

READING COMPREHENSIONS_18

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words are printed in bold to help you locate them while, answering some of the questions.

In the town, where Abhiram painted pictures of gods and goddesses, everyone knew him only as a stranger, who had always painted pictures for a living. No one knew him or his past. He would think, "I was once wealthy but its all gone now _____ and in a way it is for the better. I meditate on various forms of God all day long now, my bread and butter comes from that. I also place his image in all the houses. None can take away the respect and goodwill this earns me." One day the royal Minister passed away. The King employed a new Minister from a foreign land. The whole town was abuzz with the news but that day Abhiram's fingers stilled to a halt. Abhiram's father had adopted an orphan boy, whom he raised and trusted more than his own son, Abhiram. But the boy had turned traitor and had stolen the old man's fortune from him. The very same man and now come to the new kingdom as the new Minister. The room where Abhiram painted was also his puja room. He went in, folded his hands and queried, "Is this why I have spent so many years meditating on. You through every colour, every line? Is this how you reward me – with such an insult?"

The chariot pageant was coming up. At the fairgrounds many people from different lands thronged to buy Abhiram's pictures. In that throng, there was a little boy watched over by servants. He picked out one picture. Abhiram turned to the child's attendant and asked, "who is this boy?" He replied, "The only son of our royal Minister." Abhiram covered his paintings with a cloth and said, "I will not sell my pictures." Which only made the child want the picture even more? He came home and sulked in the corner and refused to eat. The Minister sent a bagful of coins for Abhiram, but the bag came back to the Minister untouched. The Minister said to himself, "what **audacity!**" The more he was pestered, the more **dogged** was Abhiram's refusal and he thought, "This is my victory."

Every morning the first thing Abhiram did was to paint a picture of his own beloved deity. This was the only form of worship known to him. One day, he realized the painting wasn't to his satisfaction. Something looked different. It wasn't looking right. He felt tormented. As the days passed, the subtle difference became more apparent

until one day Abhiram looked up, started by the realization _____ he could see it clearly now - the face of his God was beginning to look more and more like the Minister. He hurled his brush to the ground and said, "So the Minister wins!" That same day he painted the picture and gave it to the Minister and said, "Here is the picture, give it to your son." The Minister asked, "How much?" Abhiram said, "You robbed me of my devotion to God I shall gain it back by gifting you this picture." The Minister had no idea what he was talking about.

1. Why did Abhiram paint a picture of one particular deity every morning?

- a) His paintings of this particular deity were very popular and he sold many of them
- b) He kept trying to paint the picture well but he never succeeded
- c) In memory of his father, who had great devotion for the deity
- d) It was his way of praying

2. Why did the Minister send a bagful of gold to Abhiram's house?

- a) As penance for taking Abhiram's rightful share of their father's property
- b) He admired artists and wanted to pay his respects to Abhiram
- c) As a bribe to ensure that Abhiram would keep their past a secret
- d) He wanted to purchase a painting that his son was determined to have

3. Why was Abhiram disappointed with his most recent painting?

- a) Despite his best efforts, he could not get the painting to resemble the Minister
- b) Attention to details which made his paintings so popular was missing
- c) Instead of resembling, a replica of a deity, the painting looked like a portrait of the Minister
- d) Since, he was unable to paint the lighting effects properly, the deity did not look lifelike in the portrait

4. What was Abhiram's first reaction when, he heard about the appointment of the new Royal Minister?

- a) He decided not to sell his paintings at the chariot pageant
- b) He stopped praying because he believed that God had abandoned him

- c) He gave up his carrer as an artist
- d) None of these

5. Choose the word which is most nearly the same in meaning as the word given in bold as used in the passage.

Audacity

- a) Courage
- b) Fear
- c) Insult
- d) Rudeness

6. Choose the word which is most nearly the same in meaning as the word given in bold as used in the passage.

Idea

- a) Image
- b) Understanding
- c) Design
- d) Plan

7. Choose the word, which is most opposite in meaning of the word given in bold as used in the passage.

Gain

- a) Lose
- b) Decrease
- c) Lack
- d) Fail

8. Choose the word, which is most opposite in meaning of the word given in bold as used in the passage.

Dogged

- a) Polite

- b) Weak
- c) Unstable
- d) Soft

Answer:-

1. Answer: D
2. Answer: D
3. Answer: C
4. Answer: D
5. Answer: A
6. Answer: B
7. Answer: A
8. Answer: B