

Subhadatta grinned to himself but kept quiet. He was afraid that someone would steal his pot. But the neighbours were curious. They kept asking him.

At last, Subhadatta could not stop himself from boasting. He showed them the magic pot and said, "See, the yakshas gave me this pot because I worked so hard. It gives me anything I want." Subhadatta started dancing with the pot on his head. And then, in a moment of horrors, the pot slipped from his head and broke!

He quickly started picking up the pieces to put them together again. For a moment, everyone saw the whole pot and then it vanished.

- What did the guests want to know?
- Do you think Subhadatta will get back the pot?

Subhadatta cried, "If only I had not been foolish to boast about the pot, it would still be here. What a fool I am!" But nothing could bring the pot back now. Subhadatta went looking for the yakshas many times but he never saw them again.

an Indian folk tale adapted from Kathasaritsagara by Somadeva

Word Meanings

yakshas	guardians of earth according to some people
wonderstruck	felt great surprise
grinned	smiled

curious - eager to know

boasting

astonished

Comprehension

A. Choose the correct answer and write.

1. The yakshas said they would send Subhadatta to his wife in a _____
a. dream.
b. pot.
c. cart.

2. Tasty food came out from the magic pot.

- a. food
- b. water
- c. juice

3. Subhadatta decided to have a feast for the neighbours

- a. animals.
- b. neighbours.
- c. children.

4. Subhadatta and his wife invited a hundred guests.

- a. thousand
- b. few
- c. hundred

5. Subhadatta danced with the pot on his head.

- a. sang
- b. disappeared
- c. danced

B. Answer these questions.

1. Who was Subhadatta and where did he live?
2. Why did Subhadatta go with the yakshas?
3. What reward did Subhadatta get for his hard work?
4. What did Subhadatta do with the reward?
5. What happened during the feast at Subhadatta's house?

C. Read these lines and answer the questions.

1. "If I say or do something wrong, they might curse me,"
 - a. Who is 'I'?
 - b. Who are 'they'?
 - c. Why did the speaker think they might curse him/her?
2. "Put your hand inside and make a wish."
 - a. Why was the person asked to make a wish?
 - b. Where should the person put her/his hand and make a wish?
3. "Where did you get the money to make such good food?"
 - a. When did the person speak these lines?
 - b. Why did she/he ask this question?

"What a fool I am!"

- a. Who said this?
- b. Why did he say this?

Discuss in class.

- Do you think Subhadatta made full use of the magic pot? Why or why not?
- What would you have done with a magic pot?

Vocabulary

E. Tick (✓) the correct spelling in each group.

- 1. hygiene/hygeine/hygiēn
- 2. abcense/absence/absense
- 3. calendar/calender/celendar
- 4. noticeable/noticable/noticeble
- 5. twelfth/twelvth/twelth
- 6. seperate/separete/separate

Speaking

F. Take turns to play the roles of Subhadatta and the yakshas. Imagine that you are Subhadatta asking the yakshas for a reward. Ask for something other than the magic pot. The yakshas can come up with their own responses.

Writing

G. Imagine you are a magic pot. Write a paragraph about yourself. Use these hints.

- ♦ who you are
- ♦ what you are made of
- ♦ who made/created you
- ♦ what is special about you
- ♦ if you are happy to be a magic pot and why

Begin like this.

I am a . . .