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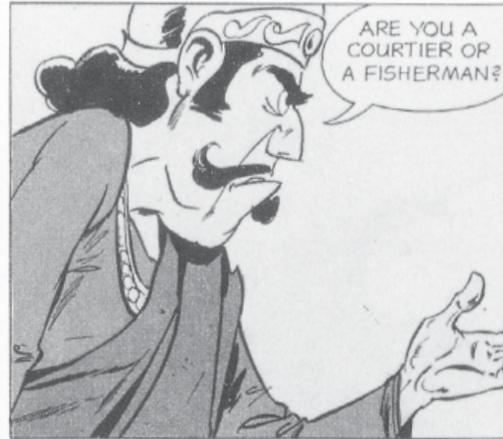
Before you read

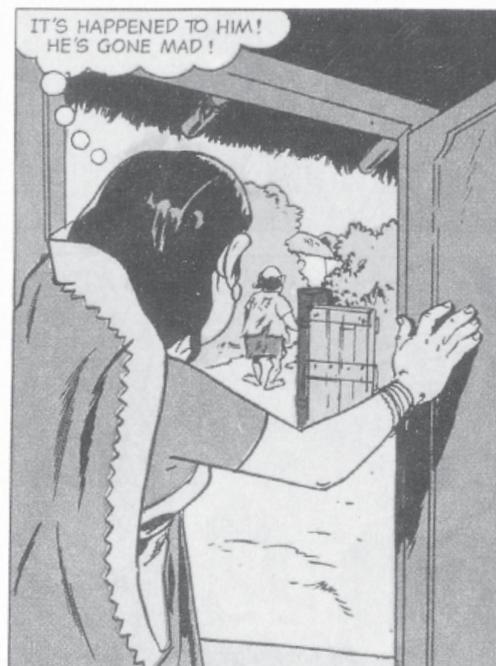


Have you ever read a comic book? A comic book contains stories told mainly through pictures.

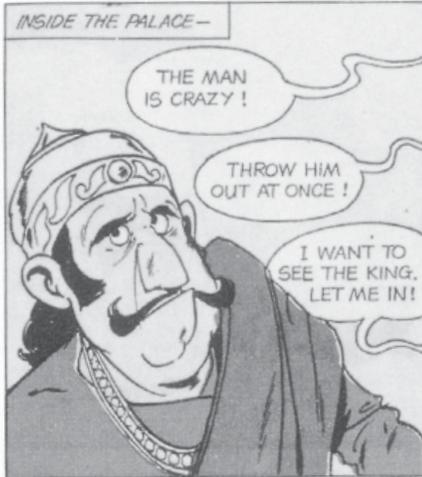
Gopal and the Hilsa-fish















Working with the Text

Answer the following questions.



1. Why did the king want no more talk about the hilsa-fish?
2. What did the king ask Gopal to do to prove that he was clever?
3. What three things did Gopal do before he went to buy his hilsa-fish?
4. How did Gopal get inside the palace to see the king after he had bought the fish?
5. Explain why no one seemed to be interested in talking about the hilsa-fish which Gopal had bought.
6. Write 'True' or 'False' against each of the following sentences.
 - (i) The king lost his temper easily. _____
 - (ii) Gopal was a madman. _____
 - (iii) Gopal was a clever man. _____
 - (iv) Gopal was too poor to afford decent clothes. _____
 - (v) The king got angry when he was shown to be wrong.

Working with Language



1. Notice how in a comic book, there are no speech marks when characters talk. Instead what they say is put in a speech 'bubble'. *However, if we wish to repeat or 'report' what they say, we must put it into **reported speech**.*

Change the following sentences in the story to reported speech. The first one has been done for you.



(i) How much did you pay for that hilsa?

The woman asked the man how much he had paid for that hilsa.

(ii) Why is your face half-shaven?

Gopal's wife asked him _____

(iii) I accept the challenge, Your Majesty.

Gopal told the king _____

(iv) I want to see the king.

Gopal told the guards _____

(v) Bring the man to me at once.

The king ordered the guard _____

2. Find out the meaning of the following words by looking them up in the dictionary. Then use them in sentences of your own.

challenge

mystic

comical

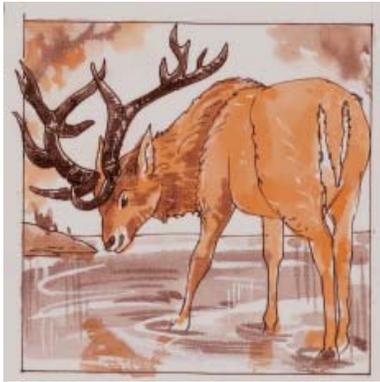
courtier

smearing



Picture Reading

1. Look at the pictures and read the text aloud.

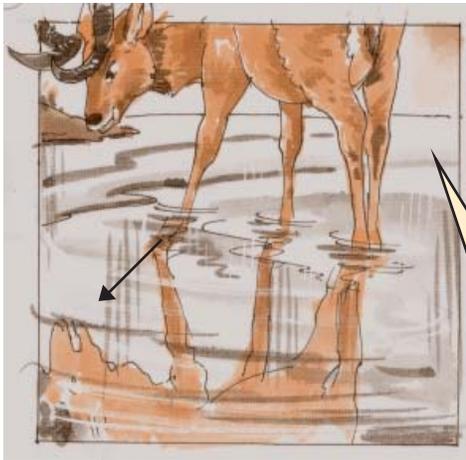


Stag by the side of a pond.

How beautiful my horns are!



But my legs are so thin and ugly!



Hunters! Run for your life!





Let me hide somewhere.



These branches... Oh, no!



*They are too close.
Get out of here!*

I was proud of my horns. They could have caused my death. I was ashamed of my legs. They saved me.



