

**Seventeen Oranges** - **Bill Naughton**

I. Answer the following:

1. Where did the narrator work?  
The narrator worked for the Swift Delivery Company.
  2. What was the narrator's job in the docks?  
He had to ride a little pony and cart for the company. He had to deliver the goods that were unloaded in the dock.
  3. What was Clem Jones carrying in the box?  
Clem Jones was carrying a cat in the box.
  4. What happened when the box was opened?  
A ships cat jumped out when the box was opened.
  5. Did the narrator believe Clem's story?  
Yes, the narrator believed Clem's story.
  6. What was the narrator carrying in his pockets?  
The narrator was carrying seventeen oranges in his pockets.
  7. Who is a Pongo?  
Pongo is a policeman.
  8. Why did Pongo want to bring another policeman?  
Pongo wanted to bring another policeman to be a witness against the narrator.
  9. What did the voice in the narrator's head tell him to do?  
The voice in the narrator's head told him to eat the oranges so that the evidence would be gone.
  10. Why did the policemen arrive a little late to the cabin?  
The policemen had seen some carts at the dock gate. They went there to meet the drivers so they arrived a little late to the cabin.
  11. What did the narrator do with the pips and peels?  
The narrator swallowed the pips and peels as well.
- II. Answer the following questions briefly in one or two sentences.
1. Why did the narrator call Clem Jones a careful planner?  
The narrator called Clem Jones a careful planner because he planned a theft very carefully.

2. What was Clem Jones carrying in the box during his second attempt?  
Clem Jones was carrying a large Dutch cheese in the box during his second attempt.
  3. Why did the policeman suspect the narrator?  
The policeman noticed that the narrator's trouser pockets were somewhat bulging so he suspected the narrator.
  4. What did Pongo consider as evidence against the narrator?  
Pongo considered the seventeen oranges as evidence against the narrator.
  5. How did the narrator feel when he was alone in Pongo's Cabin?  
The narrator was worried when he was alone in Pongo's Cabin and he almost gave up the hope of escaping from the trouble.
  6. What did the narrator do to get rid of the evidence?  
The narrator ate up the seventeen oranges including the peels and pips that were considered as evidence against him.
  7. What did Pongo do when he found no oranges on the table?  
Pongo looked at the table for the oranges and then when he could not find them there he looked for it in the narrator's pockets and then he searched for it in the narrator's apron.
  8. Why were the policemen not able to bring any charges against the narrator?  
The policemen were not able to bring any charges against the narrator because there was no evidence.
  9. How did the narrator feel after eating seventeen oranges?  
He felt very sick for a week and those oranges kept working away in his stomach.
  10. What happened to the narrator's love for oranges after the incident?  
The narrator's love for oranges decreased after the incident and he never ate an orange again.
- III. Answer the following in about 100 words:
1. Narrate the clever strategy followed by Clem Jones to deceive Pongo.  
Clem Jones was a careful planner. He planned a theft carefully. One day Clem came out of the docks carrying a box.

Pongo the policeman suspected that Clem might have stolen something from the ship, so he asked Clem to open the box. But Clem replied that there was a cat inside the box and added that if he opened the box the cat would run away. But Pongo persuaded him to open the box and when Clem opened the box a cat jumped out from it and ran to the docks. Clem pretended to be angry but it was a clever strategy followed by him. The Second time Clem emerged from the docks carrying a box. Pongo did not question him this time because he thought cat might be in the box but clem cleverly took a big piece of Dutch cheese inside the box and came out.

2. Describe the confrontation between the narrator and Pongo.

One day the narrator hid seventeen oranges in his pant pockets. As he was coming out of the docks his apron string broke. Pongo noticed that the narrator's trouser pockets were somewhat bulging. So Pongo caught him by the collar and took him to his cabin and found seventeen oranges in his pockets. Pongo counted them and placed them on the table. When questioned by Pongo the narrator kept quiet with the thought that anything he said might be used as an evidence against him. Pongo left him in the cabin and went to get another policeman to be a witness. Left alone in the cabin, the narrator was upset. He thought that he might lose his job. It was then that his inner voice spoke to him and told him to eat all the oranges so that there would be no evidence. The narrator ate all the oranges and when Pongo returned he couldn't find a trace of them but he could smell it. Pongo knew what had happened but he could not nail the narrator for there was no proof against him.

Poem "The spider and the Fly"

I. Read the following lines from the poem and answer the questions in a sentence or two.

1. "The way into my parlour is up a winding stair  
And I've many curious things to show when you are there"

a) How can one reach the spider's parlour?

By climbing up a winding stair, we can reach the spider's parlour.

b) What will the fly get to see in the parlour?

The fly would get to see many curious things in the parlour.

2. "Oh no, no," said the little Fly, "Kind sir, that cannot be, I've heard what's in your pantry, and I do not wish to see!"

a) Is the fly willing to enter the spider's pantry?

No, the fly is not willing to enter the Spider's pantry.

b) Can you guess what was in the pantry?

I guess there might be some dead flies in the pantry.

3. "Sweet Creature!" said the spider. "You're witty and you're wise,

How handsome are your gauzy wings, how brilliant are your eyes!"

a) List the words used by the spider to describe the fly.

The spider used the words such as: sweet creature, witty, wise, handsome, gauzy wings and brilliant eyes.

b) Why does the spider say that the fly is witty?

The spider says that the fly is witty because the fly is clever and refuses the spider's invitation.

4. "The spider turned him round about, and went into his den, For well he knew the silly Fly would soon come back again:

a) Why is the poet using the word den to describe the spiders web?

The poet uses the word den to describe the spider because the spider is like a lion in its web.

b) Why was the spider sure that the fly would come back again?

The spider was sure that the fly would come back because the spider had flattered the fly's beauty.

5. "With buzzy wings she hung aloft, then near and nearer drew. Thinking only of her brilliant eyes and green and purple hue"

a) Who does 'she' refers to?

'she' refers to the fly.

b) What was 'she' thinking of?

She was thinking of her brilliant eyes and her colourful wings.

6. "And now dear little children, who may this story, read,  
To idle, silly flattering words. I pray you ne'er give heed:"

a) Who does 'I' refer to?

'I' refers to the poetess 'Mary Botham Hourit'

b) What is the advice given to the readers?

The poet advises the children not to fall a prey to useless and flattering words.

7 "Will you walk into my parlour?" said the spider to the Fly,  
"Tis the prettiest little parlour that ever you did spy;  
The way into my parlour is up a winding stair,  
And I've many curious things to show when you are there"

a) Pick out the words that are in rhyme.

The rhyming words are – fly-spy, stair – there.

b) Write the rhyme scheme of the above lines.

The rhyming scheme is – aa bb.

II. Identify the Figure of speech used:

a) "Your eyes are like the diamond bright, but mine are dull as lead!"

The figure of speech used is simile.

b) "Alas, alas! How very soon this silly little Fly,

The figure of speech used is Assonance. (silly-little)

c) "Thinking only of her brilliant eyes, and green and purple hue-  
Thinking only of her crested head-poor foolish thing!"

The figure of speech used is Anaphora.

d) "I've a little looking-glass upon my parlour shelf,"

The figure of speech used is Consonance. (little – looking)

e) "so he wove a subtle web, in a little corner sly."

Pick out the alliterated words.

Ans: So – Subtle – Sly

Wove – web

f) "I'm sure you're very welcome – will you please to take a slice?"

The figure of speech used is – Consonance. Very, Welcome  
(‘V/W’ sound)

III. Answer the following questions in about 80-100 words: -

1. Write the character sketch of the spider.

The Spider and the Fly is a poem written by Mary Botham Howitt. This poem tells the story of a cunning spider who attracts the fly through his flattering words. The poet advises the children to be cautious of the useless, silly and flattering words of evil counselor through this poem. The poem takes us through a spider's successful attempts, in luring a fly into its web. The spider is cunning and tactful in capturing his prey. He attracts the fly by using flattery words. He does his best to trap the fly into his parlour with the prettiest things to see. The spider tries a different trick to convince the fly to enter his home. He tries to appeal to the fly's heart by cunningly offering his snug little bed to get some rest. Next, he tries to establish a false bond of friendship and affection in order to lure the fly into his home. Again, he tries to persuade the fly to fulfill his wish by offering her good food from his pantry. The spider does not give up. This time, he tries to flatter the fly by acknowledging her smartness and decides to coax her by complimenting her. Finally, he traps the fly into his den by praising her beauty.

2. What happens if we fall a prey to flattery? Give instances from the poem "The Spider and the Fly".

The Spider and the Fly is a poem written by Mary Botham Howitt. This poem was published in the year 1829. Through this poem, the poet advises the children not to pay attention to 'idle, silly and flattering words.' She asks everyone to take a lesson from the story of the spider and the fly and asks them not to commit the same mistake that the fly committed. The Spider uses different strategies to attract the fly into his web. He invites the fly into his parlour with the prettiest things to see. When the fly refuses, he appeals to the fly's heart by offering his little bed to get some rest as she is weary. When the fly refuses again, he employs a different trick to convince the fly to enter his home. Finally he flatters the fly by praising

her beautiful appearance. The fly gets flattered and gets trapped into his den. The poet carefully transforms the story into a message to the children that they should be cautious against those who use flattery for their gain in this tale of “The Spider and the Fly.”

3. In your own words give a detailed description of :

a) The spider’s parlour                      b) The Fly’s appearance.

“The Spider and the Fly” is a poem written by an English Poet Mary Botham Howitt. The poem opens with a dialogue between a predator (the spider) and the prey (the fly).

a) The spider’s parlour:

In this poem, the Spider attracts the fly to his ‘Parlour’. He tries to entice the fly by saying that he has many ‘pretty’ things to show her inside the parlour. The spider portrays his home as a mysterious place, as the ‘prettiest little parlour’ to tick the little fly into his web. It has winding stairs and pretty curtain sheets and comfortable bed. By describing his web as a tidy room, he arouses the curiosity of the fly to enter into his den.

b) The Fly’s appearance:

The spider calls the fly a ‘sweet creature’ and she is witty and wise. He acknowledges the fly’s smartness and decides to coax her by repeatedly complimenting her appearance. She has brilliant eyes, and silver and pearl wings, green and purple body and its antenna is like a crown on her head. The spider wants to show the fly how beautiful, she is by offering her a looking-glass to look at herself and appreciate her own beauty.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY

#### THE CAT AND THE PAIN KILLER

Answer the following in a paragraph of about 100 words:

1. Describe the different types of remedies tried by Aunt Polly to Tom:

“SOME REMEDIES ARE WORSE THAN THE DISEASE”

The cat and the pain-killer written by Mark Twain is the humorous story about a twelve year old boy named Tom, who

grows up along the Mississippi river. The story is set in the fictional town of St. Petersburg.

Tom Sawyer, a mischievous boy lives with his aunt Mrs.Polly. He worries about Becky Thatcher who has stopped coming to school. This makes him so depressed that Aunt Polly notices and decides to try to cure him. She subscribes to many health magazines and diligently follows their advice about diet, exercises and sleep. She buys fancy new medicines and follows fake advices to torment everyone.

The first remedy aunt Polly tried on Tom was the water treatment. She drowned the boy in cold water, then scrubbed him with hard towels, and wrapped him up to make him sweat. When this did not work, she continued with hot baths, sitzbaths shower bath and plunges. She had also given Oat diet and bliser plasters. She tried various other cures and landed on an awful, fierce tasting medicine called pain-killer. Finally she gave Tom permission to take it and watched with anxiety for the change in him.

2. Narrate the funny sequence between Tom Sawyer and Peter, the cat.

The adventure of Tom Sawyer is a novel written by Mark Twain. Tom is a mischievous boy who finds himself in unique situations where he is able to take advantage of every situation. One day Tom had some pain-killer to the cat Peter. The poor cat yelped and tore through the room, knocking over pots, turning somersault and eventually leaping over the window in its attempt to escape the burning in his mouth. It sprang a couple of yards in the air and set off round and round the room. Next he rose on his hind feet and pranced around, in a frenzy of enjoyment and his voice proclaiming his unappeasable happiness.

Aunt Polly entered the room and stood petrified with astonishment. When she discovered what Tom has done, she shouts at him. Tom told her earnestly that he was trying to help the cat because it hadn’t any aunt who could roast his bowels with medicine for him.

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