The Invention of Vita-Wonk Roald Dahl

SUMMARY OF THE LESSON

Mr. Willy Wonka was a scientist. He first invented a tonic Wonka-Vite which made people younger. But it was such a powerful medicine that many people disappeared after their age went in minus. One person even became minus 87. The poor fellow had to wait 87 years to come back. Willy Wonka decided to invent a new thing to undo the harm. He had to make people old.

He wanted to know what the oldest living thing in the world was or what lived longer than anything else. His assistant Charlie named tree. But the question emerged which tree. It was certainly not the fir, oak or cedar. It was a tree called Bristlecone that grew in Nevada USA. Such trees were 4000 years old. Wonka got into his Great Glass Elevator and rushed all over the world. He collected special items from the oldest living things. He took a pint of sap from the Bristlecone Pine, the toe nail clippings from a 168 year old Russian farmer, an egg laid by 200 year old tortoise, the whiskers of a 36 year old cat and so on.

What tross does . I II Vonka mention? Which tree

Mr. Wonka tracked down very old animals and took a bit of something from each one of them. In the end he boiled and tasted the product in his inventing room. He produced one small cupful of black liquid. He gave four drops of it to a brave young volunteer, Oompa-Loompa to see what happened.

"What was the result"? Charlie asked.

Mr. Wonka said that the effect of the medicine was swift and fantastic. The moment that young man gulped down those drops,

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he began growing old and wrinkled. His hair dropped off and his teeth also started falling out. In an instant the twenty-year old boy became an old man of seventy- five. In this way Vita-Wonk was invented.

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

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- COMPREHENSION CHECK
 - 1. Choose the right answer.
 - (i) Mr. Willy Wonka is (a) a cook, (b) an inventor, (c) a manager.
 - (ii) Wonka-Vite makes people (a) older (b) younger.
 - (iii) Mr. Wonka wants to invent a new thing which will make people (a) younger, (b) older.
- Ans. (i) (b) an inventor (ii) (b) younger (iii) (b) older
 - 2. Can anyone's age be a minus number? What does "minus 87" mean?
- Ans. No, I don't think so. Minus 87 means that the man became 87 years back to his age (birth).
- 3. Mr. Wonka begins by asking himself two questions. What are they?
 - (i) What is _____? (ii) What lives _____
- Ans. (i) What is the oldest living thing in the world?
 - (ii) What lives longer than anything else?

WORKING WITH THE TEXT

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- 1. (i) What trees does Mr. Wonka mention? Which tree does he say lives the longest?
- (ii) How long does this tree live? Where can you find it?
- Ans. (i) Mr. Wonka mentions so many kinds of trees-oak, deodar and fir. However, the Bristlecone pine lives the longest.
 - (ii) This tree lives for 4000 years. We can find it on Wheeler Peak in Nevada, USA.
 - 2. How many of the oldest living things can you remember from Mr. Wonka's list? (Don't look back at

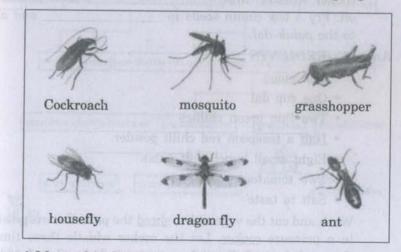
the story!) Do you think all these things really exist or are some of them purely imaginary?

- Ans. Mr. Wonka refers to purely imaginary old things collected from a Russian farmer, a tortoise, a horse, a flea and a rat.
 - 3. Why does Mr. Wonka collect items from the oldest things? Do you think this is the right way to begin his invention?
- Ans. Mr. Wonka collects items from very old things because he thinks that a drug prepared from them will make the user old. But it is a foolish dream exactly, not the right way to begin an invention.
 - 4. What happens to the volunteer who swallows four drops of the new invention? What is the name of the invention?
- Ans. The person who drinks just four drops of Wonka's new drug suddenly grows very old. His hair and his teeth start falling. His skin starts drying up and wrinkling. A twenty year old person looks seventy five.

WORKING WITH LANGUAGE

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1. What do you call these insects in your language?



Add to this list names of some insects common in your area.

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Ans. (i) तिलचट्टा (ii) मच्छर (iii) टिइडा (iv) मक्खी (v) भौरा (vi) चींटी Some more insects

Butterfly, wasp, honeybee, termite.

2. Fill in the blanks in the recipe given below with words from the box.

shred cooker times tomatoes half onion oil

EASY PALAK-DAL

INGREDIENTS

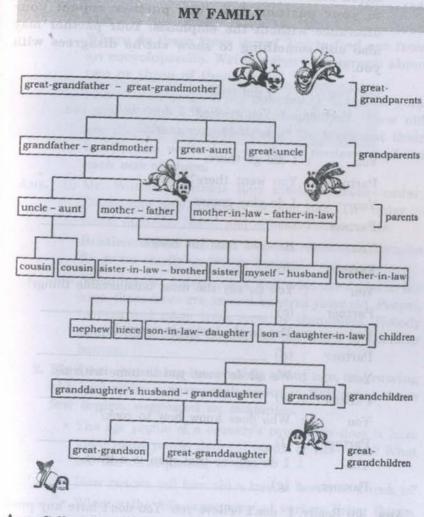
- One ____
- One cup dal
- Two thin green chillies
- ______ a teaspoon red chilli powder
- Eight small bunches of palak
- Two _____
- Salt to taste

Wash and cut the vegetables; _______ the palak. Put everything in a pressure ______. Let the cooker whistle three ______, then switch it off. Fry a few cumin seeds in ______ and add to the *palak_dal*.

Ans. INGREDIENTS

- One onion
- One cup dal
- Two thin green chillies
- · Half a teaspoon red chilli powder
- · Eight small bunches of palak
- · Two tomatoes
- · Salt to taste

Wash and cut the vegetables, <u>shred</u> the palk. Put everything in a pressure <u>cooker</u>. Let the cooker whistle three times, then switch it off. Fry a few cumin seeds in <u>oil</u> and add to the palak dal. 3. A 'family tree' is a diagram that shows the relationship between the different members of a family. Fill in the family tree below with names, ages, and other details you think are relevant (you may even stick photographs, if you have them). Put your family trees up in the class.



Ans. Collect the information yourself.

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SPEAKING

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Using Do for Emphasis

Charlie asks, "What did happen?"

This is a way of asking the question "What happened?" with emphasis.

Given below are a few emphatic utterances. Say them to your partner. Let your partner repeat your utterance without the emphasis. Your partner may also add something to show she/he disagrees with you.

You Partner	: I did study: You studied? I don't believe you. Look at your marks!
You :	I did go there.
Partner ::	You went there? Then
You :	I do play games.
Partner :	(a)
You :	He does read his books.
Partner :	(b)
You :	You do say the most unbelievable things!
Partner :	(c)
You :	The earth does spin around.
Partner :	(d)
You :	We all do want you to come with us.
Partner :	(e)
You :	Who does know how to cook?
Partner :	(f)
You :	I do believe that man is a thief.
Partner :	(g)

(a) Really, I don't believe you. You don't have any proof. Ans. (b) He read? I don't belieave you. Look at his marks.

(c) Do you say I tell lies?

(d) Surprising! I don't feel it spinning around.

(e) Then why didn't you invite me to come?

(f) I am afraid I don't know how to cook.

(g) But there is no evidence against him.

WRITING

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1. (i) Make a list of the trees Mr. Wonka mentions. Where do these trees grow? Try to find out from an encyclopaedia. Write a short paragraph about two or three of these trees.

(ii) Name some large trees commonly found in your area. Find out something about them (How old are they? Who planted them? Do birds eat their fruit?) and write two or three sentences about each one of them.

Ans. (i) Mr. Wonka mentions four kinds of trees-cedar, Bristlecone pine, Douglas fir and oak. The cedar is found in India, Nepal and other Asian countries.

Bristlecone pine is found in rocky mountains, Douglas fir grows chiefly in North America.

(ii) Neem, peepal, banyan, jack fruit trees are found in my area. Some trees are several hundred years old. Peepal, banyan and neem trees grow by themselves. Nobody plants them. Birds do not eat the fruits of neem or banyan.

2. Find out something interesting about age, or growing old, and write a paragraph about it. Following are a few topics, suggested as examples.

- · The age profile of a country's population-does it have more young people than old people or vice-versa? What are the consequences of this?
- · How can we tell how old a tree, a horse, or a rock is?
- · What is the 'life expectancy' of various living things, and various populations (how long can they reasonably expect to live)?

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- Ans. India is a vast country with a population of more than 100 crores. Majority of the people are young. Nearly 30 percent of population consists of old people. Then there are children and women. The country needs young, healthy and intelligent people. Old people have great experience but they provide a broken account of their diseases and weaknesses.
 - Scientists have developed ways to judge the age of trees, houses and rocks.
 - Domesticated animals like cows, goats, dogs have a short span of life. The tortoise and the elephants live upto 100 years. So do one of the human beings live upto hundred years.

* Dad and the Cat and the Tree

Kit Wright

SUMMARY OF THE POEM

One day a cat climbed a tree too high. It got stuck in the tree. It couldn't come down without help. The tree was tall and shaky. Dad got ready to rescue the cat. He didn't listen to mother's warning about his safety. He thought he was a great climber, and bringing the cat down was an easy game for him.

Dad brought out the ladder from the shed. But as he climbed it, it slipped. He fell to the ground in the flower-bed. But he didn't accept defeat. He brushed the dirt off his clothes and face. He got ready to try his second plan. He was confident of success this time.

Dad climbed the tree and sat on a branch. But it broke under his weight, and he fell down again. Mum was afraid he would break his neck. But plucky Dad decided to try plan C. He climbed up the garden wall safely. There from he jumped to the bend in the tree trunk right on the cat.

The cat gave a loud shriek and fell on the ground. It suffered no injury. It was smiling and safe. But poor old Dad got stuck up the tree in place of the cat.

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED WORKING WITH THE POEM

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- 1. Why was Dad sure he wouldn't fall?
- Ans. Dad was overconfident of his skill in climbing up a tree. He was sure he wouldn't fall.
 - 2. Which phrase in the poem expresses Dad's selfconfidence best?

- Ans. A climber like me? This phrase expresses Dad's selfconfidence.
 - 3. Describe plan A and its consequences.
- Ans. Plan A was to climb on the tree by using a ladder. But the ladder slipped and Dad fell in the flower bed.
 - 4. Plan C was a success. What went wrong then?
- Ans. Plan C was a success because the Dad didn't use the ladder. He, instead, leapt from the high garden wall. But the plan failed for he landed on the branch where the cat was sitting. The cat escaped but Dad got trapped there.
 - 5. The cat was happy to be on the ground. Pick out the phrases used to express this idea.
- Ans. (i) pleased as punch
 - (ii) smug, smiling and smirking.
 - 6. Describe the cat and Dad situation in the beginning and at the end of the poem.
- Ans. In the beginning it was the cat in trouble. It seemed to be trapped on a tree-bend. Dad made three attempts to rescue the cat. The cat sprang to the ground safe and sound. It was Dad who got stuck up the tree in the end.
- 7. Why and when did Dad say each of the following?
 - (i) Fall?

(ii) Never mind

- (iii) Funny joke
- (iv) Rubbish
- Ans. (i) Dad said 'fall?' When Mum said, "for goodness' sake, don't fall".
 - (*ii*) Dad said 'Never mind, after the ladder slipped and Dad fell in the flower bed.
 - (iii) Dad said 'Funny joke' when Mum warned him not to fall again.
 - (iv) Dad said 'Rubbish' when Mum asked him to stop trying to rescue the cat.

Dad laughed away all the warnings and fear of Mum because he was overconfident of his skill and ability to save the cat.

- 8. Do you find the poem humorous? Read aloud lines which make you laugh.
- Ans. Yes, the poem is humorous. The following lines make us laugh.

"So it's smiling and smirking Smug as can be But poor old Dad's

Still stuck up the tree!