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SALT OR SUGAR

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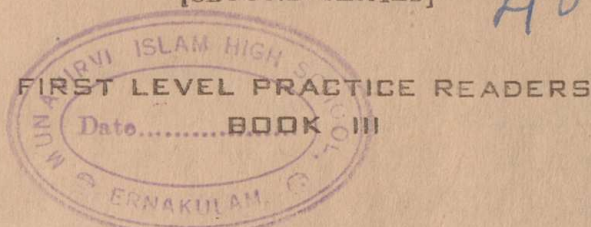
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GRADED HOME READING BOOKS

(FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIES)

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SALT OR SUGAR

Edited by

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SALT OR SUGAR



1. THE KING

Once there lived an old king in Italy. He had three daughters. All of them were very beautiful. But the youngest was the most beautiful of them all.

"She is like a lovely rose," said the king. He named her Rose.

The king loved all his daughters very much. But he loved his youngest daughter most.

"She is my dearest child," said he to himself.

Rose was a good and loving girl. She loved her father and sisters very much. But her sisters

were not good girls. They did not like Rose.

"Rose is very proud," said they. "She thinks she is the most beautiful girl in the world."

The days went by and the king grew old. He had no son.

"I am getting old," said he to himself, "I have no son who will become king after me."

So he made up his mind to divide the kingdom among his daughters.

"I shall divide my kingdom into three parts," said he, "I shall give one to each of my children."

The king had a beautiful servant. His name was Robert. He loved his master truly. The king called the

divide—വിഭജിക്കുക

kingdom—രാജ്യം

part—ഭാഗം

man to his side and said, "Robert, I am getting old. So I am going to divide the kingdom among my daughters."

"How will you divide the kingdom?" Robert asked. "To whom will you give this palace?"

The king lived in a beautiful palace. It was the most beautiful palace in Italy.

"All your daughters will ask for the palace. To whom will you give it?"

"I won't give it to anyone now," said the king. "I shall live here with my youngest daughter."

"Don't divide the kingdom now," said he. "Let them divide it among themselves after your death."

The king did not like this.

"My daughters love me dearly," said he. "They will take good care of me."

"To whom will you give the best part of your kingdom?" Robert asked again.

"I shall find out how much they love me," answered the king. "I will give the best to her who loves me most."

"It is not easy," said Robert. "For all of them will say they love you most."

But the king would not change his mind.

"I have made up my mind to divide the kingdom," said he, "and I will do it to-morrow."

Then he ordered Robert to call all his officers, When they came he said, "I wish to give my kingdom to my daughters. To-morrow I shall divide it among them."

change—മാറുക change, changed.

ordered—ആജ്ഞാപിച്ച order, ordered

officer - ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ

Then he told them to come to the palace the next day.

TEST:- Fill up the blanks choosing the right words from those given in brackets.

1. Once there was a ———
(king, prince, farmer).
2. He had ——— daughters.
(two, three, five).
3. The youngest princess was called ———.
(Alice, Rose, Jane)
4. She was the ——— of his daughters.
(tallest oldest, most, beautiful).
5. The king had no ———.
(brother, son, servant).
6. So he made up his mind to divide the kingdom among his ———.
(officers, brothers, daughters).
7. He wanted to give the best part to her who ———.
(gave him money, loved him most).

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2. THE THREE SISTERS

On the next day all the officers came to the palace. The king came down to meet them.

The king sat upon the throne. The officers sat round him.

Then he called Robert and said, "Go to the princesses. Tell them to come here."

So Robert went to the princesses and told them to go to the king.

The two elder princesses were married. So they came with their husbands. Rose was not married and she came alone.

When the princesses came, the king said, "Dear daughters, I am getting old. So I want to give my kingdom to you."

throne—സംസ്ഥാനം

princess—രാജകുമാരി

husband—ഭർത്താവ്

"Father," said the first princess, "you are very kind."

"Now," said the king, "I shall divide the kingdom into three parts. I shall give the best part to her who loves me most."

"I love you most," said the first princess.

"I love you more than my sisters," said the second princess.

But Rose did not say anything. She heard what her sisters said and thought, "They want the best part of the kingdom."

The king knew that they did not love him as much as Rose did.

So he turned to his eldest daughter, "Daughter," said he, "tell me how much you love me."

"I love you very much," said she, "I love you more than my life."

"What is your love like?" he asked again.

"My love is like sugar," said she. "It is the sweetest thing to me."

The king was pleased with the answer.

"I give you the best part of the kingdom," said he, "choose which part you want."

The princess chose the best part of the kingdom for herself.

Then he turned to his second daughter and said, "Dear daughter, tell me how much you love me."

"I love you more than everything else," said she. "You are dearer to me than life."

"What is your love like?" he asked.

sugar—ചഞ്ചനാര

choose—തെരഞ്ഞെടുക്കുക choose, chose, chosen

"My love is like honey," said the princess. "It is the sweetest thing in the world."

The king was pleased with the answer.

"Choose the part you want," he said to his daughter.

She chose the better of the two parts left.

Then the king turned to Princess Rose. "Dear daughter," said the king. "You are the dearest of all my children. I know you love me more than your sisters. Now, come. Tell me how much you love me."

The king thought, "The Princess loves me dearly. She will say 'I love you like sugar and honey.' Then I will give her this palace and a part of the kingdom."

honey—തേൻ

thought—ചിന്തിച്ചു

think, thought

But the princess did not answer the king as he had thought.

"Come, princess," said he again, "How do you love me?"

"I love you as a daughter should love her father," she said.

"What is your love like?" he asked again.

"My love is like SALT," she answered.

"SALT!" cried the king. "Then you don't love me at all."

The king grew very angry when he heard the answer.

"You are a very bad girl," said he, "and I won't give you anything."

Among those who had come to the palace, there was a young prince. His father was a rich king. He wished to marry Princess Rose.

"She is a beautiful girl with a lot of money," said he to himself. "Her father has no son. So he will give a part of his kingdom to her."

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Then he heard the king was going to divide the kingdom among his daughters. So he, too had come to the palace.

The king saw him and called him to his side.

"Do you want to marry the princess?" he asked. "If you do, you may have her. But she won't get anything from me."

When the prince heard this he said, "I don't want to marry a poor girl. Give her a part of your kingdom and I shall make her my wife."

"No," said the king, "I won't give her anything."

"Then I don't want to marry her," said the prince.

So saying he went away.

Then the king turned angrily to his daughter. "Go away," said he, "and never let me see you again."

So saying he drove her out of the palace.

Robert saw that the king was doing a great wrong.

"Don't drive her away," said he. "She has nowhere to go."

His words made the king more angry.

"Don't speak for her," cried the king. "Or I will drive you too away."

drove— ഓടിച്ചു (drive, drove, driven)

wrong— തെറ്റം

When Rose was gone, the king turned to the other princesses. "I won't give Rose anything," said he. "I will divide her share into two and give one to each of you."

Then he divided Rose's part of the kingdom into two parts and gave one part to each of them.

After this he turned to his officers and said, "I have given the kingdom to my daughters. I am your king no more."

Then he divided his officers into two groups.

"The first group shall serve my eldest daughter," said he, "and the second group, my second daughter."

Then he called the eldest princess to his side, "Come dear

share—ഭാഗം, വിതം

group—സമൂഹം

serve—സേവിക്കുക

daughter," said he, "and sit on the throne."

He made her sit on the throne. He took off his crown and placed it on his daughter's head.

"She is your queen," said he to her officers.

"Long live the queen," they cried. "Long live the queen."

Then he made the second princess sit on the throne, and placed another crown on her head.

"Long live the queen," said he. "God bless the queen."

"Long live the queen," cried the officers.

After this he turned to Robert.

throne—സീനറാസനം

crown—കിരീടം

"Come, Robert," said he, "Let us go to my palace on the hill and live there. My first daughter will live with me for one month. Then my second daughter will come and be with me for another month. In this way I shall always have one daughter with me."

So saying he went off to the palace with Robert.

TEST:- Fill up the blanks choosing the right words from those given in brackets.

1. The king sent for his ——. .
(sons, sisters, daughters).
2. He asked them how they ——. .
(would help him, loved him).
3. The eldest daughter said she loved him like ——. .
(salt, honey, sugar).
4. The second daughter said she loved him like ——. .
(salt, honey, sugar).

5. The third daughter said she loved him like ——.

(salt, honey, sugar).
6. —— was pleased with the first but was angry with the third.

(The king, Robert, The prince).
7. He gave half his —— to each of the first two daughters.

(palace, kingdom, wealth).
8. But he drove away his —— daughter.

(first, second, third).
9. The prince would not marry Rose because she was ——.

(rich, poor, honest).

3. THE PRINCE

When Princess Rose came out of the palace, she did not know where to go. Her father had driven her out. The prince would not marry her. Her sisters would not

help her. So she did not know what to do.

There was a church near the palace. Rose had gone there many times. So she walked towards the church. Finding it open she went in and prayed to God.

"O God," she prayed, "help me, for there is no one to help me. I am a poor girl."

She sat praying for a long time.

Then a man came to her and said, "Princess, I come from Robert. He has a house in the forest. He told me to take you there. Please come with me."

The princess was glad when she heard this.

church—ചള്ളി

prayed—പ്രാർത്ഥിച്ചു pray, prayed,

forest—വനം

"God has heard my prayer," said she.

She followed the man and he took her to the house in the forest. It was between two hills.

It was a small house and had a beautiful garden round it. The princess loved flowers. She had plenty of flowers in the garden and was very happy.

The days passed and then a young prince came that way. He was a very handsome man.

When he saw the princess, he fell in love with her.

She is the most beautiful girl in the world," said he. "I must make her my wife."

So he went in and spoke to her.

follow—പിൻതുട്ടുക follow, followed

handsome—beautiful—സുന്ദരനായ

"Princess," said he, "I am the son of the king of Naples. I am going round the country to find out a good wife for me. When I saw you, I fell in love with you. I wish to make you my wife. Will you have me?"

The princess liked the handsome young man who wished to marry her.

"I shall marry you," said she. "But you must know that I am very poor. My father has driven me out and my sisters won't help me."

"I love you," said the prince, "I will make you queen, if you marry me."

The princess said 'Yes,' and they became man and wife.

The prince did not go home with his wife. They lived happily in the forest.

The prince was a good hunter. He was very fond of hunting. Every day he would go out hunting in the forest. He killed the wild animals of the forest.

"This is the time for hunting," said he. "It will last for three months. After that we shall go away to Naples."

So they lived in the forest.

Two months went by. Then one day the prince went out to hunt. He killed some animals. At last he came to the side of a hill.

Then he heard dogs barking.

"They are hunters," said he, "I will hide myself behind a tree and see who they are."

hunter—നായാട്ടുകാരൻ

wild animals—വന്യമൃഗങ്ങൾ

bark—കുരങ്ങുകുരുകു bark, barked

hide—ഒളിക്കുക hide, hid, hidden

He hid himself behind a tree.

Presently the hunters came. They were the king and his two daughters. With them came their husbands.

They were trying to kill a deer. It was running towards the hill. The dogs ran after it.

When it came near the prince, he jumped forward and killed it.

"It is a big deer," said he.

Soon the king came up to the place. He was very much pleased with the prince for killing it.

"Who are you?" he asked.

But the prince did not tell him who he was.

"I am a hunter," said he. "I live in this forest."

By that time it was noon. The king and his daughters were very tired and hungry.

"We are very hungry," they said. "Where can we get food in this forest?"

"I live near by," said the prince. "Come with me. My wife will be glad to welcome you and to give you food."

"Thank you," said they and went with him to his house.

TEST.— Fill up the blanks choosing the correct words from those given in brackets.

1. The —— had nowhere to go.
(king, prince, princess).
2. Robert sent a man to help her and he took her to the —— .
(church, town, forest).
3. The prince of —— saw her and fell in love with her.
(Italy, Naples, Rome).

4. He made her his ——. .
(sister, wife)
5. The prince was a good ——. .
(farmer, merchant, hunter).
6. One day —— came to the forest to hunt.
(the prince, the king, Robert).
7. The prince saw them and took them
to ——. .
(Naples, the palace, his house).

4. THE FOREST

The princess saw them coming.
She saw her father and her sisters.

"They are coming with the
prince," said she.

She was glad to see them.

But she thought, "I must teach
them a lesson."

teach a lesson—പഠിക്കുക പഠിപ്പിക്കുക
teach, taught, taught.

So she went in and dressed herself like a poor girl.

"My father and sisters must not know me," she said to herself.

The prince was the first to come in.

"Your father and sisters are coming," he said to his wife. "They are hungry and tired. What have you to give them?"

"Don't tell them who I am," she said, "for I am going to teach them a lesson."

Presently the king and his daughters came in. "This is my wife," said the prince to them.

They saw Rose, but they did not know her.

"She is some poor woman," they thought.

"Wait for an hour," said Rose,
"and I shall give you food."

So saying she went in to get food
ready.

"I will put lots of sugar and
honey into the food," said she, "and
give it to them to eat. But I won't
give them any salt."

She made many dishes. She put
lots of sugar and honey into them.
All of them were very sweet.

"I will give these to them," said
she.

She made some other dishes
also. She put salt into them.

"I won't give them these," said
she.

When the dishes were ready she
set the table. Then she told them
to sit down and eat.

wait—കാത്തു നിൽക്കുക wait, waited

dishes—പലതരത്തിലുള്ള ആഹാരപദാർത്ഥങ്ങൾ

"Sit down," said she.

One by one she placed the dishes on the table.

"Very sweet," they said when they ate the first.

Then they tasted the second dish.

"Very sweet," they said again.

They tasted the third dish. It too was very sweet.

Then they tried the other dishes. All of them were sweet.

"Don't you have any salt?" they asked her.

"No," she answered. "My love is not like sugar and honey. It is like salt."

The king heard her words and turned to her. Then he knew she was Rose.

tasted—രുചിച്ചുനോക്കി taste, tasted

"Are you not Rose?" he asked her.

Her sisters also understood who she was.

"Dear Rose," said the king, "you have taught us a good lesson. Sugar and honey may be good. But it is salt that we want."

"Then you shall have salt," said she.

She went in and brought the other dishes.

"Taste them," said Rose, "I have put salt into them."

The king liked the dishes. "They are very good," said he.

He ate as much as he wanted.

"Father," said Rose, "Which do you love more, sugar or salt?"

"Salt," said the king.

The king was sorry for the wrong he had done to her.

"Forgive me, Rose," he said.
"I have done you a great wrong."

Just then Robert came in. With him there was a man from Naples.

When the man saw the prince, he knelt down.

"Long live the king," said he.

"What has become of my father?" the prince asked.

"The king is dead," said the man. "I have come to look for the new king."

The prince was very sad when he heard the news.

"I must go at once to Naples," said he to Rose.

Turning to the man from Naples, he said, "This is my wife."

"Long live the queen," said he kneeling before her.

knelt—മുട്ടുകുത്തി (k is silent)

kneel, knelt, knelt,

That very day the prince left for Naples with his wife. Soon he was crowned king and Rose became the queen.

Rose was a good queen. The people of Naples loved her dearly and honoured her very much.

TEST:- Fill up the blanks choosing the right words from those given in brackets.

1. The princess wanted to teach them a——.
(story, lesson, song)
2. She gave them ——.
(water, food, presents)
3. She put lots of —— into the dishes.
(milk, sugar, fruit)
4. They could not eat much, because there was no ——.
(honey, sugar, salt)
5. Then she gave them dishes with —— .
(sugar, honey, salt)
6. She said her love was like ——.
(sugar, honey, salt)

7. Then the king knew that she was ——.

(a poor girl, Rose, the hunter's wife)
8. A man came from Naples saying that the prince's —— was dead.

(brother, father, mother)
9. The prince became —— of Naples.

(Duke, King, Pope)
10. Rose became ——.

(princess, queen)

FINAL TEST

Complete the following sentences choosing the right words from those given in brackets.

1. Once there was a king who had ——.

(three sons, three daughters, two sons and a daughter)
2. The youngest of them was called ——.

(Jane, Rose, Mary)
3. The king made up his mind to divide his kingdom among his ——.

(sons, daughters, brothers)

4. He asked them how they ——— him.
(helped, loved, honoured)
5. The first daughter said she loved him like ———.
(sugar, honey, salt)
6. The second daughter said she loved him like ———.
(sugar, salt honey)
7. But the third daughter said she loved him like ———.
(sugar, salt, honey)
8. The king was angry with Rose and ———.
(killed her, beat her, drove her away)
9. He gave half his kingdom to each of the other ———.
(sons, daughters, brothers)
10. Rose went to the ——— and lived there.
(church, city, forest)
11. The ——— of Naples fell in love with her and married her.
(king, prince, duke)

12. One day the king came to the —— to hunt. (river, forest, hill)
13. The prince met him and brought him to ——.
(the city, the river, his house)
14. Rose wanted to teach him a ——.
(song, story, lesson)
15. She gave him food with lots of —— in it.
(sugar, salt, honey)
16. He could not —— it.
(taste, eat, drink)
17. Then/he asked for ——
(salt, honey, sugar)
18. She gave him dishes with salt, and said her love was not like ——.
(honey, salt)
19. The king was sorry for the —— he had done her.
(good, wrong, help)
20. The prince became king of Naples and Rose became his ——.
(officer, queen, prince)
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