

Grade 8 English First Additional Language Worksheet

Listening comprehension - "Cupid's Arrow"

Listening to a story

Listen to the story and then answer the questions.

Here is the text of the story which you will read to the learners:

Cupid's Arrow

Once upon a time there was an archer named Jephtha. He lived in a land called Pity because it was an awful land; everyone was full of anger and hated each other.

One morning, Jephtha was hunting for meat for the king's birthday celebration. As Jephtha was walking through the woods near the king's palace, suddenly he saw a deer in front of him standing by a stream. Jephtha shot all of his arrows at the deer but they all missed and landed in the middle of the stream. Discouraged, Jephtha wondered how to get the arrows. Suddenly in the bushes, he saw an old arrow. He picked it up and shot it at the deer. It missed the deer and sailed up into the air as if it were as light as a feather. It flew over the fields, went right through the window of the king's castle and stabbed the king who was asleep early in the morning.

"Oh, I love you!" the king said to his wife as he jumped out of bed and hugged her.

"Stay away from me!" said his wife. But as soon as she touched the arrow, she fell in love with him. Then the arrow fell out of the window and into the town's well which everyone used for drinking water. As soon as someone took a drink that morning, they fell in love with someone. It was the best birthday the king had ever had.

Questions

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| 1.1 | Jephtha is an archer. What does this mean? | (1) |
| 1.2 | What was he doing that morning? | (2) |
| 2.1 | What was wrong with the country called "Pity"? Explain the name. | (1) |
| 2.2 | How was this country changed? | (3) |
| 2.3 | Do you think the plot of this story is believable? Explain. | (4) |
| 3 | How did your teacher try to make the story interesting and exciting? Describe TWO ways. | (4) |

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Suggested Solutions

- 1.1 An archer is a person who shoots using a bow and arrows. (1)
- 1.2 He was hunting for meat✓ for the king's birthday. ✓ (2)
- 2.1 "Pity" was a place of anger and hatred. (1)
- 2.2 Jephtha shot an old arrow ✓ which flew in through the king's window. ✓ When it struck him, he suddenly loved his wife✓; when she touched the arrow, she loved him✓. The arrow fell out of the window into the well and everyone who drank fell in love with someone. ✓ (3)
- 2.3 No. People cannot change quite this easily. This is unrealistic. The idea of an arrow that makes one fall in love when it pieces or is touched, or falls out of a window and cures everyone is completely unbelievable. The story is a fairy story or folk tale. Of course, it would be nice if something like this could happen. (4)
- 3 The teacher read with expression✓✓; varied the speed/pace✓✓; used pause✓✓; varied intonation✓✓. Any TWO. (4)

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