



## UNIQUE STUDY POINT

### Class 7 English Chapter 3 Gopal and the Hilsa Fish

#### Working with the Text

**Answer the following questions.**

**Question 1.** Why did the king want no more talk about the hilsa-fish?

**Answer:** The king was fed of the talks of Hilsa-fish. It was season of Hilsa-fish and everyone was busy in talking of it. More-ever, he did not want his courtier to waste the time on these talks.

**Question 2.** What did the king ask Gopal to do to prove that he was clever?

**Answer:** The king asked Gopal to prove that he was clever so that while Gopal is on this challenge, he will try as much as possible that people don't speak anything about the Hilsa-fish.

**Question 3.** What three things did Gopal do before he went to buy his hilsa-fish?

**Answer:** Gopal half-shaved his beard, smeared himself with ash, and wore disgraceful rags before he went to buy his hilsa-fish.

**Question 4.** How did Gopal get inside the palace to see the king after he had bought the fish?

**Answer:** After he had bought the fish, Gopal reached the palace and told the guards that he wanted to see the king. When the guards did not let him in, he began to dance and sing loudly. When the king heard this, and also the comments of the people watching the man sing and dance, he asked for the man to be brought before him.

**Question 5.** Explain why no one seemed to be interested in talking about the hilsa-fish which Gopal had bought.

**Answer:** No one was interested about the Hilsa fish. Gopal had bought because of Gopal's condition. He was wearing rags, his face was half-shaven and ash was smeared over his body. People were more interested in his appearance than the fish.

**Question 6.** Write 'True' or 'False' against each of the following sentences.

- (i) The king lost his temper easily. \_\_\_\_\_
- (ii) Gopal was a madman. \_\_\_\_\_
- (iii) Gopal was a clever man. \_\_\_\_\_
- (iv) Gopal was too poor to afford decent clothes. \_\_\_\_\_
- (v) The king got angry when he was shown to be wrong. \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer:** (i) The king lost his temper easily. **True**

(ii) Gopal was a madman. **False**

(iii) Gopal was a clever man. **True**

(iv) Gopal was too poor to afford decent clothes. **False**

(v) The king got angry when he was shown to be wrong. **False**

### Working with Language

**I.** Notice how in a comic book, there are no speech marks when characters talk. Instead what they say is put in a speech 'bubble'. However, if we wish to repeat or 'report' what they say, we must put it into reported speech.

Change the following sentences in the story to reported speech. The first one has been done for you.

**(i)** How much did you pay for that hilsa?

The woman asked the man how much he had paid for that hilsa.

**(ii)** Why is your face half-shaven?

Gopal's wife asked him \_\_\_\_\_

**(iii)** I accept the challenge, Your Majesty.

Gopal told the king \_\_\_\_\_

**(iv)** I want to see the king.

Gopal told the guards \_\_\_\_\_

**(v)** Bring the man to me at once.

The king ordered the guard \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer:**

**(ii)** Why is your face half-shaven?

Gopal's wife asked him why was his face half-shaven.

**(iii)** I accept the challenge, Your Majesty.

Gopal told the king that he accepted his challenge.

**(iv)** I want to see the king.

Gopal told the guards that he wanted to see the king.

**(v)** Bring the man to me at once.

The king ordered the guard to bring the man to him at once.

**Question 2.** Find out the meaning of the following words by looking them up in the dictionary. Then use them in sentences of your own.

Challenge; mystic; comical; courtier; smearing

**Answer:**

**(i)** challenge – ask to contest, dare

The boss challenged Rahul to finish his work before the time.

**(ii)** mystic – believing in spiritual power

Some people do believe in the mystic forces.

**(iii)** comical – funny

I liked the comical act of the joker the most.

**(iv)** courtier – officials of the king's court

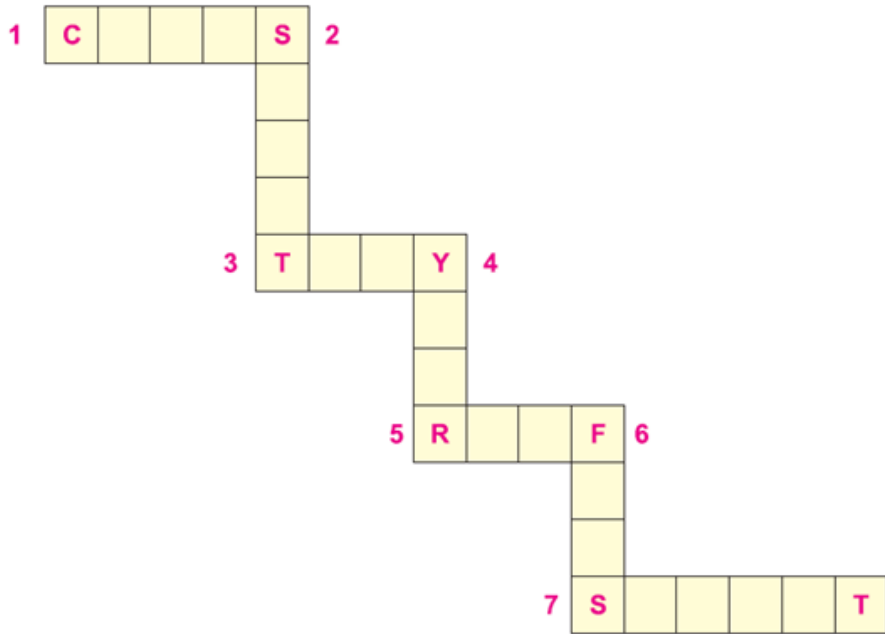
Birbal was one of the clever courtier present in Akbar's court.

**(v)** smearing – to apply coat or mark

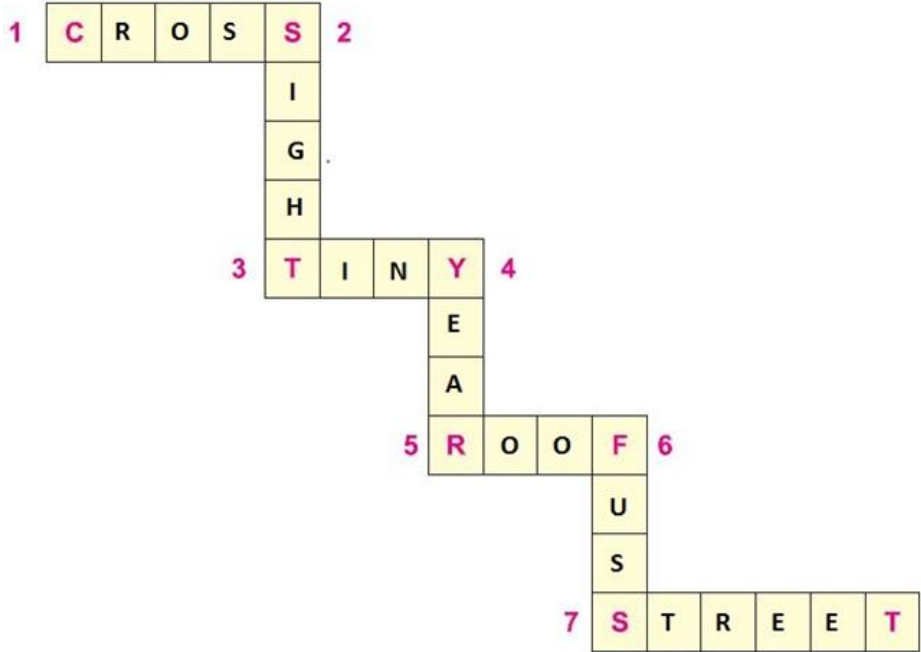
He smeared his face with ashes.

**Question 3.** Complete the following word ladder with the help of the clues given below.

1. Mother will be very \_\_\_\_\_ if you don't go to school.
2. As soon as he caught \_\_\_\_\_ of the teacher, Mohan started writing.
3. How do you like my \_\_\_\_\_ kitchen garden? Big enough for you, is it?
4. My youngest sister is now a \_\_\_\_\_ old.
5. Standing on the \_\_\_\_\_, he saw children playing on the road.
6. Don't make such a \_\_\_\_\_. Nothing will happen.
7. Don't cross the \_\_\_\_\_ till the green light comes on.



**Answer:**



1. Mother will be very **cross** if you don't go to school.
2. As soon as he caught **sight** of the teacher, Mohan started writing.
3. How do you like my **tiny** kitchen garden? Big enough for you, is it?

4. My youngest sister is now a **year** old.
5. Standing on the **roof**, he saw children playing on the road.
6. Don't make such a **fuss**. Nothing will happen.
7. Don't cross the **street** till the green light comes on.