

Based on **POORVI** New NCERT Textbook

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ENGLISH

POORVI

For the Student of Class 6

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Unit - 1 : Fables and Folk Tales

1

A Bottle of Dew

Author : Sudha Murty

Sudha Murty is a novelist and motivational speaker as well. A prolific writer in English and Kannada, she has written more than 42 books across genres – from children’s books to short stories, novels, technical books, and travelogues. Her books have been translated into all the major Indian languages. She has 11 honorary doctorates and is the recipient of many prestigious awards including the Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri from the Government of India in 2023 and 2006 respectively; Sahitya Akademi Award in 2023; the R.K. Narayan Award for Literature in 2006 and the Attimabbe award for excellence in Kannada literature from the Government of Karnataka in 2011. Most recently, Sudha Murty was nominated as a Member of the Rajya Sabha.

Summary

Rama Natha inherited vast lands from his wealthy father. He was not interested in working hard on his fields but was more interested in finding a magical potion that could turn anything into gold. He believed in this potion so deeply that he neglected his fields completely. He spent all his time and money seeking clues about the potion’s existence. He was cheated many times still he kept on looking for someone who could help him find the magic potion.

His wife, Madhumati, grew increasingly concerned as their finances dwindled due to Rama Natha’s fruitless pursuit. She feared they would soon become poor. One day, a renowned sage named Mahipati visited their town. Rama Natha, eager to uncover the secret of the magic potion, became Mahipati’s follower and asked him about it. To his surprise, Mahipati claimed to know of such a potion but said that it required collecting five litre dew from banana plants and performing a ritual to activate its powers.

Realizing the challenge ahead, Rama Natha started tending to his neglected fields by planting rows of banana plants. He and his wife Madhumati cared for the plants diligently, collecting dew from their leaves during the winter months. Madhumati also sold the bananas in the market, bringing in much-needed income. Over the years, their banana plantation flourished, and Rama Natha gradually gathered a significant amount of dew.

After six years of hard work, Rama Natha finally gathered five litres of dew and brought it to sage Mahipati. The sage performed a ritual over the dew, supposedly

turning it into the magic potion. However, when Rama Natha tested it on a copper vessel, nothing happened. Disappointed and feeling cheated, he accused the sage of deception, believing he had wasted years of his life.

To Rama Natha's astonishment, Mahipati calmly called Madhumati, who brought with her a box filled with stacks of gold coins. The sage then explained that there was never any magic potion; the true source of their wealth was the hard work and dedication they had put into their banana plantation. While Rama Natha tended to the plants, Madhumati sold the fruits in the market, which generated wealth over time.

Mahipati's trickery was meant to teach Rama Natha an important lesson that success and wealth come from honest labour, perseverance, and utilizing the resources at hand. From that moment on, Rama Natha understood the value of hard work and promised to put all his efforts into his fields .



New Words and Their Meanings

1.	Landlord	a person who owns and rents out land.
2.	Tracts	large areas of land.
3.	Potion	a liquid with magical properties, often used for transformation or healing.
4.	Give up	stop trying.
5.	Dew	small drops of water that form on surfaces, especially plants, during cold nights.
6.	Chant	to repeat or sing a word or phrase rhythmically, often as a part of a ritual or incantation.
7.	Follower	someone who believes in and follows the teachings or guidance of another person, often a leader or sage.
8.	Worried	anxious
9.	Gathered	collected
10.	Tended	looked after or cared for something, such as plants or animals.
11.	Muttered	spoke in a low voice
12.	Precious	valuable
13.	Played a trick	deceived
14.	Wisdom	deep understanding



NCERT TEXTUAL EXERCISES

Let us do these activities before we read

(Page 1)

Q. 1. Circle the picture that matches with each word. Check your answers by sharing them with your classmates and teacher.

Ans. : (a) worried



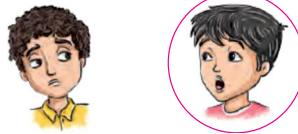
(b) plantation



(c) sage



(d) surprise



Q. 2. Answer these questions and discuss them with your classmates and teacher.

(a) Think of a time when you worked hard. What did you do then?

Ans : Last year, when I was in 5th class, I lagged behind in my studies due to my long illness. I was much worried about my grades in internal exams. My class teacher motivated me and told me that I could still compensate for my loss if I worked harder. I prepared my Time-Table for self-study and studied accordingly for long hours. My class teacher also helped me whenever I needed his help.

(b) How did it help you?

Ans : It helped me fare well in my annual exams and makeup for the loss.

(c) How did it make you feel?

Ans : It made me feel confident and happy.

Let us discuss

(Page 3)

Q. 1. What did Rama Natha believe?

Ans. : Rama Natha believed that there was a magic potion that could turn any object into gold.

Q. 2. How did the sage help Rama Natha?

Ans. : The sage helped Rama Natha by advising him to plant many banana plants and collect five litres of dew from their leaves. He, thus, made him work hard.

Q. 3. Do you think Rama Natha will be able to collect the dew? Give a reason.

Ans. : Yes, I think Rama Natha will be able to collect the dew as he is very keen to get the magic potion and he can get it only by collecting the dew as told by the sage.

Let us discuss

(Page 5)

Q. 1. Why was Rama Natha angry?

Ans. : Rama Natha was angry because he realized that the sage had played a trick on him as the magic potion did not work.

Q. 2. How did Rama Natha and Madhumati create wealth?

Ans. : Rama Natha worked hard on his land and created his plantation. While he looked after the trees, his wife sold the fruits in the market. That is how they created wealth.

Let us think and reflect

(Page 6)

Q. 1. Read the following lines and answer the questions that follow :

(1) He spent all his time to learn about the magic potion. People cheated him often, promising to tell him about it, but he did not give up. His wife, Madhumati, was tired of this and also worried because she saw how much money Rama Natha was spending. She was sure that soon they would be without money.

(i) Complete the sentence with a suitable reason.

Rama Natha did not 'give up' because _____.

Ans. : he was very keen to learn about the magic potion.

(ii) Read the column which shows 'what happened' and write the correct outcome in the next column.

What Happened	Outcome
A. People promised to tell Rama Natha about the magic potion.	
B. Rama Natha was spending a lot of money.	

Ans. :

What Happened	Outcome
A. People promised to tell Rama Natha about the magic potion.	Rama Natha spent a lot of money and time.
B. Rama Natha was spending a lot of money.	His wife, Madhumati was worried that they would soon be without money.

(iii) Write whether the following statements are True or False :

- (a) Madhumati was troubled about what her husband did.
- (b) Rama Natha was very happy digging his fields.
- (c) The sage wanted to show the right path to Rama Natha.

Ans. : (a) True (b) False (c) True

(2) Carefully, he took the bottle to the sage. The sage smiled and muttered something over the water. Then he returned the bottle and said, "Try it out." Rama Natha sprinkled a few drops on a copper vessel and waited for it to turn to gold. To his surprise nothing happened!

(i) Choose the option that lists the events given below in the correct order.

- (A) The sage smiled.
 (B) Rama Natha gave the bottle to the sage.
 (C) Rama Natha dropped a few drops of water on a copper vessel.
 (D) He said something in a low voice over the water.
 (E) Rama Natha waited to see if the magic worked.