

Date

T: understand a story

- 1) Why did Mr Tipnis's son's grades (marks) 'show a remarkable transformation, especially in history'?
- 2) Why has the author used an apostrophe for 'And now it was Raghu's turn'?
- 3) Why did Raghu climb the stairs 'slowly, as if he had been sleep-walking'?
- 4) What does the saying (quoted by Mr Pal in the 2nd paragraph) mean "that genius is 99 per cent perspiration (sweat) and one per cent inspiration"?
- 5) There was once a King called Dionysius. One of his servants (called Damocles) was telling King Dionysius about how great his life was with all his power and riches. Dionysius asked Damocles if he would like to try being King, and of course, Damocles agreed. Damocles was having a wonderful time until he noticed a razor-sharp sword hanging above his throne, held by a single thin weak horse-hair. Dionysius explained to Damocles that this is what life as King was like, and Damocles quickly asked to go back to his poorer, yet safer, life. What was the King trying to tell Damocles?
- 6) Why does the author compare the History book to the 'Sword of Damocles' (in the 2nd paragraph)?
- 7) Why did the class give an involuntary shudder (Their bodies shivered) when Pal said they could 'chew his brains' outside the classroom (in the 3^d paragraph)?
- 8) What do you think was in the white envelope the head teacher's wife gave to Pal? Why was it in an envelope and 'thrust' into his hand, as opposed to being 'placed' or 'put' in his hand?
- 9) Why was Raghu excited when he realised that Mr Pal had been tutoring?
- 10) Why did Mr Pal decide to cancel the class presentations?
- 11) Why did Mr Pal stop 'passing by the staff houses'?
- 12) The title of the story: 'Teaching a Lesson' has a double meaning. What are its two meanings?
- 13) Do you think Tapan and Tipnis' family are wealthy or poor? Why?
- 14) Can you think of another story that has a similar theme?

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- 1) Because Mr Pal, who was a history teacher, was teaching him (AF2)
- 2) It shows possession / ownership - the turn belongs to Raghu, there is not more than one Raghu (AF4)
- 3) He was unhappy / worried / anxious etc (AF3 + AF5)
- 4) People who are clever, are nearly always clever because they work hard, not because they are gifted or talented (AF3 + AF5)
- 5) That life as a King was not that great because you are always worried someone will try to kill you (AF3 + AF5)
- 6) Because the History presentation was going to be hanging over Raghu; he would be worried about it all the time (AF3 + AF5)
- 7) The idea of spending time with Mr Pal outside of class was so appalling / horrifying etc (AF3 + AF5)
- 8) Money to pay for the tutoring. It was in an envelope and 'thrust' into his hand because they were breaking the school rules and didn't want anyone to know (AF3 + AF5)
- 9) Because he could use the 'dirt' on him to stop him making the class give presentations and do his job for him (AF3)
- 10) Because he was afraid that if he didn't Raghu would tell the head teacher about his tutoring and he would lose his job (AF3)
- 11) Because the only reason he went there was to tutor other teachers' children (AF3)
- 12) That it is about Raghu and his classmates having to teach lessons and because Mr Pal was taught a lesson - to do his job properly and not break the rules (AF4 + AF6)
- 13) Wealthy because they could afford to pay Mr Pal to privately tutor their children (AF7)
- 14) Any story where a nasty character is taught a moral lesson (AF7)

Brackets at the end refer to the AF focus, as given in the APP reading levels grids