

CBSE Class –VIII English
NCERT Solutions
Chapter - 1
How the Camel got his Hump

Comprehension check

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1: What tasks, do you think, were assigned to the dog and the ox?

Ans: Different animals were assigned different tasks. The dog was assigned the task of fetching and carrying sticks as he was carrying sticks in his mouth. The ox was assigned the task of ploughing as there was a yoke hanging from his neck

2: Why did the camel live in the middle of the desert?

Ans: The camel was the laziest animal who did not want to do any work and help man. So he lived in the middle of the desert so that he would not get any task. It ate sticks, thorns, and prickles, and when anybody spoke to it, it said “Humph!” and nothing more.

3: What made the dog, the horse and the ox very angry?

Ans: The man told the dog, the horse and the ox that since the camel did not work, he would leave him alone. But somehow the work assigned to him had to be done. So the three of them would have to work double-time to make up for the work not done by the camel. This made the three of them very angry.

4: How did the Djinn know the horse was complaining against the camel?

Ans: When the other animals were assigned the camel's work the horse complained the Djinn about the animal who stayed in the desert and did not work. Immediately the Djinn knew that the horse was complaining against the camel because he was the in charge of all deserts and knew everything happening in relation to his deserts.

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1: The camel was looking at his own reflection in the pool. What does it suggest to you about the camel?

Ans: The camel was looking at his own reflection in the pool shows that he was proud of his appearance, especially his back. He liked admiring himself.

2: The camel said, "Humph" repeatedly. How did it effect him?

Ans: While the Djinn was trying to remind him for being lazy and avoiding his work, the camel kept saying "Humph!" repeatedly. Even the Djinn warned him not to say so. His back puffed up into a big hump as a result of his repeating the word and by not working.

3: What, according to the Djinn, was the use of the "Humph"?

Ans: According to the Djinn, as the camel missed his work for three days, he would be able to do work for three days without eating. The hump would help the camel in storing the food and use it during his work without eating anything for a long period.

4: "...he has never yet learnt to behave". In the light of this, what is the writer's opinion about the camel?

Ans: According to the writer, the camel is still a very lazy animal that is unwilling to work. After he got the hump, the Djinn asked him to go out of the desert to help the other three animals. It seems that the camel still did not behave himself and worked lazily in the desert itself. It is for this reason that he was still unable to complete the pending work of those three missed days; and he continued carrying the hump and living in the desert.