



## INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

<b>Class: Grade 8</b>	<b>Department: ENGLISH</b>	<b>Date of submission: April 2021</b>
<b>Worksheet No: 4</b>	<b>Topic: The Three Questions</b> By: <b>Leo Tolstoy</b>	<b>Note: English Reference Material</b>

One day, a thought occurred to a King that if he knew the answers of three questions, he would always be successful.



The questions are:

1. How can I learn to do the right thing at the right time?
2. Who are the people I most need, and whom should I pay more attention to?
3. What affairs are the most important, and need my first attention?

### Major events of the story:

The king proclaimed throughout his kingdom that he would give a great reward to anyone who would answer the three questions. Many learned men came, but he was not satisfied with their answers.

There was a hermit who lived in the woods which he never left, and he received none but common folk. So, the king decided to dress as a layman in order to visit the hermit who was widely renowned for his wisdom. When the king approached, the hermit was digging the ground in front of his hut. The king asked his questions many times and helped the hermit to dig holes.

The hermit did not answer the king. Suddenly, a wounded man came running out of the woods and fell fainting on the ground moaning feebly.

The King bandaged the man's wounds and saved his life. Later, the man revealed himself and told the king that he had come to take revenge as the king had executed the man's brother and seized his property. But the man was overwhelmed by the kind gesture of the king and promised to be his most loyal servant.

The hermit then told the king that his questions were answered.

The most important time was when he was digging the ground because if he had not stayed with the hermit for so long, that man would have attacked him and would have repented for not staying with the hermit. (So, the right time was NOW)

The most important man was the hermit (the person whom you are with now)

### Different Stages of the Plot:

**Exposition:** The king needed to know the three answers of the question.

**Rising Action:** He got many men to try to give him the right answers, but they didn't.

**Climax:** When the hermit and the king saw the bearded man bleeding, the king ran to help.

**Falling Action:** The king took care of the man and they fell asleep.

**Resolution:** The hermit answered the three questions.

### Conflicts:

King vs Self: Needs to get the answers of the three questions, but fails.

King vs Learned Men: They failed to give a satisfactory answer.

King vs Hermit: He tries to get correct answers from the hermit, but it is not easy.

King vs the bearded man: He came to attack the king and later became his friend.

### Point of view:

It is the vantage point through which the story gets told.

In this story Third Person Limited Point of View has been used.

### Speaking Activities:

#### **Discuss and Debate:**

- Forgiving our enemies is better than punishing them.
- Humanity and kindness to all is the biggest religion in the world.
- The best lessons in life are never learnt the easy way.
- By knowing answers to deep, philosophical questions, one can never fail.

#### **Agree or Disagree:**

- The most important person is the person in front of you.
- As we sow, so we reap.
- Today is more important than yesterday or tomorrow.
- The council, and not the hermit, should have helped the king in getting answers to his questions.
- The king found the answers to his questions because he helped the hermit.
- The king was satisfied with the hermit's answers.

### Ideas for Action:

- Share your experiences of helping others with your class.
- Use your imagination and write a very short story that shows the importance of time.
- Make a timetable which shows how you spend your time. Are you using your time cleverly? Discuss with your friends.

### Food for Thought:

- The king had to go to the hermit, because...
- Hermits live alone and far from the cities, because...
- If I could ask any three important questions, they would be...
- I think this story tries to teach us...
- This story made me think seriously about...
- If given a chance, the part of the story I would like to change is...

### Message Conveyed:

- ✚ Tolstoy stresses the importance of service to others and ensuring their happiness as “the pursuit of life.”
- ✚ He recognized that service provided its own rewards and was life’s most noble calling.
- ✚ Tolstoy’s Three Questions serves as a template for a meaningful life.

### Web Resources:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKS7ZCZsboc&t=33s>

### AI Tools:

Play [Akinator](#) and explore the kinds of questions in further details.

You may also play the game of 20 questions in class with your teacher