Chapter 3: Golu Grows a Nose

Exercise 3.1 — Answer the following questions

Q1 Whom does Golu ask, "Why don't you ever fly like other birds?"

SOLUTION

In the story, Golu asks this question to his tall aunt, the ostrich.

Golu was full of questions about the animals around him and the ostrich, being a bird that does not fly, was a natural curiosity for him.

Answer: Golu asks his tall aunt, the ostrich, "Why don't you ever fly like other birds?"

Q2 Which uncle of Golu had red eyes?

SOLUTION

Golu asked his huge uncle, the hippopotamus, "Why are your eyes always so red?"

This tells us that the hippopotamus is the uncle of Golu who had red eyes.

Answer: Golu's huge uncle, the hippopotamus, had red eyes.

Q3 Golu's relatives did not answer his questions because (i) they were shy. (ii) the questions were too difficult. (iii) Golu was a naughty baby.

SOLUTION

The text states: "The ostrich, the giraffe, the hippopotamus and the baboon had no answers to Golu's questions." They said, "Golu is a naughty baby. He asks such difficult questions."

This shows they could not answer because the questions were genuinely too difficult for them. They labelled him naughty as an excuse, but their real problem was that they did not know the answers.

Answer: (ii) The questions were too difficult. His relatives had no answers and simply called him naughty as an excuse.

Q4 Who advised Golu to go to the Limpopo river?

SOLUTION

Golu asked the mynah bird sitting in the middle of a bush what the crocodile has for dinner.

The mynah told him: "Go to the banks of the great, grassy Limpopo river and find out."

Answer: The mynah bird advised Golu to go to the banks of the great, grassy Limpopo river.

Q5 Why did Golu go to the river?

SOLUTION

Golu was curious about what the crocodile had for dinner. When he asked the mynah bird, she directed him to the Limpopo river to find out for himself.

So Golu packed a hundred sugar canes, fifty dozen bananas and twenty-five melons, said goodbye to his family, and set off for the great, grassy Limpopo river to discover what the crocodile eats.

Answer: Golu went to the Limpopo river to find out what the crocodile has for dinner, as he was curious and no one else could answer his question.

Q6 The crocodile lay on the bank of the Limpopo river. Golu thought it was (i) a living crocodile. (ii) a dead crocodile. (iii) a log of wood.

SOLUTION

The text says: "On the bank of the river he saw a log of wood. It was really the crocodile who winked at him."

This clearly shows that Golu mistook the motionless crocodile for a log of wood, not realising it was a living animal.

Answer: (iii) A log of wood. Golu mistook the still crocodile lying on the bank for a log of wood.

Q7 What did the crocodile do to show that it was a real crocodile?

SOLUTION

When Golu asked the crocodile if it had ever seen a crocodile, the crocodile replied, "Come close, little one, for I am the crocodile," and then shed crocodile tears to show that it was quite true.

"Crocodile tears" is also a well-known phrase for false or insincere crying, which adds a layer of irony — the crocodile was not genuinely sad but used tears as proof of its identity.

Answer: The crocodile said it was the crocodile and shed crocodile tears to prove it was true.

Q8 "Come here, little one, and I'll whisper the answer to you." The crocodile said this because (i) he couldn't stand up. (ii) he wanted to eat Golu. (iii) Golu was deaf.

SOLUTION

The crocodile lured Golu close by pretending to whisper the answer. When Golu put his head down close to the crocodile's snout, the crocodile caught him by the nose and said, "I think today a baby elephant will be my dinner."

This makes it clear the crocodile's real motive was to grab Golu and eat him.

Answer: (ii) He wanted to eat Golu. The crocodile used the whisper as a trick to get Golu close enough to grab by the nose.

Q9 Who helped Golu on the bank of the river?

SOLUTION

The python, who had been quietly following Golu, helped him on the bank of the river.

First, the python advised Golu to pull as hard as he could so the crocodile would not drag him into the stream. Then the python coiled himself around Golu's stomach and said, "Let's pull harder," helping Golu break free from the crocodile's grip.

Answer: The python helped Golu. He advised Golu to pull hard and then coiled around Golu's stomach to help him pull free from the crocodile.

Q10 Name two things the elephant can do with his trunk, and two he cannot.

SOLUTION

Based on the story, the python points out three advantages of Golu's new trunk:
1. Golu lifted his long trunk and hit a fly dead on his shoulder (swatting insects).
2. Golu put out his trunk and plucked a large bundle of grass, dusted it against his forelegs, and stuffed it into his mouth (picking and eating grass).
3. Golu scooped up mud from the bank and slapped it on his head (cooling himself with mud).

Two things the elephant could NOT do with a small bulgy nose (before the trunk):
1. Pick up things — the story says the old nose could not pick up anything.
2. Swat a fly on the shoulder, pluck grass, or scoop mud — as the python repeatedly says, "You couldn't have done it with a small nose."

Answer: Can do: (1) swat a fly on his shoulder; (2) pluck and eat grass. Cannot do with a small nose: (1) pick up things; (2) scoop mud from the bank to cool himself.