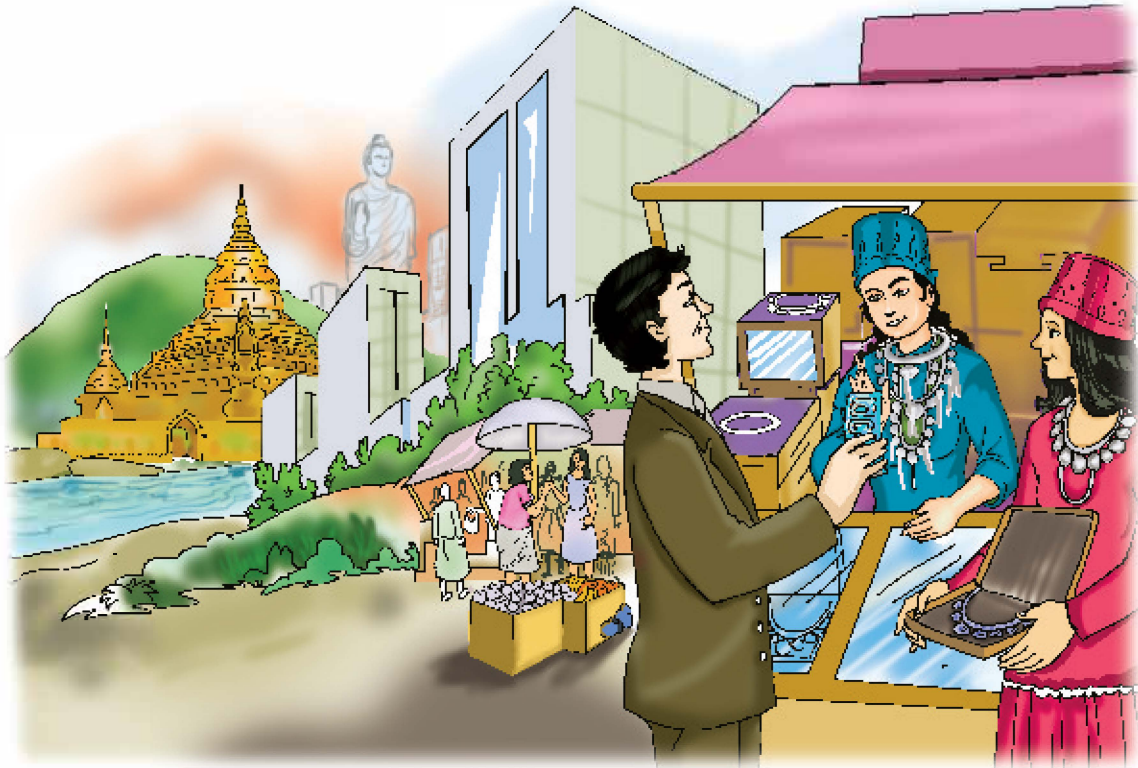


Chapter 34. Reading Skills

Exercise 1. Read this passage about Yangon.



Yangon, the capital of Myanmar and its main port, was earlier known as Rangoon. It lies in the fertile delta country of southern Myanmar on the banks of the Yangon river, about 30 km from the sea. Although it has a population of around 40 lakh, it looks very different from other Asian cities of the same size. While other cities are dominated by huge concrete buildings with small pockets of greenery tucked here and there, Yangon is full of shady trees. Some areas in the neighbourhood of the city have trees in such abundance that it is difficult to believe they are so close to a flourishing and crowded trade centre. Yangon is famous for its pagodas, the most famous being the Shwe-Dagon pagoda, which towers ninety-nine metres above the ground and has its domes covered with gold. The huge reclining Buddha in the Chaukhtatgyi pagoda is another major attraction of Yangon. The markets in Yagon sell, apart from modern goods, many local goods, jewellery and carvings made from the beautiful stone called jade.

A. Fill in the blanks with a single word or phrase:

1. Yangon is the capital of _____.
2. It was formerly known as _____.
3. The river _____ flows through it.
4. Around _____ people live in Yangon.
5. Yangon is famous for its _____.
6. The huge reclining Buddha is found in the _____ pagoda.

B. Answer the following questions briefly:

1. How is Yangon different from other big Asian cities?

2. Describe the ShweDagon Pagoda.

C. Tick (✓) two features of Yangon that would attract tourists:

1. It is a big, thickly populated, trading centre.
2. It has places of great scenic beauty.
3. It lies in a fertile delta.
4. It has beautiful pagodas.

D. Find words from the passage which mean the following:

1. in large numbers
2. a region of land triangular in shape
3. to occupy a prominent position

Exercise 2. Read the poem given below.

The Dream Fairy

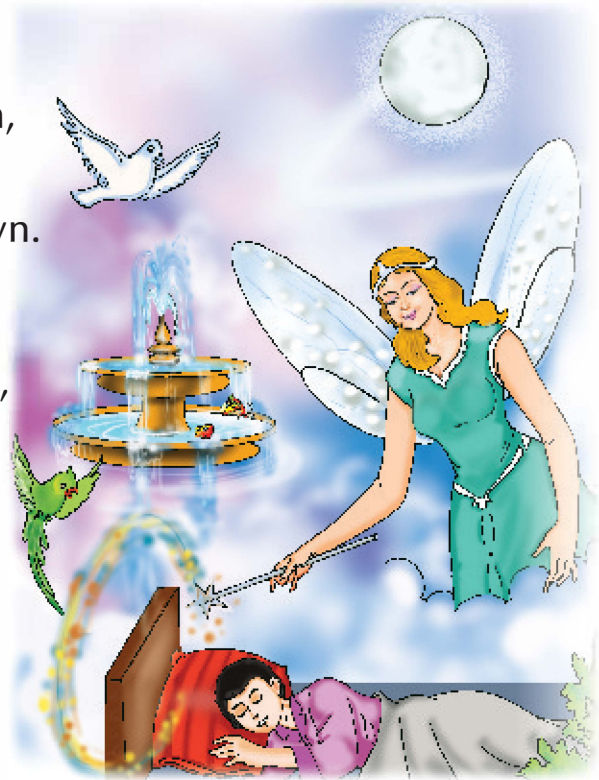
A little fairy comes at night,
Her eyes are blue, her hair is brown,
With silver spots upon her wings,
And from the moon she flutters down.

She has a little silver wand,
And when a good child goes to bed,
She waves her hand from right to left,
And makes a circle round its head.

And then it dreams of pleasant things,
Of fountains filled with fairy fish,
And trees that bear delicious fruit,
And bow their branches at a wish,

Of arbours filled with dainty scents
From lovely flowers that never fade,
Bright flies that glitter in the sun,
And glow-worms shining in the shade;

And talking birds with gifted tongues
For singing songs and telling tales,
And pretty dwarfs to show the way
Through fairy hills and fairy dales.



A. Now answer these questions:

1. This poem is about

fairies

dreams

good children

how a good child is rewarded by a fairy

(Tick the correct answer.)

2. The fairy has

- (i) _____
- (ii) _____
- (iii) _____

(Write three things about the fairy's looks.)

3. The fairy sends the good child dreams of pleasant things. Write down any four pleasant things:

- (i) _____
- (ii) _____
- (iii) _____
- (iv) _____

4. How does the fairy send dreams to the child?

5. What do you think the poet means by (i) 'fairy hills', and (ii) 'fairy dales'?

- (i) _____
- (ii) _____

6. Find words from the poem which mean the following:

- (i) valleys _____
- (ii) stick _____
- (iii) a sheltered place formed by trees in a garden _____
- (iv) moving delicately from side to side or up and down _____

7. Poets often repeat sounds to create the effect of music. For example, the 'f' sound is repeated in 'flowers that never fade'. Write phrases where

- (i) the 'f' sound is repeated in the third stanza, _____
- (ii) the 'sh' sound is repeated in the fourth stanza, _____
- (iii) the 's' sound is repeated in the fifth stanza. _____