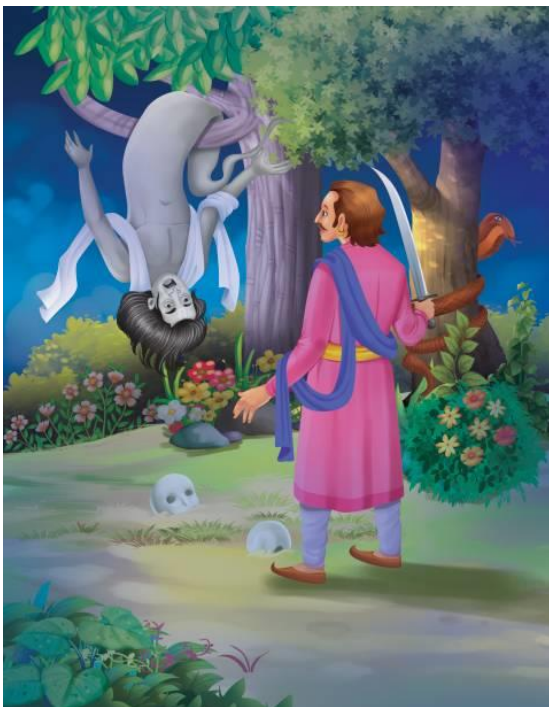




## INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

<b>CLASS: VIII</b>	<b>Department: ENGLISH</b>	<b>Date of Submission: AUGUST 2023</b>
<b>WORKSHEET NO: 14</b>	<b>Topic: A Promise Not Kept (Question Bank)</b>	<b>Note: NOTEBOOK</b>

### An Overview



“Baital Pachisi,” a.k.a. “Vikram Aur Betaal,” was written by Somdev Bhatt in the early Middle Ages. It tells the story of a king named Vikramaditya and his quest to capture a dark spirit called Betaal. A sorcerer arrived in the kingdom of Vikramaditya and commanded him to bring the creature of darkness to him. Vikramaditya did capture Betaal successfully. The king had to stay silent and not utter a word to Betaal. The wily spirit knew that and tried to break his vow of silence, as by doing so, he could escape his clutches and go back to the same tree from where he was captured. Betaal told the king several stories throughout his journey and always left him on a cliffhanger. He always posed a question in the end, and the king was obliged to speak if he knew the answer. As soon as the king spoke, Betaal flew back to its dwelling place. The cycle kept on repeating itself, and Betaal kept on telling stories

until that day arrived, when the king was made to stand at a crossroads, and he didn't know the answer to the question in reality.

### A1. Answer these questions.

1. Why did King Vikramaditya climb the ancient tamarind tree? What did he bring down from the tree?

**Ans:** King Vikramaditya had promised to bring the ghost Betaal to a sage. Betaal lived in a corpse on a tamarind tree. So, he climbed it to get hold of Betaal. He brought down the corpse that housed Betaal from the tree.

2. On what condition did the ghost, Betaal, promise to accompany King Vikramaditya?

**Ans:** Betaal promised to accompany the King on the condition that the King would

remain silent and not answer Betaal's queries.

3. Who was Sona and what condition did she set for her marriage?

**Ans:** Sona was the daughter of the King and Queen of Kishanagar. She was a powerful swordsman and made the condition that she would marry the one who was able to defeat her at swordsmanship.

4. How did Udayavarma manage to defeat the princess?

**Ans:** Udayavarma sat among the audience and studied all the intricate moves and counter-moves made by Sona before engaging with her in a duel. His knowledge of the strategies helped him to defeat the princess.

5. What did Betaal do on hearing the answer of king Vikramaditya?

**Ans:** Betaal chuckles in glee at hearing Vikramaditya's answer and flies back to the tamarind tree.



## A2. Answer these questions with reference to the context.

1. *O King, I pity you as you are making untiring efforts without relaxing as if you wish to achieve something.*

a. Who said this and to whom?

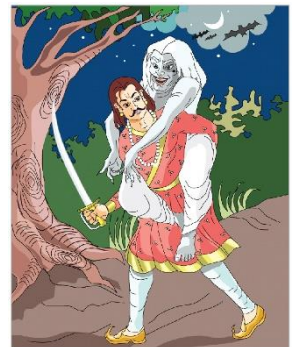
**Ans:** Betaal said this to King Vikramaditya.

b. Why did the speaker pity the King?

**Ans:** Betaal pitied the King because he felt that the King's efforts to keep a promise were futile.

c. What was the speaker trying to do?

**Ans:** The Betaal was trying to tempt the King into breaking his promise.



2. *Dear Father, I want my husband to be highly skilled in fighting. He should be able to overpower me in fight.*

a. Who said this and to whom?

**Ans:** Sona, the princess of Kishanagar said this to the King, her father.

b. Why did the speaker lay down this condition?

**Ans:** Sona was herself a swordsman par excellence and the person who defeated her would undoubtedly be someone who could defend the kingdom if any powerful enemy attacked it. That is why she laid down this condition.

c. Did the listener agree with the speaker?

**Ans:** The King and Queen felt proud of their daughter's wisdom. The king made the announcement of Sona's wishes in Kishanagar as well as in the neighbouring kingdoms.

3. *Though you've defeated me, O King, I cannot marry you. You yourself find out the reason.*

a. Who said this and to whom?

**Ans:** Sona, the princess of Kishanagar, said this to Udayavarma, King of Ayodhyapuri.

b. Why did the speaker refuse to marry the listener?

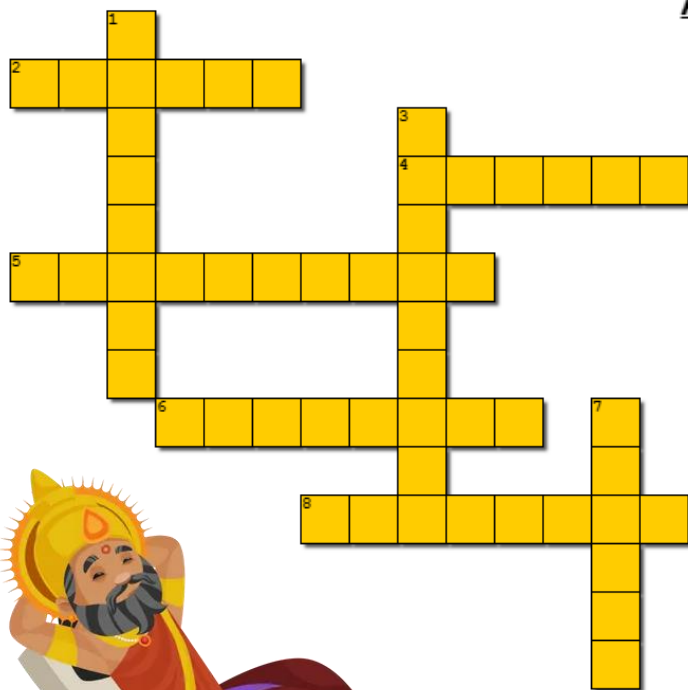
**Ans:** Sona had recognized Udayavarma as being one in the audience who had applauded her. She knew he had learnt from her and in that sense, she was his teacher. In those days parents and teachers were respected as gods and so Sona could not break that sacred bond for marriage.

c. What do you think could be the reason for refusal?

**Ans:** Udayavarma does not confess that he had studied her moves before engaging in the fight with Sona. When Sona recognizes him as one among the audience, she realizes that he has taken unfair advantage and does not deserve to be her husband.



## A2. Crossword Puzzle.



### Across

2. defeated completely in a competition or battle
4. the way in which somebody stands, especially in a contest or sport
5. stated clearly and definitely that something must be done, or how it must be done
6. a place that is empty and without people, making you feel sad or frightened
8. thought about something carefully for a period of time

### Down

1. having no purpose because there is no chance of success
3. to find out the truth or correct information about something
7. to change direction suddenly in order to avoid hitting somebody



