

## The Kingdom of Fools

→ Theme of the story →

- "In the Kingdom of Fools" is a folktale that brings to light the dangers posed by foolish people.
- It also emphasizes the view that foolish people can be very difficult to manage.
- They can be dealt with only by the wise and calm people. The story is about a kingdom where the king & the ministers are nothing but fools.
- They reversed the order of the day & night and punished anyone who violated the laws.
- A learned Guru and his disciple arrive in the Kingdom only to find that everyone performed the chores after evening and slept at night.
- After this a series of events follows which lead to the downfall of the king & his ministers.

→ Word meaning →

- ① Ballif - a law officer who makes sure that decisions of a court.
- ② Scrape - a difficult situation that one has got into.

Q/Ans →

① What are the two strange things the guru and his disciple find in the kingdom of fools?

Ans → The two strange things the guru and his disciple found in the kingdom of fools are :-

- Everyone sleeps during the day and does work and other regular chores at night.
- Everything costs the same - one duddu i.e., one rupee, whether one buys a measure of rice or a bunch of bananas, it cost a duddu.

② Why does the disciple decide to stay in the kingdom of fools? Is it good idea?

Ans → The disciple decides to stay in the kingdom of fools because everything was cheap in that kingdom. He wanted to have good, cheap food. No, it is not a good idea. The guru even warned the disciple that it was the kingdom of fools and it won't last very long. He said that one can't tell what the people of this kingdom will do next.

③ Name all the people who are tried in

the king's court, and give the reasons for their trial.

Ans: The people who are tried in the king's court, and give the reason are → the merchant, the bricklayer, the dancing girl, the goldsmith and the merchant [second time]

→ The merchant was tried because the burglar died when the wall of the merchant's house fell on him.

→ The bricklayer was tried because he was the one <sup>who</sup> built the wall so weak that it fell upon and killed the burglar.

→ The dancing girl was tried because she distracted the bricklayer by walking up and down on the road with jingling anklets while he was building up the wall.

→ The goldsmith was tried because he didn't complete the jewellery order given by the dancing girl and that's why she had to go numerous times to check if the order was ready.

→ The merchant was again tried because the goldsmith couldn't work on the dancing girl's order as he was completely occupied with the jewelry order of the merchant's father. As merchant's father was dead, the merchant was the one to be punished.