

Grade VII.

### Lesson 3. GOPAL AND THE HILSA FISH

PROSE

#### Soul of the Chapter

#### The season of Hilsa Fish and a Challenge to Gopal

It was the season for Hilsa fish and it was Hilsa that everyone was talking about. In the market fishmongers were selling only Hilsa fish luring customers to buy it. Even in the royal court, countries were talking about Hilsa.

This made the king lose his temper, He believed that no one could stop the people from talking about Hilsa fish not even Gopal who was the wisest man in his court. The king challenged Gopal who was the wisest man in his court bring it to the place without any one asking him about it Gopal accepted the challenge.

#### Handing for the challenge

After a few days, Gopal shaved beard from half of his face and smeared ash on himself. He wore rags and looked disgraceful. His wife was shocked and asked him not to leave home like this, but Gopal kept on telling her that he was going to buy a huge Hilsa fish. She thought Gopal had gone mad. At the market Gopal bought a huge Hilsa fish and started walking towards the palace. No one noticed the fish, but everyone was looking at Gopal walking strangely with his shabby clothes. People called him mystic and mad.

#### Gopal Won the Challenge

He went to meet the king but was stopped by the guards. He started dancing and singing loudly in front of the royal palace. The king ordered his guards to produce the man before him. Everyone in the court was shocked seeing Gopal dressed up like a mad. The king questioned Gopal about the reason for his weird attire. Gopal reminded the king about the challenge and told him that from the market to the royal palace, no one had asked him a single word about the Hilsa fish. The king burst into laughter and accepted that Gopal had done the impossible once more.



## NCERT Corner

### Working With the Text

#### 1. Why did the king want to more talk about the Hilsa Fish?

Everyone around the king was talking about Hilsa fish. This had infuriated the king so he didn't want anyone to talk about the Hilsa fish.

#### 2. What did the king ask Gopal to do to prove that he was clever?

The king asked Gopal to buy a huge Hilsa fish from the market and to ensure that no one should talk about the Hilsa fish on the entire way from the market to the palace.

#### 3. What three things did Gopal do before he went to buy his Hilsa fish?

Gopal half shaved his face. Smear ash on his body himself and wore rugs before going out to buy Hilsa fish.

#### 4. How did Gopal get inside the palace to see the king after he had bought the fish?

Gopal started singing and dancing in front of the palace at a loud voice. The king heard the noise and asked the man to be brought inside.

#### 5. Explain why no one seemed to be interested in talking about the Hilsa fish. Gopal had bought.

No one was interested about the Hilsa fish. Gopal had bought because of Gopal's condition. He was wearing rugs, his face was half-shaven and ash was smeared over his body. people were more interested in his appearance than the fish.

#### 6. Write True or False against each of the following sentences..

- i) The king lost his temper easily \_\_\_\_\_.
- ii) Gopal was a madman \_\_\_\_\_.
- iii) Gopal was a clever man \_\_\_\_\_.
- iv) Gopal was too poor to afford decent food \_\_\_\_\_.
- v) The king got angry when he was shown to be wrong \_\_\_\_\_.

i) True	ii) False	iii) True	iv) False	v) False
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## Working With The Language

1. Notice how in a comic book, there are no speech marks when character talk. Instead what they say is put in a speech 'bubble'. However, if we wish to repeat or report what they say, we must put it into reported speech.

Change the following sentences in the story to reported speech. The first one has been done for you.

- i) How much did you pay for that Hilsa?

The woman asked the man how much did he pay for that Hilsa.

- ii) Why is your face half – shaven?

Gopal's wife asked him \_\_\_\_\_

Gopal's wife asked him why his face was half – shaven

- iii) I accept the challenge, Your Majesty. Gopal told the king \_\_\_\_\_

Gopal told the king that he accepted the challenge.

- iv) I want to see the king.

Gopal told the guards \_\_\_\_\_

Gopal told the guards that he wanted to see the king.

- v) Bring the man to me at once

The king ordered the guard \_\_\_\_\_

The king ordered the guard to bring the man to him at once.

2. Find out the meaning of the following words by looking them up in dictionary. Then use them in sentences of your own.

Challenge, mystic, comical, courtier, smearing

**Challenge** A call to take part in a contest of competition.

Vikram accepted the challenge of his teacher and won prize in the annual day elaborations.

**Mystic** Spiritual, occult

The suf i saints like Salim Chisht i were mystic.

**Comical** Funny.

Mr. Bean is one of the most famous comical characters on television.

**Courtier** A person, who attends a royal court as a companion or advisor to the king or queen.

Birbal was one of the most important courtiers in Akbar's court,



Smearing Coat or mark carelessly with grease or oil.

Before the game, Rakesh smeared his body with oil

## Picture Reading

1. Look at the pictures and read the text aloud.



i) Now ask your partner questions about each picture.

- where is the stag?
- What is he doing?
- Does he like his antlers (horns)?
- Does he like his legs?
- Why is the stag running?
- Is he able to hide in the bushes?
- Where are the hunters now?
- Are they closing in on the stag?
- Is the stag free?
- What does the stag say about his horns and his legs?

a) The stag is standing by the side of a pond.

b) The stag is about to drink water when he saw his reflection in the pond.



c) Yes, he finds them beautiful.

d) No, the stag finds his legs to be thin and ugly,

e) The stag is running because he has been chased by the hunters.

f) No, he is not able to hide in the bushes because his horns got stuck in them.

g) The hunters are just behind the stag.

h) Yes, they are closing in on the stag.

i) The stag was able to run fast because of his legs and is free now.

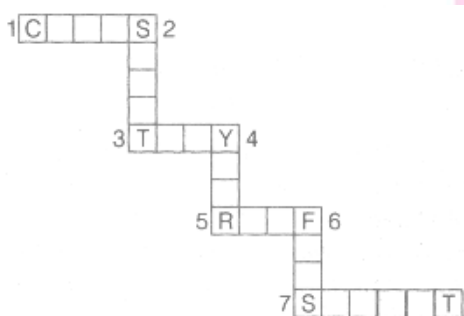
j) The stag says that he was proud of his horns, but he would have been killed because of them. He was ashamed of his legs, but they saved his life.

ii) Now write the story in your own words. Give it a title.

There was a stag, he lived in a jungle. One day he went to drink water in a pond. He saw his reflection in the pond. He felt proud of his beautiful antlers. Then he saw his legs, he was upset because they were thin and ugly. Suddenly, there were hunters behind him. The stag ran to save his life. He wanted to hide in the bushes, but couldn't as his antlers were stuck in them. He found the hunters just behind him. He ran for his life and was finally saved.

At the end he realized that he was feeling proud of his antlers, but he would have been killed because of them. He felt ashamed of his legs, but was able to save his life ultimately because of them. The title is 'The stag and his Beautiful Horns'.

## 2. Complete the following word ladder with the help of the clues given below.



### Clues

1. Mother will be very \_\_\_\_\_ If you don't go to school.

2. As soon as he caught \_\_\_\_\_ of the teacher, Mohan started writing.

3. How do you like my \_\_\_\_\_ Kitchen garden? Big enough for you, is it?

4. My youngest sister is now a \_\_\_\_\_ old.

5. Standing on the \_\_\_\_\_ he saw children playing on the road.





6. Don't make such a \_\_\_\_\_. Nothing will happen,  
7. Don't cross the \_\_\_\_\_ till the green light comes on.

1. Cross	2. Sight	3. Tiny	4. Year	5. Roof	6. Fuss	7. Street
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## Chapter Practice

### Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. How did the fishmongers lure the customers to buy Hilsa?

The fishmongers lured the customers by saying that the price had been down that day.

2. Who was Gopal?

Gopal was a courtier in the King's court known for his wisdom and presence of mind.

3. What did Gopal's wife think about him?

Gopal's wife thought that her husband had gone mad.

4. What were the remarks of two men on seeing Gopal in the market?

On seeing Gopal a man said that he must be a madman while the other called him a mystic.

5. What was the king's reaction when he came to know that he had lost the challenge?

The king was happy about it and congratulated Gopal for winning the challenge.

### Short Answer Type Questions

1. What happened when the king heard his courtiers talking about Hilsa fish??

When the king heard his courtiers talking about Hilsa fish, he lost his temper and warned them that they were courtiers and not fishermen. But the king soon felt guilty, looking at his nervous and humble courtier when he had rebuked. His tone changed and he said that it was the season of Hilsa and nobody could be stopped from talking about it.







## 2. Why did Gopal's wife find his activities strange??

Gopal had half-shaven his face. Smear ed ash over himself . Had put on rags and was looking disgracef ul. She asked Gopal t he reason f or such weird acts. She stopped him f rom going out like that but Gopal told her t hat he was going to buy Hilsa fish. At last she concluded t hat Gopal had gone mad.

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### Long Answer Type Questions

#### 1. Who was Gopal? What was the challenge given to him by the king? How he won it?

Gopal was one of t he wise men in t he king's court . When t he king was f ed up wit h ongoing t alks about Hilsa fish he challenged Gopal.

Gopal happily accept ed t he challenge of buying a huge Hilsa fish f rom t he market and to ensure on t he way f rom t he market to t he palace no one should t alk to him about t he fish.

He was an intelligent man. He dressed up like a mad man and his appear ance caught everyone att ention. He reached t he court wit hout anyone t alking about t he fish as every one was drawn towards his appear ance.

#### 2. Why was Gopal barred entry to the palace? How did Gopal manage to get in? What was the king's reaction to Gopal's deed?

Gopal looked suspicious or r ather mystic since he had dressed himself filthly, More over his beard was half – shaved and ash was smear ed on it. Ther ef ore t he guards barred his entry to t he palace. He started dancing and singing loudly so t hat t he king might hear him and call him inside. The king order ed him to be taken inside but he could not recognize him.

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### Value Based Questions

#### 1. We should not give up in any situation. If we try hard we can definitely find a solution. Why do you think so?

Yes, we should not give up in any situation. We should find out a solution to come out of it. Sometimes, it might be tough to find the solution, but if we try hard, nothing is impossible. We learn from the efforts we make in life. If we won't make efforts then our learning will stop.





It is OK to commit mistake but we should learn our lesson from them and must not repeat them again. The world remember the great people because they did things differently and took up those risks in life,

### Extract based questions

#### Extract 1

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

Listen to me! Please, you can't possibly go out in those disgraceful rags! What are you upto? How many times I must tell you, woman? I am out to buy a huge Hilsa fish.

1. 'Listen to me ! please, you' \_\_\_\_\_ Name the Speaker of these line.

Gopal's wife is speaking in these lines.

2. Who is going to buy Hilsa fish?

Gopal is going to buy Hilsa fish.

3. Why the man is dressed up like that ?

Gopal dressed up like that to catch everyone's attention so that people will talk about him and not about the Hilsa fish.

4. What does the woman think about the man finally?

- a) He is an intelligent man
- b) He has gone mad
- c) She doesn't think anything
- d) None of the above.

b) He has gone mad.

5. Why does the man want to buy the Hilsa fish?

- a) To win the challenge
- b) Because everyone was talking about the fish
- c) Price of the Hilsa fish has gone down.
- d) Because to please his wife.
- a) To win the challenge.

6. Find out one word from the above lines that means 'shameful'.

- a) Rags
- b) Awkward
- c) Disgraceful
- d) None of the above
- c) Disgraceful







## Extract 2

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

Stop it !

Are you a courtier or a fisherman? I am sorry. I lost my temper, it's the season for Hilsa fish and no one \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Who is the speaker of the above lines?**

The king is the speaker of the above lines

**2. Why is he feeling sorry?**

He is feeling sorry for being rude to his courtier.

**3. What is the speaker asking to be stopped?**

He wants the talks about the Hilsa fish to be stopped for a while as everyone wanted to speak about 'Hilsa fish' only.

**4. What did the speaker want?**

- a) To eat Hilsa fish.
- b) Someone to stop the talks about Hilsa fish for a while.
- c) The season for Hilsa fish to go.
- d) He himself was not clear.
- b) Someone to stop the talks about Hilsa fish for a while.

**5. What made the speaker upset?**

- a) A fisherman entered his court
- b) Gopal was not present in the court.
- c) Everyone including the courtiers were talking about Hilsa fish.
- d) He wanted to discuss serious matter
- c) Everyone including the courtiers were talking about Hilsa fish

**6. Find a word from the above lines is synonym of 'anger'**

- a) Rage
- b) Ire
- c) Frenzy
- d) Ill - temper
- a) Rage

Next Generation School

