical and had impact on taro and Patrick's lives.

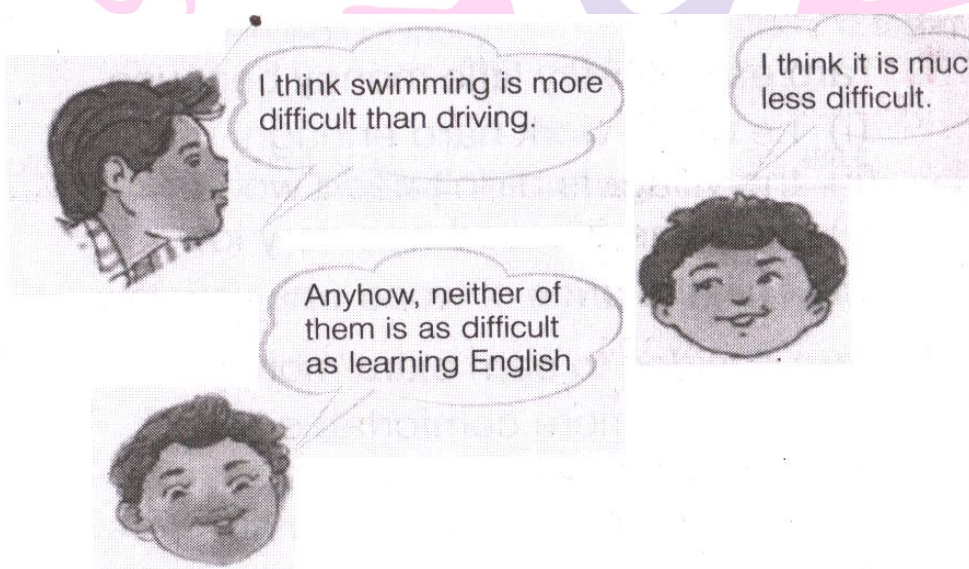
**(ii) Which story do you like better and why? Do you know such stories in other languages? Discuss these questions in class.**

Ans. Both the stories are good and teach us many things. But , I liked Taro's story because it teaches us to love and respect our parents. Yes , I know such stories in other languages like Sanskrit.

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

Both the stories have an element of magic in them. In case of Patrick, there was a little man who made him do his homework and study hard. Patrick became a model child by working hard. But in case of Taro, there was a waterfall which gave delicious sake to Taro, but cold water to other people. We can say that the waterfall was magical as it behaved differently for different people. Both stories, in any case, teach us lessons.

**C. 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 the most is interesting, dullest, most dangerous, safest, most rewarding, most exciting.**

|          |             |                    |
|----------|-------------|--------------------|
| cooking  | Fishing     | playing football   |
| knitting | dancing     | listening          |
| reading  | sewing      | mountain climbing  |
| walking  | swimming    | learning languages |
| painting | watching TV | stamp collecting   |

Most interesting: dancing, watching TV, listening to music Dullest activities: knitting, sewing, learning languages Most dangerous: mountain climbing, safest: walking, stamp collecting, Most rewarding: reading, painting, cooking, most exciting : playing foot ball, swimming, fishing

## Dictation (NCERT Page 38)

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

1. Bed      2. Wax      3. Fast      4. Chop      5. Young  
1. Wed, Shed      2. Tax, Fax      3. Past, Last      4. Shop, Cop      5. Lung, Tongue

### Chapter Practice

#### Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Who was Taro? Where did he live?

Taro was a young woodcutter. He lived with his mother and father on a lonely hillside.

2. Mention some qualities of Taro as a good son?

Taro worked very hard for his parents. He was a thoughtful son and wanted to give his parents everything they wanted.

3. What was demand made by Taro's father?

Taro's father wanted a cup of sake - a popular Japanese drink. It could have provided him warmth and benefit his heart

4. Why did Taro decide to work harder?

The 'sake' desired by Taro's father was very expensive and he could not afford it. He wanted to fulfil his father's demand and decided to work harder.

5. What did Taro find in the forest when he was cutting woods?

Taro heard the sound of rushing water in the forest when he was cutting woods. He found a beautiful little waterfall hidden behind a rock.

6. Why there was a long procession outside Taro's house?

There was a long procession because people have heard about the story of the waterfall and the magic sake. They were curious to know more.

7. How did the emperor of Japan reward Taro?

The emperor of Japan rewarded Taro by giving him twenty pieces of gold and named the most beautiful fountain in the city after Taro.

### Short Answer Type Questions

**1. How did Taro get the magic sake for his father?**

Taro went to the forest and chopped and cut more woods. His mouth was dry and his face was wet with sweat. He heard the sound of rushing water and found a waterfall. He got the delicious sake for his father from the waterfall.

**2. Do you think Taro worked harder? How?**

Yes, he worked harder. He got up earlier in the morning and went to the forest to chop and cut more woods. He began to chop faster without any break and thought about making extra money to buy sake for his father.

**3. Give a character sketch of Taro.**

Taro was a young woodcutter who lived with his mother and father on a lonely hillside. He worked very hard, but earned very little money. He was a thoughtful son and wanted to make his parents happy.

### Long Answer Type Questions

**1. Who was Taro? Do you think he loved his parents? Give reasons.**

Taro was a young woodcutter and lived with his mother and father on a lonely hillside. All day long he chopped wood in the forest. Though he worked very hard, he earned very little money.

Yes, Taro loved his parents because he took care of them. He was very worried about getting the sake for his father as it could have provided him warmth and was good for his heart. He decided to work harder than before for getting the sake which was expensive. He chopped and cut more woods to earn more.

**2. Who informed Taro's neighbours about the magic sake? Why did the neighbours want to kill Taro?**

A lady came to Taro's house and his father offered her a cup of sake. She drank it greedily and thanked the old man. Taro told her the story of the magic waterfall. She spread the story throughout the village. The neighbours visited the waterfall in the forest to get the sake. They carried pitchers, jars and buckets to fill the sake. They got only cold water



and this made them angry. The neighbours said they have been cheated by Taro and wanted to drown him in the waterfall.

### 3. Why did Taro get the sake while villagers get awake?

Taro was devoted to his old parents. He wanted to sake them happy. One evening his father was shivering and wanted to have a cup of sake. The sake was expensive and Taro could not afford it. God helped Taro as his intentions were good and selfless. He got the sake from a waterfall.

He gave it to his shivering father and became happy. But when greedy villagers went to the waterfall, they did not find the sake. They found normal water as their intensions were not good. Taro's intensions were good so he got the sake.

#### Value Based Questions

**Do you think Taro was being rewarded by God? Give reasons in support of your answer.**

Yes, Taro was being rewarded by God as he loved his parents and could do anything to Fulfil their wish. He wanted to get the sake for his father. It was expensive and he could not afford so he decided to work harder. He later found a beautiful waterfall which was the source of magic sake for him. He took it home and gave it to his father. The waterfall gave cold water to those who were selfish and greedy. It gave the sake only to Taro who was selflessly serving his parents. This was God's way of rewarding Taro.

#### Extract Based Questions

#### Extract 1

**Directions** (Q.no.1-6) Read the extract given below and answer the following questions.

Next morning, Taro jumped out of bed earlier than usual and made his way to the forest. He chopped and cut, chopped and cut as the Sun climbed and soon he was so warm that he had to, take off his jacket. His mouth was dry and his face was wet with sweat. 'My poor old father!' he thought. 'If only he was as warm as I!'. And with that he began to chop even faster, thinking of the extra money he must earn to, buy the sake to warm the old man's bones.

**1. Why did Taro jump out of bed early in the morning?**

Taro jumped out of the bed because he wanted to work harder to earn extra money as his father wanted the sake.

**2. He chopped and cut, chopped and cut...why this has been repeated?**

This has been repeated to emphasise that Taro worked harder that day. He continuously chopped woods to earn extra money.

**3. Why did Taro's father want to have the sake?**

Taro's father wanted to have sake because it would provide him warmth and comfort.

**4. Who made his way to the forest?**

- (a) Taro's father                      (b) Taro  
(c) The lady                              (d) Neighbours  
(b) Taro

**5. Write synonym for the word 'extra'**

- (a) Additional                      (b) Jacket  
(c) Sweat                              (d) Forest  
(a) Additional

**6. Give antonym for the word 'dry'.**

- (a) Climb                      (b) Mouth                      (c) Sun                      (d) Wet  
(d) Wet

**Extract 2**

**Directions** (Q. Nos. 1-6) Read the extract given below and answer the following questions.

That afternoon, a neighbour stopped by for a visit. Taro's father politely offered her a cup of the sake. The lady drank it greedily and thanked the old man. Then Taro told her the story of the magic waterfall. Thanking them for the delicious drink, she left in a hurry. By nightfall she had spread the story throughout the whole village.

**1. Who came to Taro's house for a visit?**

A lady came to visit Taro's house. She lived in the neighbourhood.

**2. How did the lady come to know about the magic waterfall?**

Taro told her the whole story of the magic waterfall and the sake

**3. How did the other neighbours come to know about the magic waterfall?**

The lady who visited Taro's house spread the story of magic waterfall in the whole village.

**4. Who left in a hurry?**

- (a) Taro
- (b) Taro's father
- (c) Taro's mother
- (d) The lady

The lady

**5. Write synonym for the word 'delicious'.**

- (a) Tasty
- (b) sake
- (c) Magic
- (d) Cup

(a) Tasty

**6. Find antonym for the word 'politely'.**

- (a) Gradually
- (b) Continuously
- (c) Rudely
- (d) Definitely

(c) Rudely



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