

The hermit and the pit

Once, a bear, a raven, a man and a snake happened to fall into a pit. A hermit walking past looked down the pit and saw them. They couldn't get out and asked the hermit's help. In return they promised to give him a good present. So he helped the bear, the raven and the snake out. The snake told him not to help the man since he wouldn't be thanked properly. The hermit ignored the snake's advice.

The bear gave him a bee-hive full of honey. After eating as much honey as he pleased he left for a town where he wanted to pray. While entering the town the raven offered him a precious diadem which he had taken from the King's daughter's head. The hermit accepted it with pleasure as it was an expensive gift. A town-crier announced that the one who had stolen the valuable jewel should give it back to the king's daughter for which he would be given a good reward. Otherwise, he would be punished.

The good hermit met the man he had helped. As this man was a jeweller, the hermit handed him over the diadem. Although this was secretly done the man took the jewel to Court accusing the holy man. Then the latter was tortured and imprisoned. In the meantime the snake managed to find the king's daughter sleeping and bit her hand. It became infected. The king was furious about his daughter's illness and sent his town-criers to announce that any person who could cure his daughter would be highly rewarded. This time, the snake found the King asleep; she whispered in his ear that there was a prisoner in his own dungeons who had a herb that would cure his daughter. The holy man had been previously given the herb by the snake; he had also been taught how to use it on the king's daughter's hand.

The hermit was freed and the wicked jeweller was banished forever.

QUESTIONS.

1. Who was in the pit? Why?
2. Who freed them?
3. Did the snake want to free the man? Why?
4. Which present was the best?
5. Take out from the text all the relative sentences and classify them.
6. Vocabulary. Explain the meaning of:
 - Ignore:
 - Pit:
 - Latter:
 - Banish:
 - Town-crier:
- 7: Do you think the snake is good in the story? Give reason for your answer. (5 or 6 lines)