

Change of Flavour

Warm-up Session

Once, Emperor Jahangir took shelter in the house of a simple landlady. There he met an intelligent girl who compelled him to change his decision by her witty replies. Let's read about their story.

Emperor Jahangir, one of the six Mughal Emperors who ruled over India, was the eldest son of Akbar, the great. He is remembered for his love for beauty and justice. He had a big bell fixed on a golden chain hung at the gate of the royal palace. Anyone who pulled the chain was heard and given justice by him.

He was also fond of the beauty of the woods, the fragrance of flowers and taste of fruits. Often, he would go out through his empire in a procession along with his ministers, courtiers and other attendants. But on several occasions, he would go out alone in disguise of a common man to see the condition of the people of his empire. He would visit the towns and villages, talk to the people and then return to the palace with new ideas to improve their lot.



One day, he rode off alone in the disguise of a merchant. It was the month of September. The rain had just washed the earth, the trees and the leaves clean. Every object looked bright after the rain bath.

While riding through the countryside, he saw the farmers ploughing their fields. The rain was plentiful that year. The fields looked green with the crops. They were waving in the light breeze. He was happy thinking that there would be no famine in his empire and the people would not starve.

The day wore on and it was almost afternoon. The sun was over the head and he was feeling tired and thirsty. He wanted to have some rest. As he looked around, he saw a little cottage at some distance from there. There was an orchard just behind the cottage. He liked the place and went there to take some rest.

It was a beautiful orchard. There were mango trees on one side and some pomegranate trees on the other side. He got down from his horse and sat under a mango tree. Soon, the gentle breeze blowing through the trees refreshed him and he felt new vigour.

He was feeling thirsty. So he went towards the cottage and knocked at the door. A gracious woman came out; she was the owner of the cottage as well as the orchard.

She was a kind and generous lady. When she saw the tired merchant, she called him in. She offered him a seat and called out her daughter, Julie. When she came in, the woman asked her to prepare a glass of fresh pomegranate juice.



Julie went to the orchard and plucked some fresh pomegranates. She sliced them open and squeezed the juice into a glass. She also added a little salt and sugar to it. Then she put a few green mint leaves on the juice and offered the glass to the guest.

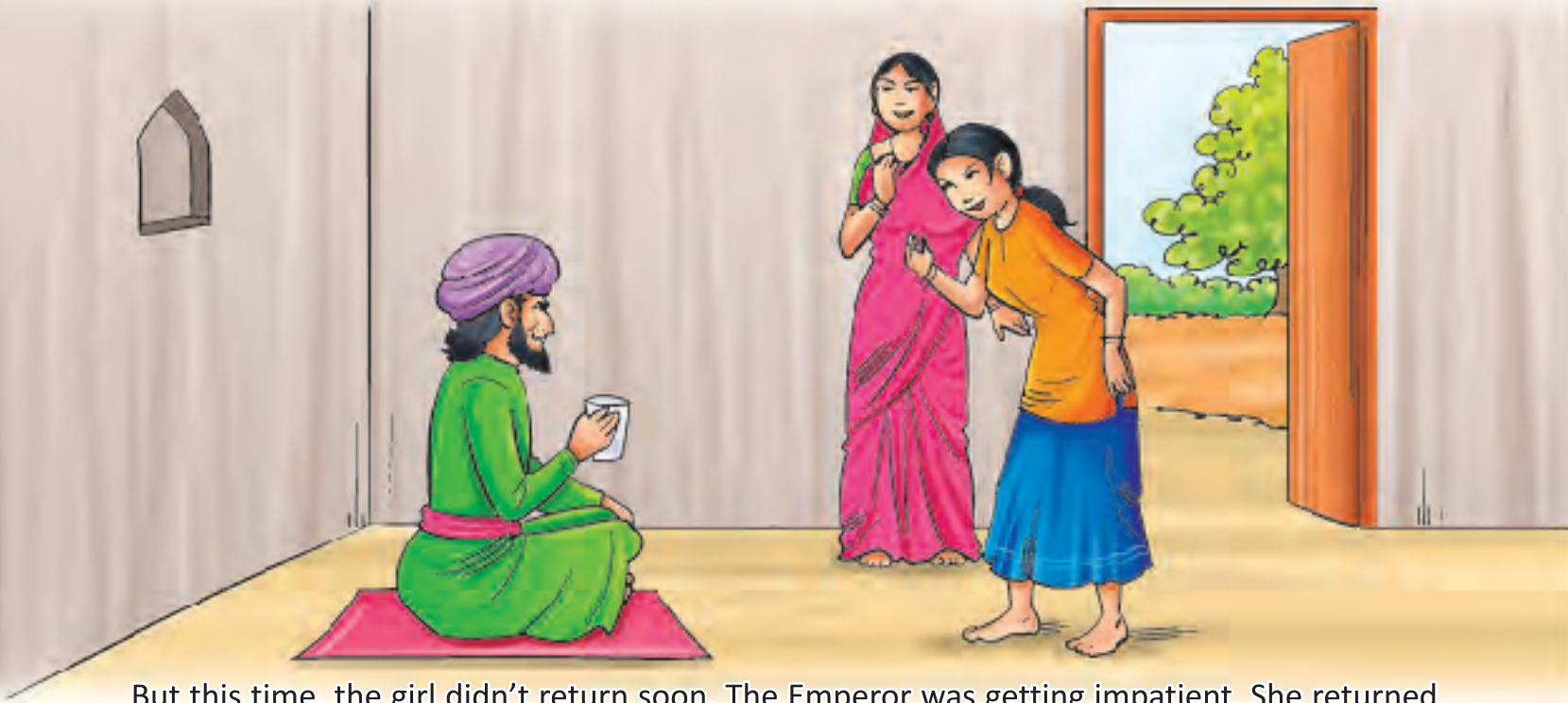
The tired and thirsty Emperor sipped the glass slowly. He was pleased and his thirst was quenched. But he was eager to know the function of floating leaves on it.

“The juice was very sweet and tasty,” he said, “but what’s the use of these mint leaves on it?”

“I beg your pardon, Sir!” Julie said, “But after a long ride on a hot day, you seemed to be very thirsty; had you drank the juice in one draught, you might have caught cold. So, I had added the leaves on the top so that you sip the juice slowly.”

The Emperor was extremely happy with the refreshing juice, the warm hospitality of the kind woman and the intelligence of the young girl. He asked for some more juice.

Julie went out to pluck some more pomegranates to prepare juice for her guest. Meanwhile, an idea struck in the Emperor's mind. He admired the orchard and thought of levying a tax on the trees also. 'That would enrich my treasury,' he thought to himself.



But this time, the girl didn't return soon. The Emperor was getting impatient. She returned after a long time and handed over the glass of juice to him. The glass was half-empty. However, he sipped the juice but it was not as tasty as before; rather it was bitter.

Now the Emperor lost his patient. He disclosed his identity and demanded an explanation from the girl.

"Your Majesty!" said Julie in a humble tone, "Now I understand why the fruits of the trees dried up so suddenly. Like all other living beings, the trees also expect justice and favour from the emperor. Only the goodwill of the monarchs helps the trees bear juicy fruits. They were happy when you arrived, so you got a glassful of flavoured juice. But now it seems that they are scared of you. So they have lost their aroma and flavour."

The Emperor realised his mistake. At the same time, he was charmed with the witty reply of the pretty young girl.

"Go and tell your trees to feel at ease," the Emperor smiled, "I won't impose any tax on them.

The girl bowed to the Emperor and she too, smiled.

Words to know

justice = impartiality; **fragrance** = aroma; **disguise** = cover, cloak; **plentiful** = abundant; **waving** = moving; **breeze** = gentle air; **orchard** = fruit garden; **vigour** = energy; **gracious** = courteous; **quench** = satisfy; **squeezed** = pressed; **draught** = drink; **disclosed** = revealed; **monarchs** = crown heads; **aroma** = scent.

EXERCISE ZONE

Lesson Insight

Test Your Comprehension Skill

A. Answer the following questions briefly:

1. Who was Emperor Jahangir?
2. What made Emperor Jahangir happy?
3. What did the woman ask her daughter to prepare?

B. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ'S)

Tick (✓) the correct options:

1. Jahangir had a big bell fixed on a _____ chain hung at the gate of the royal palace.
(a) silver (b) iron (c) golden
2. One day, he rode off alone in the disguise of a _____.
(a) merchant (b) singer (c) poet
3. Julie sliced them open and _____ the juice into a glass.
(a) poured (b) put (c) squeezed
4. The Emperor was eager to know the purpose of _____ leaves on it.
(a) mint (b) mango (c) green
5. Only the goodwill of the monarchs helps the trees bear _____ fruits.
(a) juicy (b) ripe (c) tasty

C. Answer the following questions:

1. For what is Emperor Jahangir remembered?
2. What was Emperor Jahangir fond of?
3. Why did Julie put some green mint leaves on the juice?
4. Why, according to Julie, the flavour of the juice had changed?
5. What made the Emperor change his decision?

D. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements:

1. Emperor Jahangir was the eldest son of Akbar, the great.
2. Jahangir is remembered for his cruelty.
3. Jahangir saw a little cottage in front of an orchard.
4. Julie gave Jahangir a glassful of orange juice.
5. Emperor Jahangir levied tax on the orchard of the gracious woman.

E. Fill in the blanks choosing suitable words from the lesson:

1. The rain had just _____ the earth, the trees and the leaves clean.
2. The sun was over the head and he was feeling _____ and thirsty.

3. Soon, the gentle breeze blowing through the trees _____ him and he felt new vigour.
4. The Emperor was pleased and his thirst was _____.
5. Meanwhile, an idea _____ in the Emperor's mind.

F. Who said the following statements and to whom:

Statement	Said by	said to
1. "The juice was very sweet and tasty."	_____	_____
2. "You seemed to be very thirsty."	_____	_____
3. "I had added the leaves on the top so that you sip the juice slowly."	_____	_____
4. "So they have lost their aroma and flavour."	_____	_____
5. "Go and tell your trees to feel at ease."	_____	_____

G. HOTS Questions (Think and Answer):

1. 'The Emperor was happy thinking that there would be no famine in his empire and the people would not starve.' What made the Emperor think so? Elaborate.
2. 'Emperor Jahangir thought of levying a tax on the trees of the orchard.' What made him change his decision? Elaborate in your own words.

Sharpen Your Vocabulary

A. Find one word from the lesson for each of the following expressions. Follow the example:

People or vehicles etc. advancing in orderly manner:	<i>procession</i>
1. extreme scarcity; especially of food:	_____
2. die of hunger or suffer from malnourishment:	_____
3. a piece of enclosed land with fruit trees:	_____
4. a tropical fruit with a tough rind, reddish pulp and many seeds:	_____
5. established reputation of a person, business etc. enhancing its value:	_____

B. Write the opposites for each of the following words:

Column 'A'	Column 'B'
1. refreshed	_____
2. gracious	_____
3. fresh	_____
4. float	_____
5. humble	_____

C. Use the following words and make meaningful sentences of your own:

1. pulled : _____
2. improve : _____

3. thirsty : _____
4. hospitality : _____
5. expect : _____

Improve Your Speaking Skills

❖ Emperor Jahangir was travelling alone in the disguise of a merchant. He was tired and thirsty. On the way, he saw a cottage and knocked at the door. The owner of the cottage was a kind and generous woman who called him in.

Take hints from the lesson and complete the following imaginary conversation that might have taken place between them:

Lady : Who are you?

Emperor : I am _____ .

Lady : Where are you coming from?

Emperor : I _____ a town far away.

Lady : Please come in _____ .

Emperor : May I have _____ ?

Lady : Why not? Let me call _____ .

Emperor : It's so kind of you.

Listening Skills

❖ *Your teacher will read out a small paragraph in the class. Listen to him/her carefully and answer the questions set below:*

1. Why had Emperor Jahangir hung a huge bell in his private chamber of the palace?
2. What announcement had he made throughout the empire?
3. Who was pulling the rope one night?
4. What did the man standing beside the horse tell the Emperor?
5. Give synonyms of the following words:
 - (i) announcement _____
 - (ii) assured _____

Improve Your Writing Skills

❖ *Give a brief character sketch of Emperor Jahangir :*

Improve Your Grammar

Collective Noun

A. Find out what the following groups are called. You may take help from the box given below:

crowd pack team knot herd colony parliament muster
flight troupe cast fleet army swarm flock

1. A group or collection of people is called a _____.
2. A group or collection of cars is called a _____.
3. A group or collection of soldiers is called an _____.
4. A group or collection of players is called a _____.
5. A group or collection of dancers is called a _____.
6. A group or collection of toads is called a _____.
7. A group or collection of cattle is called a _____.
8. A group or collection of bees, flies etc. are called a _____.
9. A group or collection of peacocks is called a _____.
10. A group or collection of birds is called a _____.
11. A group or collection of ants is called a _____.
12. A group or collection of owls is called a _____.
13. A group or collection of hawks is called a _____.
14. A group or collection of wolves is called a _____.
15. A group or collection of doves is called a _____.

B. Find out the group names for the following groups:

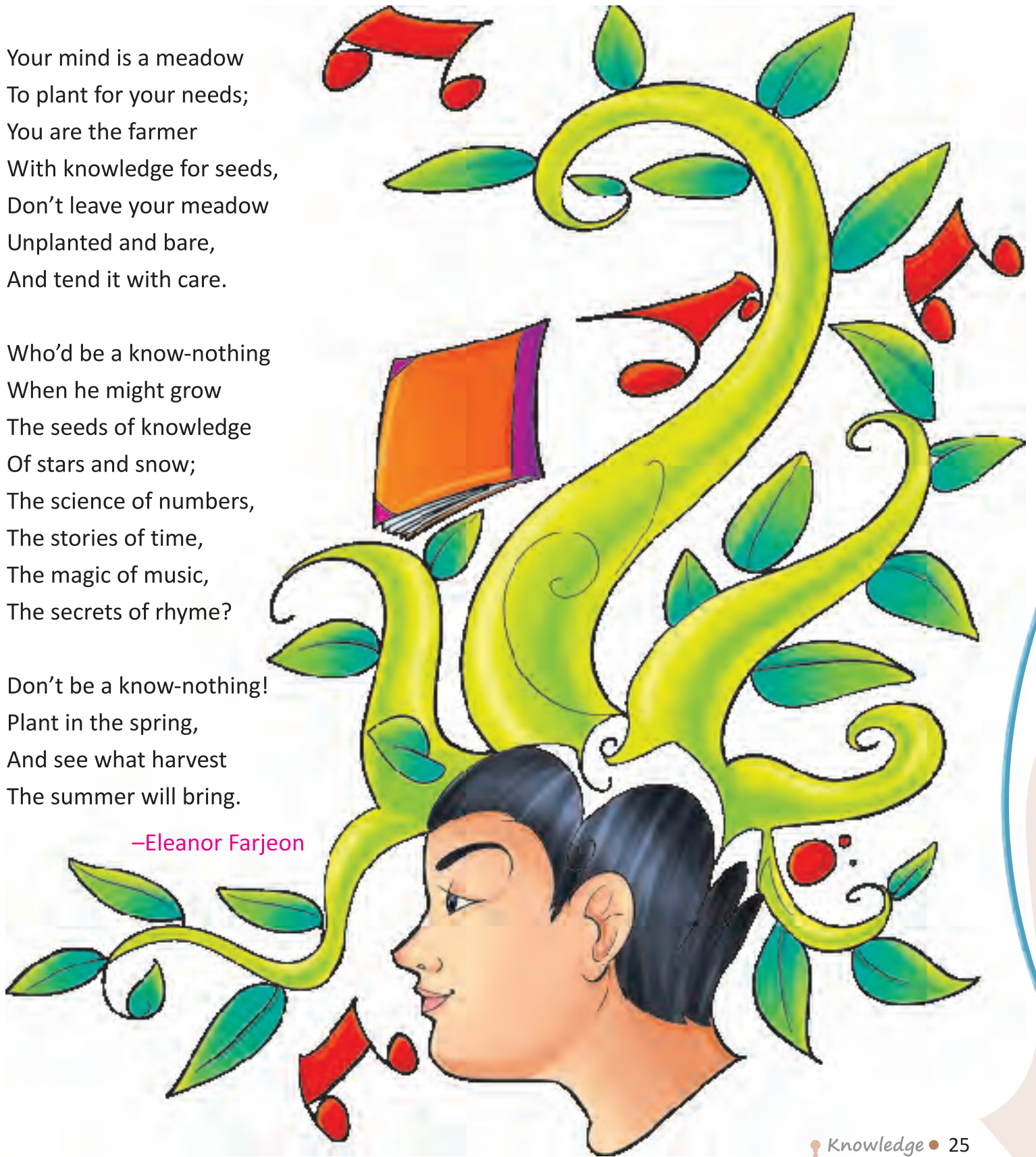
1. lion, tiger, wolf, bear : _____
2. India, Pakistan, China, Nepal : _____
3. Coffee, tea, milk, juice : _____
4. Mango, apple, banana, orange : _____
5. Lotus, rose, marigold, lily : _____

Your mind is a meadow
To plant for your needs;
You are the farmer
With knowledge for seeds,
Don't leave your meadow
Unplanted and bare,
And tend it with care.

Who'd be a know-nothing
When he might grow
The seeds of knowledge
Of stars and snow;
The science of numbers,
The stories of time,
The magic of music,
The secrets of rhyme?

Don't be a know-nothing!
Plant in the spring,
And see what harvest
The summer will bring.

—Eleanor Farjeon



A. Read the passage about Pomegranate and answer the questions set below:

Pomegranate is a juicy citrus fruit found in almost all parts of our country and grows throughout the year. The major pomegranate producing states of our country are Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka. India grows most of the world's pomegranates and exports them to various countries of the world.

The pomegranate tree is a deciduous tree, which grows to an average height of 5-8 meters in length. The leaves are 3-7 cms in length and about 2 cms broad. They are rectangle, narrow and have a silky texture. The fruit has a strange hexagonal shape with a thick red skin. A single fruit contains between 300-600 seeds. The colours of the seeds vary from white to deep red. Pomegranate has a sweet, tangy, tart and bold flavour. The external leathery skin of the fruits is bitter in taste, but highly medicinal. It is also used as souring agent in many dishes.



Pomegranates have been used in Ayurveda for centuries. The fruits are used to treat dysentery, diarrhea, heartburn, vomiting and dyspepsia. Besides reducing thirst, the fruits also cure many diseases of the mouth, stomach, heart and throat.

1. Name the major pomegranate producing states of our country.
2. How is the shape of the pomegranate fruit?
3. How is the taste of a pomegranate?
4. What is the medicinal value of the skin of a pomegranate fruit?
5. Give synonyms of following words:

(a) texture

(b) external

(c) medicinal

B. You have visited your grandparent's village during the rainy season. Tell your partner the experience you had there.

C. Write the Collective Nouns for each of the following groups:

1. A group or collection of dancers: _____

2. A group or collection of owls: _____