

**DATE: 28 May 2021 ENGLISH LITERATURE NOTES/WORKSHEET - 1 CLASS - VIII**

### **Chapter 4 - Father’s Help by R.K. Narayan**

### **Questions and Answers**

### **Tick ‘T’ for true statements and ‘F’ for false ones.**

**(a)** Swami did not want to go to school because he had a headache **– False**

**(b)** Swami’s school began at 9:00 a.m. **– False**

**(c)** Samuel taught arithmetic and history to Swami and his class-fellows **– True**

**(d)** Swami decided to fling the complaint letter written by his father into gutter **– True**

**(e)** Swami was overjoyed at getting the complaint letter against Samuel **– False**

**(f)** Swami reached the school an hour late **– False**

**(g)** Samuel gave Swami eight cuts of cane **– False**

**(h)** Samuel had two arithmetic periods with Swami’s class on Monday **– False**

**(i)** Swami delivered the complaint letter to the headmaster after the last bell rang **– False**

###  **Answer the following questions in about 30 words each.**

### **How did Swamy’s father react when Swami told him that he was not going to school? How different was his reaction from that of his mother?**

**Answer:** Swami’s father scowled at him and remarked that Swami should not remain idle on Sunday if he wants to get up without a headache on Monday. He angrily instructed Swami to get ready for the school without any delay. His reaction was entirely different from his mother as he dealt with Swami strictly but his mother listened to his excuses calmly and permitted him to stay at home.

### **Father’s behaviour took an unexpected turn. What was unexpected about Swami’s father’s behaviour?**

**Answer:** Swami gave a lurid account of Samuel’s violence and hoped that after listening to his statements his father would not allow him to attend Samuel’s class late. But to his surprise, his father proposed to send him late to Samuel’s class as a kind of challenge. This was an unexpected turn in Swami’s father’s behaviour.

### **Why didn’t Swami hand over the complaint letter to the headmaster in the morning?**

**Answer:** Swami didn’t hand over the complaint letter to the headmaster in the morning because there was a chance that Samuel might do something to justify the letter.

### **Could Swami deliver the complaint letter to the headmaster after school? Why/why not?**

**Answer:** No, Swami couldn’t deliver the complaint letter to the headmaster after school because the headmaster had taken the afternoon off and was on leave for a week.

### **HOTS**

### **Swami went to school feeling that he was the worst perjurer on earth. Describe his feelings at this point. Why did he feel like the worst perjurer?**

**Answer:** Swami was burdened with his guilt. His conscience bothered him, he was not at all sure if he had been accurate in his description of Samuel. He could not decide how much of what he had said was imagined and how much of it was real. Swami’s head was dizzy with confusion. One moment he felt an impulse to run back home and request his father to take that letter. But he knew his father was stubborn. He knew he would be held responsible for all disgrace, humiliation and suffering of Samuel. The more he thought of Samuel, the more he pained for him. He felt like the worst as he knew that he had lied about his teacher and had made a shocking account of his violence to his father. He wished to fling the letter into the gutter but the thought of his father’s obstinate nature stopped him in doing so, whom he could not deceive.

# **LIFE SKILLS**

**What impression have you formed of Swami’s relation with his father? How should children and their parents behave with each other?**

**Ans :-** I think that Swami does not have a sound relation with his father. Swami's father is very obstinate by nature. He never ever trusts his son and keeps on argumenting with him most of the time. As a result, Swami also tells a lie to his father.

I think that children and their parents should behave with each other positively. Parents should listen to their children so that they may not need to lie to their parents. They should show love, care, attention etc. to each other.

**VALUES**

**Swami gives a very unfair description of Samuel to his father. How would you have behaved, had you been in Swami’s place?**

**Ans :-** If I had been in the place of Swami then, I would have told my parents truthfully.

**EXTRA QUESTIONS**

### **Question 1: How was Swami’s father’s behaviour different from his mother’s?**

**Answer:** Swami’s mother had a sympathetic attitude, she generously allowed him to stay at home but his father being a stubborn natured person did not listen to any of his excuses and forced him to go to school.

### **Question 2: Why and where was Swami at 9:30 a.m. and where was he supposed to be?**

**Answer:** Swami, on Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. pretended to have a headache and was lying on the bench in mother’s room. He was supposed to be at school shouting in the school prayer hall.

### **Question 3: Why did Swami make an excuse for a headache on Monday morning?**

**Answer:** Swami was in no mood to go to school. He had Monday morning blues, so he made a very childish and casual excuse of having a severe headache.

### **Question 4: Why was Swami reluctant to give the letter to the headmaster? What were his thoughts about the whole matter?**

**Answer:** Swami was reluctant to give the letter to the headmaster because he knew that he had given a false picture of Samuel to his father. He considered himself as the worst perjurer. His conscience pricked him and he decided to deliver the letter at the end of the day so that he could have time to try and prove what was written in the letter was true.

**IN BETWEEN THE CHAPTER QUESTIONS/ ANSWERS**

1) Who was Swami? What was his full name?

**Ans:** Swami was a young school going boy, the main character in the short story, "Father's Help".

The full name of Swami was Swaminathan.

2) What is the source of the story "Father's Help"?

**Ans:** The short story "Father's Help" is an edited excerpt from R.K Narayan's famous short story collection "Malgudi Days".

3) What is the story "Father's Help" about?

**Ans:** The short story, "Father's Help" is about the thoughts and feelings of a young school going boy who was unwilling to go to school and took pranks.

4) What is the significance of the title of the story "Father's Help"?

**Ans:** The title of the story is suggestive and ironic in the sense. The title of the story suggests how the strictness of father helped Swami to change the perspective about his teacher.

5) What did Swami realize lying in bed?

**Ans:** Lying in bed, Swami realized that it was Monday morning and he had to attend school.

6) What hope cropped up in his mind then?

**Ans:** Swami hoped that he might avoid going to school then. Actually he was quite unwilling to attend school on that day.

7) What did Swami do to avoid school?

**Ans:** Being unwilling to go to school, Swami gave a lame excuse. He pretended that he had been suffering from a headache.

8) What did Swami's mother say when she heard him wailing?

**Ans:** When Swami's mother heard him wailing, she affectionately suggested that he stay at home.

9) What was the advice to Swami from his father to avoid a headache?

**Ans:** When Swami's father heard of Swami's headache on Monday, he suggested to Swami that Swami should loaf about less on Sundays to be without headache on Mondays.

10) Where should have been Swami at 9.30? What was he doing then?

**Ans:** At 9.30, Swami should have been in the school prayer hall. But Swami was lying on the bench in the mother's room then.

11) Why did Swami change his tactics?

**Ans:** Swami knew that his father was a very strict person. So his excuse of suffering from headache would not be sufficient enough to convince his father. So he changed his tactics.

12) What tactics did Swami take to convince his father?

**Ans:** To convince his father, Swami changed his tactics and told him that he could not go to school now as he was late. His teacher Samuel felt angry with the late comers.

13) Why did not Swami like to go to school in Samuel's class?

**Ans:** According to Swami, Samuel was an angry man. He was especially angry with the students who came late to his class. To avoid being scolded from Samuel as he was late, he did not want to attend school.

14) Why did not Swami tell the headmaster about Samuel?

**Ans:** Swami had made an exaggerated statement about Samuel that even the headmaster was afraid of Samuel. So it was worthless to complain to the headmaster against Samuel.

 **(Unit- 2)**

1) What did Swami hope for?

**Ans:** Swami hoped that he would be able to convince his father with his excuse why he wanted to avoid school on that day.

2) What was the unexpected turn that Swami found in his father's behaviour?

**Ans:** Swami found an unexpected change in his father's behaviour. His father was stubborn in his attitude to send Swami to attend school along with a letter to the headmaster complaining against teacher Samuel.

3) How did Swami's father hand over the letter to Swami?

**Ans:** After composing a long letter to the headmaster, Swami's father put it in an envelope and sealed it before handing it over to Swami.

4) What instruction did Swami's father give Swami after handing over the letter to him?

**Ans:** After handing over the letter to Swami, his father instructed him to deliver it to the headmaster before going to the class.

5) What did Swami's father write in the letter?

**Ans:** Swami's father composed a long letter complaining against Swami's teacher, Samuel.

6) How did Swami feel when he received the letter from his father?

**Ans:** Swami felt a little worried about the letter which was written in complaining against his teacher, Samuel. He felt worried as he felt that he overstated about Samuel.

7) How did Swami feel when he went to school?

**Ans:** Swami went to school feeling that he was the worst boy on the earth. This is nothing but the outcome of his guilt that was pricking his conscience.

8) Why did Swami's conscience bother him?

**Ans:** Swami was suffering from a prick of conscience. This is nothing but the outcome of his guilt as he made an overstated description about his teacher, Samuel.

9) Why did Swami stop on his way to school?

**Ans:** Swami was torn in conflict regarding his teacher, Samuel. So, he stopped on the roadside to make up his mind about Samuel.

10) How was Swami's relation with his teacher Samuel?

**Ans:** Swami felt that Samuel was more friendly than the other teachers. He personally felt that Samuel had a special regard for him.

11) Why was Swami's head dizzy with confusion?

**Ans:** Swami's head was dizzy with confusion because Swami was unable to decide if Samuel really deserved the allegations made against him by Swami himself.

12) What filled Swaminathan with sorrow?

**Ans:** Swami was pricked with a conscience of guilt about the description he made against Samuel. He felt the impact of his father's letter on Samuel. So, the more he thought of Samuel, the more Swami grieved for him.

13) Give a description of Samuel's look?

**Ans** : Samuel had a dark face with a thin moustache. His cheek was unshaven. He wore a yellow coat.

**(Unit- 3)**

1) What idea occurred to Swami as he entered the school gate?

Ans: As Swami entered the school gate, an idea came to his mind that he would deliver the letter to the headmaster at the end of the day.

2) Why did Swami decide to deliver the letter at the end of the day?

Ans: Swami thought that if he would deliver the letter to the headmaster at the end of the day, then there would be a chance that Samuel might do something during the course of the day to justify the letter.

3) Where did Swami stand and what was Samuel doing then?

Ans: Swami stood at the entrance to his class and Samuel was teaching arithmetic then in the class.

4) What did Swami expect from his teacher Samuel?

Ans: Standing at the entrance to his class, Swami expected that his teacher Samuel would scold him severely for being late to his class.

5) What was an unexpected question from Samuel?

Ans: Swami informed his teacher Samuel that he was late for his school because he was suffering from headache. On hearing this Samuel asked him why he came late to school when he was suffering from headache. This was an unexpected question from Samuel.

6) How long was Swami late?

Ans: Swami was late for class by half an hour on that day.

7) What impressed Samuel?

Ans: Swami informed his teacher Samuel that he came to school with a headache because his father did not like him to drop school. This reply from Swami impressed Samuel very much.

8) What kind of parents did Samuel like?

Ans: Samuel liked parents like Swami's father who did not allow their children to miss school.

9) When would Samuel got angry the most?

Ans: Samuel would get angry the most at the time of inspecting the home lessons.

10) Why did Swami consider Samuel 'poor man'?

Ans: Swami had a letter with him in which his father made a complaint against him to the headmaster. Samuel was totally unaware of his ill-luck awaiting for him. Here Swami felt sympathetic for Samuel and considered him 'poor man'.