



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: VIII	Department: ENGLISH	Date of submission: January 2026
Worksheet No: 23	Topic: Jalebis	Note: To be done English Notebook

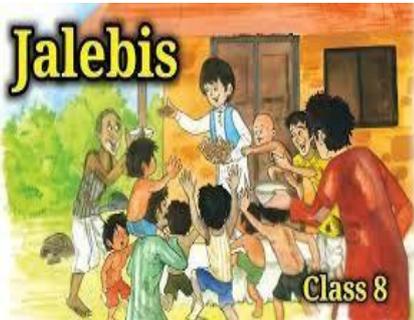
ABOUT THE WRITER

Ahmad Nadeem Qasmi was born in the Anga village in the Khushab district of Pakistan on 20th November 1916. He was a well-known writer in Urdu literature. Qasmi was not only a poet but also a journalist, literary critic, and dramatist.



Ahmad Nadeem Qasmi was the author of many short stories that got enormous popularity in Pakistan and other countries. He wrote around fifty books on different topics such as poetry, fiction, criticism, and journalism. Qasmi was considered a notable person in Urdu literature and greatly appreciated by the large community of readers. His poetry of humanism distinguished him from the other Urdu writers and poets.

SUMMARY



The Jalebis story focuses on an honest boy who is on his way to school. Furthermore, this boy is carrying money with him to pay the school fees. Moreover, a sight of crisp jalebis raises an excitement in him. There was the jingling of coins in his pocket. The boy then gives in to the temptation of eating jalebis. Consequently, he bought a large number of jalebis to enjoy. The following day, the problem of paying school fees came up. The boy became scared and remorseful. In this troublesome period, he began praying to God so as to provide him with some help. He waits in hope for a miracle to happen but nothing happens.

Eventually, the boy gets into trouble and learns an important lesson. Most noteworthy, he learns the difference between what is fanciful and what is factual. Also, he learns that everything happens for a reason.

VOCABULARY

Word/Phrase	Meaning
khanak-khanak	sound of jingling of coins
jalebis	syrupy Indian sweet
kadhao	large, open pot for cooking/boiling

clamour	loud noise
Kissa khatam paisa hazam	end of story (literally: story ends, money disappears)
blabbering	talking confusedly
prestige	respect
persuasion	coaxing
halwai	sweetmeat seller
tonga	two-wheeled, horse-drawn vehicle
gali	narrow lane
chabutara	platform
assault	attack
jalebi-wielding hand	the hand that held jalebis
gobbled	eaten quickly/greedily
summoned	sent for/called
virtuous	good and noble
farishta	angel
racket	uproar/loud noise
crouching	sitting (as if hiding)
surats	verses from the Holy Quran
ayat-al-kursi	title of a verse in the Holy Quran
treasury	wealth
chaprasi	peon
choo	sound of 'blowing over the bag' (to ward off evil)
bismillah	in the name of God (words spoken before starting something)
wazu	ablution (washing face, hands and feet before praying)

Comprehension Check (Page 65)

1. Why didn't he pay the school fees on the day he brought money to school?

Ans. The boy couldn't pay the school fees on the day he brought to school because the teacher Master Ghulam Mohammed was on leave.

2. (i) What were the coins 'saying' to him?
(ii) Do you think they were misguiding him?

Ans.(i) The coins in the boy's pocket urged him to buy hot and fresh jalebis.
(ii) Yes, the coins were misguiding him because the money was meant for paying school fees.

3. Why didn't he take the coin's advice? Give two or three reasons.

Ans. Initially, the boy didn't take the advice of the coins seriously for a couple of reasons. He could not spend the money meant for paying school fees on jalebis. Secondly, the boy knew the harsh nature of the master and the punishment.

4. (i) What did the oldest coin tell him?
(ii) Did he follow his advice? If not, why not?

Ans. (i) The oldest coin convinced him that they were telling him for his own good. He can pay his fee next day with his scholarship money. So, he should not suppress his desire for jalebis. .
(ii) He didn't follow his advice. He was a promising student. He was from a good family of repute. He didn't want to get defame for it

5. He reached home with the coins in his pocket. What happened then?

Ans. After reaching home he couldn't suppress his temptation for fresh jalebis. He rushed to the shop of halwai. He bought jalebis and enjoyed them.

Comprehension Check (Page 68)

1. (i) Why didn't he eat all the jalebis he had bought?
(ii) What did he do with the remaining Jalebis?

Ans.(i) He had bought jalebis for one rupee. But he couldn't eat all of them because of their quantity.
(ii) He distributed the remaining jalebis among the boys from the neighbourhood.



2. "The fear was killing me." What was the fear?

Ans. He had eaten so many jalebis that there was the problem of digesting them all. His fear was that one jalebi or two would come out with a burp.

3. "Children's stomachs are like digestion machines." What do you understand by that? Do you agree?

Ans. It means that children have the capacity to digest a lot of things that they overeat. I agree with the statement but only partly.

4. How did he plan to pay the fees the next day?

Ans. He planned to pay the fees the next day when he would get his monthly scholarship.

5. When it is time to pay the fees, what does he do? How is he disobeying the elders by doing so?

Ans. When the time draws near to pay the fees, he tucked the bag under his arm and slips out of the school. He had disobeyed his elders by crossing the railway track.

Comprehension Check (Page 72)

1. What was the consequence of buying jalebis with the fee money?

Ans. As a result of spending his fees money on jalebis, he had to be absent from school for the first time in his life.

2. His prayer to God is like a lawyer's defence of a bad case. Does he argue his case well? What are the points he makes?

Ans. He tries to please God with his requests and the recitation of the entire *namaz*. He admits that he made a mistake. He wouldn't have spent his money on jalebis if he had known about the delay in scholarship. Thus, he argues his case like a lawyer.

3. He offers to play a game with Allah Miyan. What is the game?

Ans. The game is that he will go up to the signal, touch it and come back. And in the meantime, God should put four rupees under a big rock.

4. Did he get four rupees by playing the game? What did he get to see under the rock?

Ans. No, he didn't get four rupees by playing the game. When he lifted the rock, he saw a worm instead of coins.

5. If God had granted his wish that day, what harm would it have caused him in later life?

Ans. If God had granted his wish that day, he wouldn't have learnt a lesson to do no wrong in future. He would have been like a bird and learnt no skill.

EXERCISE (PAGE 72)

Question 1: Select and write sentences that show

(a) that the boy is tempted to eat *jalebis*.

(b) that he is feeling guilty

(c) that he is justifying a wrong deed.



Answers:

(a)

- *Jalebis* are meant to be eaten, and those with money in their pocket can eat them.
- But then, these *jalebis* are no common sort of *Jalebis*. They're crisp, fresh and full of syrup.
- My mouth watered. I rushed out of the house bare foot and ran towards the bazaar.

(b)

- My head started to spin.
- When the recess bell rang I tucked my bag under my arm and left the school.
- Now for the crime of eating a few Jalebis, for the first time in my life I was absent from school.
- Sitting under a tree, at first, I felt like crying.

(c)

- I didn't eat them all by myself, and I fed them to a whole lot of children.
- *Allah Miyan!* I am a good boy. I have memorised the entire namaz and the last – ten *surats* of the *Quran* by heart.

Question 2: Discuss the following points.

- (a) Is the boy intelligent? If so, what is the evidence of it?
(b) Does his outlook on the jalebi episode change after class VIII? Does he see that episode in a new light?
(c) Why are coins made to 'talk' in this story? What purpose does it serve?

Answers:

- (a) The boy is definitely intelligent. The first evidence is that he has won a scholarship. He is a promising boy. He knows what is right and what is wrong. He argues his case before God like a lawyer.
(b) Yes, his outlook changed after class VIII. He later realised that nothing comes without a price. If God were to grant all one's wishes for the asking, man would not learn any skill. He would be no better than birds.
(c) The coins are made to talk because they reflect the conflict going on in his own mind.
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