

17.8.21

Idgah, festival of Eid

Word meanings:

agog : eager

Idgah : an open air gathering place for Eid prayers

famished : extremely hungry

wasted away : became weaker progressively

ailed : troubled

Soiled and tattered : dirty and torn

hovel : Small hut

fret : worry

tongas and ekkas : cart pulled by horses.

rustic : not sophisticated.

frantically : urgently and loudly

spectacle : scene

assault : physical attack

plummeting : falling at a high speed

roundabout : merry-go-round

crestfallen : very sad

steels his heart : prepares for the worst

struts : walks

retorts : replies in a sharp manner

wield : hold

mendicants : beggars

tambourine : musical instrument

beating of breasts : expression of sorrow
 bier : a movable frame used to carry a corpse.
 mortal : human being
 Palanquin : A litter carried by people.
 lisping : speaking like a child.
 beseeched : asked for something sincerely.

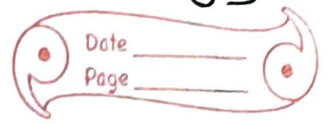
Get Going :

A. Let us find the answers :

1. Describe the errands the villagers are busy with before going to the mosque.

Ans. The village is agog with excitement. Everyone is up early to go to the Eidgah mosque. One finds a button missing from his shirt and is hurrying to his neighbour's house for thread and needle. Another finds that the leather of his shoe has become hard and is running to the oil press for oil to grease it. They are dumping fodder before their oxen.

2. What are the things that tell us how poor Hamid is?



Ans- Hamid is poorly dressed, thin and famished looking. He has no shoes on his feet, the cap on his head is soiled and tattered, its gold thread has turned black.

3. Why is Aameena worried about Hamid going to the fair all by himself?

Ans- Aameena is worried about Hamid going to the fair all by himself because Hamid is only four and the Eidgah is four miles away. Besides, he has no shoes. She is concerned about Hamid getting lost in the crowd.

4. How are the 'village rustics' different from the other people arriving in the town?

Ans- While others arrived in the town on tongas and motor cars wearing expensive dresses and perfumes, the village rustics were dressed in simple clothes and had come walking.

5. What do the people do after the prayer is over?

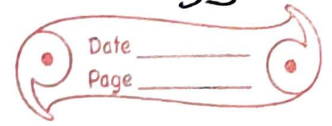
Ans. The people embrace and greet each other after the prayer is over. They also visit different stores and purchase sweets, toys and other items.

6. How does Hamid respond when his friends make fun of him for buying a pair of tongs?

Ans. Hamid bravely defends his choice of buying a pair of tongs by giving witty reasons that prove that his purchase is better than their toys.

7. Describe the fate that befalls Noorey's lawyer.

Ans. Noorey's lawyer met an end befitting his grand status. He was waving a fan over his toy when it fell from the plank on which it was kept. It could have been either the breeze or the fan that was responsible for this accident. On falling to the ground, the lawyer was reduced to dust.



8. How does Mahmood change his constable into a holy man? Why does he have to make the change?

Ans. Mahmood changes his Constable into a holy man by cutting its one leg to match the broken leg and making him ~~rest~~ sit in one place as if he was guarding the village. He is forced to do so when the Constable slips and falls from its makeshift palanquin and breaks its legs.

9. Give evidence from the story to prove that Hamid is not only thoughtful but also a very intelligent boy.

Ans. Hamid shows his intelligence at two places in the story: when he bargains with the shopkeeper and buys a pair of tongs with three pice and when he outwits other children in defending his choice of buying a pair of tongs.

10. Complete the table about the toys the children buy at the fair. Then describe each of the toy.

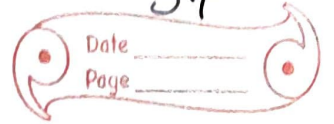
Ans.	Name	Toy	Description
	Mahmood	Policeman	khaki uniform, red turban and a gun on the shoulder.
	Mohsin	water carrier	Back bent, water-bag on the back.
	Noorey	lawyer	Black gown, long white coat, gold watch chain in the pocket and a law book in hand.

B. Let us read between the lines :-

1. What does the author mean when he says that Hamid is the happiest of the boys?

Ans. Hamid is the happiest of the boys because he thinks that his father has gone to earn money with sack loads of silver and his mother will bring gifts for him from Allah.

2. When Mohsin teases Hamid about the sesame



Candy, the others have a 'jolly good laugh' at Hamid. What does this tell us about them?

Ans. The children join in making fun of Hamid when Mohsin teases him about the sesame candy. This shows that the children are insensitive and don't care much for Hamid.

3. What makes Hamid realise that the tongs are the best thing to spend his three pice on? What does this tell us about him?

Ans. The thought that a pair of tongs will help save granny's hand from burning makes Hamid realise that the tongs are the best way to spend his three pice. It shows that Hamid is a loving and thoughtful child.

4. Why do you think the shopkeeper initially refuses to sell the tongs to Hamid and then sells them at a much lower price?

Ans. The shopkeeper initially refuses to sell

the tongs to Hamid as he thinks the tongs are of no use to a child as young as Hamid, but later sensing Hamid's feeling for a family member, he sells them at a much lower price.

5. There is a sudden change in Hamid's demeanour and self-confidence after he buys the tongs. Why do you think this happens?

Ans. There is a sudden change in Hamid's demeanour and self-confidence after he buys the tongs as the thought of doing something for his poor old granny fills his heart with joy and pride.

6. Find sentences from the story that show how well Aameena understands the sacrifice little Hamid makes for her.

Ans. Aameena starts crying, seeing little Hamid's sacrifice. She spreads her apron and beseeches Allah to bless the little child.

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C. Let us go beyond the story:

1. Why is the prayer described as a 'wonderful spectacle'? What, in your opinion, makes it so special?

Ans. The prayer is done in perfect coordination. Hundreds and thousands of heads bow together in prayer and ~~they~~ then they all stand erect, bow down and sit on their knees. The scene looks as if hundreds and thousands of electric bulbs are switched on and off at the same time. It is referred to as a spectacular sight, thought that all people irrespective of their wealth and status, stand together to offer their prayers. makes it so special.

2. Imagine Hamid having as much money as the other children. How do you think he will spend it? Do you think his behaviour will be any different?

Ans. In my opinion, Hamid would have spent a little money to buy a few things he wanted for himself, but at the same time, he wouldn't have forgotten to buy something for his old grandma too.