

Whom does God Help?

The examination were nearing. Ritesh and his classmates were discussing what they plan to do for the exams.

Akhil said, "I prayed to God that I will offer rupees hundred and one if I get 80 marks or more.



Ritesh said to him, "You cannot buy marks with money. You have to work hard. How is your study going on?"

Akhil said sheepishly, "Well, I have been studying. I study everyday for two hours. But my father says God grants anything that one asks Him. That is why I am asking God to give me more marks. Can He not give me even this much?"

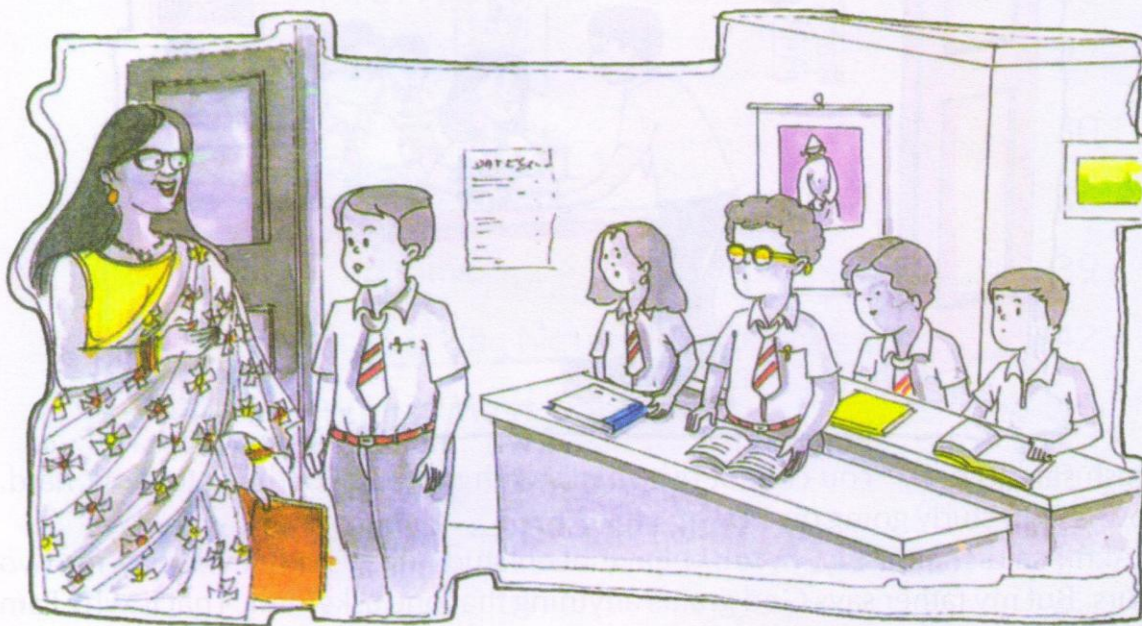
Ritesh did not reply him. He turned towards Protima. Protima thought she should also say what she felt. "I have made a vow too. I will break a hundred and eight coconuts if I get 75 marks or more. I am sure God will grant me my wish, said Protima with enthusiasm." Ritesh asked her, "How are you studying? Have you prepared all your papers?"

She was slightly hesitant now." No, not much. I am not yet good in Maths. I have to prepare my Science lessons yet," she said.

The examinations were over. The children had a small break of seven days. Then they assembled in the school. They all were anxious to know their results. The teacher, Ms. Monica, came into the class. She handed over the papers to the children. Ritesh had got 88 marks in Science and 93 marks in Maths. He stood first in the class. She asked Ritesh how he had prepared for the examinations.

"Well madam, I studied for six to eight hours everyday. My father helped me in my studies. I revised all my exercises and class notes. In fact, my father gave me a model examination a week before. He corrected the papers and told me how I should improve."

Ms. Monica gave the papers to all the students. Akhil had got just 53 marks in both. Protima had got only 50 marks in Mathematics and 55 in Science. Akhil was very sad. "How much had I prayed to God! He didn't help me," he said.



Ms. Monica smiled and said, "If you do not study at all, you cannot expect God to shower marks. You must also do your duty. Then only God will help you."

God helps those who help themselves.

A. Answer the questions.

1. What did Akhil promise to do if he got 80 marks or more ?
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2. How did Ritesh prepare for the examinations ?
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3. How many marks did Protima get in Science and Maths ?
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4. What was the message he teacher gave ?
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B. Comprehension.

There was a lazy man called Kumar. He never wanted to work. So he was very poor too. One day he prayed to God, "Lord, I am your devotee. But you have not shown your grace. Do you want me to die of hunger ?"

The next morning a stranger came to his house. He said, "Please take these oysters. Give me a pumpkin from your garden." Kumar gave a pumpkin and took the oysters. But he was too lazy to cook the oysters. He gave them to his neighbour. The neighbour gave him a fish. Kumar did not even want to cook the fish. He gave the fish to a fruit vendor and got some fruits.

The next day God spoke to him in the temple, "What a lazy man you are! The oysters had some precious pearls. You didn't take them. The fish had a diamond ring in its belly. You didn't get it. I give you another chance. I will grant you a boon. Ask anything you want. Don't blame me later." Kumar thought for a while. Then he said, "I wish you to take me home, so that I can consult my wife." His wish was granted. He was in his home the next moment. But alas! God had vanished and the boon had vanished too.



Answer the questions.

1. Why was Kumar poor ?
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2. What did he complain God ?
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3. Why did he not use the oysters ?

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4. Why did he not use the fish ?

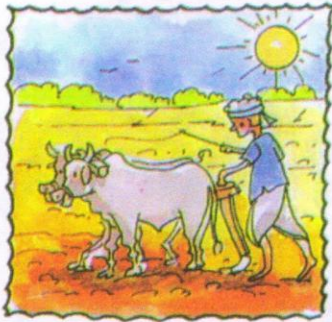
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5. Did God vanish without giving him the boon ?

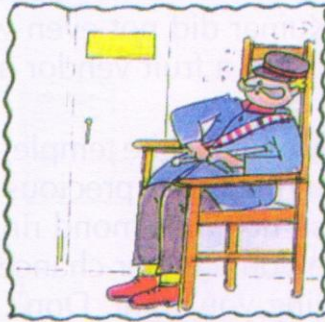
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C. Observe the pictures.

Are the people in the picture working hard, or thinking God will help them without making any efforts? Discuss and write, according to you who is devoted to their work.



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D. Answer 'Yes' or 'No' in the following cases.

1. A man is standing on the road. A fierce bull comes charging at him. He says, "I will not move. God should come to save me." Will God come to save him?
2. Mahesh says, "No need to study. Pray to God everyday for 109 days. You will get very good marks." Will God give him marks?
3. Lucy says, "If we work hard God will help us to get good marks." Is she right?
4. Sunil seeing a diamond necklace in the marriage pandal says, "God has been very kind to me. He has sent me this gift." Is he right?
5. Manish did not win the race. His father says, "Don't lose heart, my son. If you keep trying God will help you." Is he correct?
6. Manju says, "God, Make me first in the class. Please fail Neelam this year." Will God grant her wish?

Points to Ponder

- * God will help those who help themselves.
- * God is kind to those who are kind to others.
- * God does not stand by you if you think ill of others.
- * God cannot be kind to people who lie, steal or harm others

