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GRADE:6 SUBJECT: ENGLISH

PROSE: THE CHERRY TREE

Question and Answer

1. How did Rakesh and his Grandfather spend the winter evenings?

Answer: In winter evenings, Grandfather and Rakesh sat over a charcoal fire and Grandfather told Rakesh stories - stories about people who turned into animals, and in turn Rakesh would read to him from the newspaper, Grandfather's eyesight being rather weak. Rakesh found the newspaper very dull - especially after the stories - but Grandfather wanted all the news.

2.  Rakesh thought that the cherry tree had died on two occasions. Narrate the incidents briefly.

Answer: The cherry tree was two feet high when a goat entered the garden and ate all the leaves. Only the main stem and two thin branches remained. Rakesh was upset and he thought that the tree would die.

Next, towards the end of the rainy season new leaves appeared on the tree. Then a woman cutting grass cut the cherry tree in two. Rakesh thought that the tree might die.

3. Who benefitted from the cherry tree besides Rakesh and Grandfather and how?

Answer: Besides Rakesh and Grandfather, the birds benefitted from the cherry tree. They came to feed on the nectar in the blossoms and tiny birds pecked at the blossoms. They liked the cherries too, especially the bigger birds, such as bulbuls and scarlet minivets which flitted in and out of the foliage, feasting on the fruit.

4 Why did Rakesh only look at the tree out of the corner of his eye?

Answer: Rakesh thought that the tree had stopped growing. So, he stopped looking at it as he knew he would be disappointed. Yet, he couldn't resist looking at it. So, he looked at it from the corner of his eye to see if there was any sign of its growth.

5. Do you think that Grandfather was as excited as Rakesh about the cherry tree? Give reasons for your answer.

Answer: Yes, Grandfather was as excited as Rakesh about the cherry tree. He was the first to see the pale pink blossom at the end of cherry tree. When the tree was fully grown, he sat under it on a cane chair and enjoyed looking at the leaves.

6. How many years of Rakesh's childhood does the story covered? Describe how his relationship with his Grandfather changes as the tree grows.

Answer: The story covers four years of Rakesh's childhood. When the story begins, Rakesh enjoyed a good relationship with his grandfather, who taught him how to put the cherry seed to good use by planting it, how to look after it and nurture it. Grandfather told stories whose ending depended on his moods. After Rakesh grew older, he read a lot of books but he still liked listening to grandpa's tales. They enjoyed spending time under the cherry tree. Their bond of affection became stronger as the tree grew and yielded fruits.