INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: VIII	Department: ENGLISH	Date of Submission: OCTOBER, 2026
WORKSHEET NO: 20	Topic: THE CHERRY TREE	Note: To be written in the notebook

SUMMARY



Rakesh, a young boy living with his grandfather in Mussoorie, plants a cherry seed after eating cherries. He forgets about it, but the seed germinates and grows into a small tree. Despite several challenges—a goat eating its leaves and a woman accidentally cutting it—it continues to grow. Over time, Rakesh and the tree both mature. The tree eventually blossoms and bears fruit, becoming a symbol of patience, growth, and a deep connection with nature. The story ends with Rakesh feeling a divine connection through the life he helped nurture.

Word Meanings

1. stunted—prevented from growing properly,
2. outskirts—the outer areas of a town or city,
3. yielding— giving way under pressure,
4. tang—a sharp taste or flavour,
5. haunches—sitting on the feet with knees bent,
6. peered—looked with difficulty or concentration,
7. plodded—walked slowly and heavily,
8. scrambled—climbed or moved quickly with difficulty,
9. scythe—a tool with a long blade used for cutting grass,
10. foliage—leaves of a plant or tree,
11. praying-mantis—an insect with front legs that are bent like arms in, prayer,
12. grumpy—easily annoyed or in a bad mood,
13. gazed—looked steadily and thoughtfully,
14. reclining—leaning or lying back,
15. flitted—moved or flew quickly and lightly,
16. nightjar—a nocturnal bird,
17. cicadas—insects known for their loud, buzzing sounds,

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

Q. Do you think the cherry tree would survive? Why do you think so?
Answer:
Yes, the cherry tree would survive because it has already overcome many difficulties and shown strong will to live, just like a living being with determination.

I. Read the given extracts and answer the questions that follow.

1. "Have a cherry, Grandfather," he said, as soon as he saw his grandfather in the garden. Grandfather took one cherry and Rakesh promptly ate the other two. He kept the last seed in his mouth for some time, rolling it round and round on his tongue until all the tang had gone. Then he placed the seed on the palm of his hand and studied it.
"Are cherry seeds lucky?" asked Rakesh. "Of course. "
"Then I'll keep it. "
"Nothing is lucky if you put it away. If you want luck, you must put it to some use."

(i) Substitute the underlined phrase with a correct word from the extract. The Kho-kho captain changed her strategy quickly and without delay when a new player came in from the opposing team.
Answer: promptly

(ii) What does Rakesh's action of rolling the cherry seed in his mouth most likely suggest about his mood at that moment?

A. He is feeling impatient and restless.
B. He is enjoying the taste and the moment.
C. He is bored and has nothing better to do.
D. He is thoughtful and feeling playful.
Answer: B. He is enjoying the taste and the moment.

(iii) Complete the following sentence suitably with reference to Rakesh and his grandfather.
Rakesh's decision to plant the seed shows that _____
(he respects and values his grandfather's advice/he has a close bond with his grandfather and a willingness to learn from him)
Answer: he respects and values his grandfather's advice.

(iv) How does the grandfather's advice reflect his view about luck and effort?
Answer: Grandfather believes luck only works when paired with action and effort.

2. Winter came early. The cherry tree bent low with the weight of snow.
Field-mice sought shelter in the roof of the cottage. The road from the valley was blocked, and for several days there was no newspaper, and this made Grandfather quite grumpy. His stories began to have unhappy endings. In February it was Rakesh's birthday. He was nine—and the tree was four, but almost as tall as Rakesh.

(i) Complete the following sentence suitably.
The phrase 'field-mice sought shelter in the roof of the cottage' suggests that _____
Answer: it was very cold outside.

(ii) What can be inferred about the cherry tree's toughness from the line, 'The cherry tree bent low with the weight of snow'?
A. The weight of the tree was more than the snow.
B. The tree could withstand harsh weather.
C. The tree was growing close to the ground.
D. The snow gave support to the tree.
Answer: B. The tree could withstand harsh weather.

(iii) How did the early winter affect Grandfather's mood and storytelling?
Answer: Grandfather became grumpy, and his stories had unhappy endings due to the early winter.

Arrange the events in order of occurrence in the story. (To be done in the text book only)
1. Rakesh discovered that the small, well- rooted twig, had grown into a cherry tree.
2. Rakesh was sent to live with his grandfather in Mussoorie.
3. Rakesh pressed the cherry seed into the soft soil with his thumb. (5)
4. The cherry tree grew quickly after the rains arrived early.
5. Rakesh bought a bunch of cherries and ate most of them.
6. A goat entered the garden and ate all the leaves of the young cherry tree. .
7. Rakesh's parents grew maize, rice, and barley in a village. (1)
8. Rakesh sprinkled water on the cherry tree and surrounded it with pebbles.
9. Grandfather told Rakesh that cherry trees were tough.
10. Rakesh kept rolling the last cherry seed in his mouth.

Answer: The correct order of the events is:
7. → 2. → 5. → 10. → 3. → 1. → 8. → 4. → 6. → 9. →

I. Complete the table given below based on your understanding of Part II of the story. One example has been done for you. Share your answers with your classmates and teacher.

Cause	Effect
1. A woman cut the cherry tree while cutting grass.	(i) Grandfather scolded the woman.

2.	(ii) Rakesh was thinner but stronger when he came back.
3. A hairy caterpillar started eating the leaves of the cherry tree.	(iii)
4.	(iv) Rakesh and Grandfather gazed at the tree as though it was a miracle.
5. Rakesh tasted one of the small cherries during summer.	(v)

Answer:

Cause	Effect
1. A woman cut the cherry tree while cutting grass.	(i) Grandfather scolded the woman.

2. Rakesh helped in farm work in his village.	(ii) Rakesh was thinner but stronger when he came back.
3. A hairy caterpillar started eating the leaves of the cherry tree.	((iii) Rakesh removed it and dropped it on the ground.
4. A blossom appeared on the cherry tree.	(iv) Rakesh and Grandfather gazed at the tree as though it was a miracle.
5. Rakesh tasted one of the small cherries during summer.	(v) He spat it out because it was too sour.

Answer the following questions.

Question 1.
Why did Rakesh's parents send him to Mussoorie?
Answer: Rakesh's parents lived in a small village in the lower Himalayan slopes where there were no schools. They were keen that Rakesh should receive a proper education. Since his grandfather lived in Mussoorie, a place with schools, they decided to send him there. They wanted him to have better opportunities to study and grow. So, Rakesh began living with his grandfather to attend school.

Question 2.
Why did Rakesh let the praying-mantis remain on the branch of the cherry tree?
Answer: Rakesh let the praying-mantis remain on the branch of the cherry tree because he saw it as a harmless and perhaps even welcome visitor. It was the first insect he noticed on the tree after it had started growing well. He didn't feel the need to remove it since it wasn't causing any damage. His gentle attitude showed his growing care and respect for the tree and its ecosystem. He understood the tree was now a small part of nature.

Question 3.
How is life in the Himalayan foothills described in the story?
Answer: Life in the Himalayan foothills is described as beautiful but challenging for plant

life. The soil was mostly stony, and the dry, cold winds made it difficult for fruit trees to grow. However, forests of oak and deodar thrived in the more sheltered areas. The environment changed with the seasons—spring brought migrating birds, monsoons brought rain and greenery, and winters brought snow and silence. Despite its challenges, the setting added natural beauty and rhythm to the story.

Question 4.
What might Rakesh mean when he says, "Is this what it feels to be God?" at the end of the story?
Answer: When Rakesh says, "Is this what it feels to be God?' he is reflecting on the joy and wonder of having nurtured something from a tiny seed to a fully-grown tree. By planting and caring for the cherry tree, he experienced the process of creation and growth. Watching the tree flourish gave him a sense of accomplishment and peace. The feeling of having given life and beauty to the world made him feel powerful in a quiet, divine way. It was a moment of deep emotional connection with nature.

Question 5.
How does the writer describe the relationship between Rakesh and his grandfather?
Answer: The writer describes Rakesh and his grandfather's relationship as warm, affectionate, and full of mutual respect. Grandfather is wise and caring, guiding Rakesh gently with advice and stories. They share quiet evenings around the fire and joyful moments in the garden. Grandfather teaches Rakesh about responsibility and nature through small acts like planting a seed. Their bond deepens as they care for the cherry tree together. It is a relationship built on love, learning, and companionship.

Question 6.
What can you infer about the connection between humans and nature based on the story?
Answer: The story shows that the connection between humans and nature is emotional, nurturing, and deeply meaningful. By planting a seed, Rakesh unknowingly begins a journey of care and responsibility. Nature responds to his effort by growing, blooming, and offering peace and beauty. This bond teaches patience, resilience, and respect. It also shows that humans can find joy and a sense of purpose in nurturing life. Nature and humans thrive when they support each other.

Question 7. Imagine Rakesh reflects on his wonderful experience of watching a seed being transformed into a full-grown cherry tree. Write how he must have felt.
Answer: Rakesh must have felt incredibly proud and joyful watching the seed he planted grow into a tall, blossoming cherry tree. He would have remembered how small and insignificant the seed looked at first and how he had nearly forgotten about it. But over time, through seasons of rain, snow, and sunshine, the seed became something beautiful. The tree was not only a plant but a living reminder of his patience, care, and love. He probably felt humbled by nature's magic and amazed at how such a simple act could bring so much meaning. Lying under its shade, he must have felt peaceful and deeply connected to the tree. It was a quiet joy that came from having helped something grow.

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