



## CLASS NOTES-ANSWERS

### Comprehension Check

1. How many daughters did the royal couple have?

**Answer:** A royal couple of Siam had nine daughters who they named following the names of the months.

2. Why were they named after the months of the year?

**Answer:** They were named following the months of the year since the King and the Queen had several daughters, and it confused the Queen to remember so many names.

3. The King had a peculiar habit. What was it? Why is it called peculiar?

**Answer:** The King's peculiar habit was that rather than getting gifts on his birthday, he gave gifts to others. It is referred to as peculiar because generally, people get gifts on their birthdays.

4.

i. What was Princess September's reaction to the loss of her parrot?

**Answer:** When she locked the bird within the cage, it passed away. Princess September sobbed uncontrollably after her parrot died. She kept crying and nothing reassured her.

ii. What was her mother's reaction to it?

**Answer:** Her mother, who did not recognize her feelings, proclaimed it as nonsense. Very cruelly she told her to go to bed without having any supper.



iii. What do the reactions indicate about the nature and temperament of each?

**Answer:** The Princess' reaction suggests that she was a young, sensitive child. That is why she cried over the death of her parrot. It was an extremely important thing for her. The death of her parrot filled her with sadness. Her mother's reaction reveals that she was a bit harsh. She did not understand her daughter's sadness and supported her. She did not think that the death of the parrot was in any manner a major incident to weep.

5. What pulled the Princess out of her gloom?

**Answer:** The Princess was extremely depressed and was lying on her bed crying, she noticed a little bird jumping into her room. The beautiful song of the little bird gave a smile to her face. She wiped her tears and listened to the song. So that the Princess came out of her sadness.

6. How did the Maids of Honour come to know that the Princess and the bird had become intimate friends?

**Answer:** When the Maids of Honour brought in the princess' breakfast the following morning, they noticed the Princess in a happy mindset. They noticed the bird eating rice out of her hand and taking its bath in her saucer. This revealed to them that the princess and the bird had been turned into close friends.

7. The new bird was full of new songs but the old parrots always repeated themselves. What did they say?



**Answer:** All of the old parrots knew what they had been taught, such as 'God save the king,' and a few of them could even say 'Pretty Polly' in seven languages. But the new bird sang the songs of its own.

8. What is the King's opinion about his Councillors? Why did he form that opinion?

**Answer:** The King said that the parrots repeating 'Pretty Polly' in seven different languages reminded him of his Councillors saying the same thing in seven different ways and meant nothing to him.

This was similar to the way the parrots keep on repeating what they had learned, without understanding the meaning of what they said.

9.

i. The eight Princesses made an offer to Princess September. What was it?

**Answer:** The eight princesses were envious of Princess September. They suggested buying a beautiful yellow and green parrot for Princess September by spending all their money.

ii. Why, in your view, did they do it?

**Answer:** They did so since they have been disturbed by the reality that everyone was honouring Princess September's bird, which could sing. Their parrots looked sad and repeated similar things. They wanted her to have a similar pet as they had.



10. What did the sisters advise the Princess to do about her bird?

**Answer:** The jealous sisters with the evil intention to harm the bird, advised the Princess to keep her bird in a cage so that she could be sure of where it was.

### Comprehension Check

1. In the following sentence elaborate on the parts given in bold. Under the circumstances, it was a very unfortunate remark for the bird to make.

**Answer:** Under the circumstances, following what the princess's sisters instructed her to do, she was concerned about the bird. She was afraid that the bird might forget her or begin liking someone else. She thought that in such a circumstance, she would miss her little pet. A very regrettable remark on returning, the bird told that it very nearly did not return that night as its father-in-law was giving a party and had liked it to stay. This was the last thing that the princess would like to hear as it only confirmed her fears.

2.

i. What did Princess September do to ensure the safety of her pet?

**Answer:** To ensure the safety of her pet, Princess September placed it in the cage.

ii. How did the bird react to it?



**Answer:** Bird reacted to it dramatically. He didn't need to be in a cage. He needed full freedom. He did not like it. It stopped singing and eating.

3. Why did the bird refuse to be taken out in her cage?

**Answer:** When the princess agreed to take the bird out of its cage daily, it rejected her sincere offer. To the bird, it was not the same as flying into nature freely. The rice fields, the lake, and the willow trees would look different when viewed through the bars of a cage which may not be enjoyable in this little illusion of the freedom the princess was providing.

4.

i. What persuaded Princess September to give the bird his freedom again?

**Answer:** The Princess noticed the bird almost dead the following morning. He had stopped eating anything. He had stopped singing at all. It didn't open up its eyes yet. This persuaded the Princess to offer the bird freedom again.

ii. How did the bird react to it?

**Answer:** The bird was filled with joy. He flew away to the far lands with the promise that he would return and sing for her every time she needed.

5. Princess September kept her window open day and night.

i. How did it help the bird?



**Answer:** Princess September kept her window open day and night. This helped the bird as it can come into her room and go away when it feels like it.

ii. How did it help the Princess herself?

**Answer:** Sleeping with the window open turned out to be extremely nice for the princess as she swelled extremely beautifully due to this reason. The open window took her nearer to nature which has helped her to grow up naturally.

6. The eight sisters kept their windows shut. How did it affect them?

**Answer:** The eight sisters grew tremendously horrible and disagreeable. This was because they kept their windows closed and stayed away from the beauty of nature.

### Exercise

1. Are the sisters unkind and cruel? Find evidence in the text to support your idea.

**Answer:** Yes, the sisters were cruel and harsh. When The sisters noticed that a bird of Princess September could sing and their parrots could just repeat two lines, they became disturbed. They even offered to buy green and yellow parrots for her. When she refused their offer, they persuaded her to put it in the cage knowing the reality that it would hurt the bird. After she had placed the bird into the cage, it stopped singing and eating. When she consulted her sisters, they said they would soon get used to



the cage. They even told them that she should be strong, and if it died, then it would be very ungrateful of it. If it was stubborn and died, then it would serve it right. When she left the bird free, they mocked her and said that the bird would never come back. All these occurrences reveal that they were very cruel and heartless.

2. Which, to you, is the most important idea in this story, and why?
  - i. Importance of music
  - ii. value of freedom
  - iii. beauty of nature

**Answer:** The most significant idea in the story is the value of freedom. Nobody should be refused his freedom. A lack of freedom suffocates someone and precludes him from experiencing the beauty of life in its richness. The bird in the story was flying happily. It sang wonderfully and ate well. Though, when it was caged, it turned out to be sad and did not sing or eat. It said that to sing, it needed its freedom, and if it could not sing, it would die. This reveals that the beauty of life is in freedom, and not in confinement. It is true for every person. One can work and grow well when one achieves open space to work. Restrictions stop the flow of inventiveness.