

Class 8 · English · Poorvi · Unit 1: Wit and Wisdom

Chapter 1

The Wit that Won Hearts

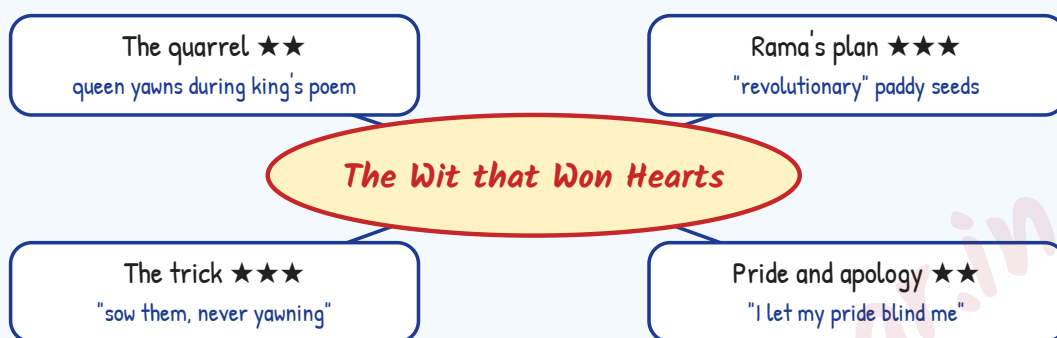
paddy seeds

*"Who does not yawn?"*

A Tenali Rama story · NCERT Poorvi, Textbook of English for Grade 8 · CBSE

2026-27

Chapter map (★ = most important for the exam)



About the story

A folk tale from the court of **King Krishnadeva Raya** of the **Vijayanagara Empire** (ruled 1509–29 CE). Its hero is **Tenali Ramakrishna (Tenali Rama)**, one of the eight court poets called the **Ashtadiggajas**, famous for his quick wit and humour.

What is inside

1. Concept notes: story in brief, themes, characters, key lines, words
2. NCERT (Poorvi) exercises, fully solved, with listening and speaking
3. **Important exam questions, fully solved:** extracts, short and long answers
4. Quick-reference sheet, extract sets, practice A–G, 20 MCQs, 6 A–R, answers, summary

Colour code used

red = key term green = definition

purple = sub-heading black = explanation

"purple Kalam" = a line quoted from the text

★ **Exam tip:** School exams on this lesson ask about **why the king was angry**, **Rama's strategy** with the paddy seeds, the **courtiers' reaction**, and the **lesson**. Learn the quarrel, the trick and the apology in order.

Theme in one line: a wise, witty person can heal a quarrel gently, without hurting anyone's pride.

1.1 The story in brief ★★

A. A golden age and a witty poet

- The **Vijayanagara Empire** was famous for glory, wealth and culture. **King Krishnadeva Raya** (1509–29 CE) was wise and powerful; his reign is called the **Golden Era**, when art, literature and architecture flourished.
- He was a **patron of learning**, a great warrior and a gifted poet (the epic *Amuktamalyada*, the Sanskrit drama *Jambavati Parinayam*).
- His court had eight famous poets, the **Ashtadiggajas**, including **Allasani Peddana** and **Tenali Ramakrishna**. Rama was known for **quick wit and humour** and was both poet and **witty advisor**.

B. A quarrel over a yawn

- The king quarrelled with **Queen Thirumalambal** over a **trivial matter**. For weeks he did not speak to her and stopped visiting her. His absence *"cast a shadow over the palace"*; the corridors became quiet and forlorn.
- The queen, distraught, went to Tenali Rama. The king had written a vague poem ("sun, moon, stars, beautiful sky"). His **ministers avoided him** with excuses. Late one evening he recited it to her; she was so **exhausted** that she **yawned several times**. He thought she was **disrespecting his poem** and **stormed off**.
- She said: *"If I had known this would happen I would have chosen another day... Only you can help the king understand."* Rama promised to try, but said he needed **a well-planned approach** and time.

C. The "revolutionary" paddy seeds

- Next morning the court discussed **improving paddy cultivation**. Ministers suggested irrigation and better manure. Rama watched with an amused smile.
- Called by the king, Rama brought a **plate of paddy seeds** and claimed they would give a **yield three times greater**. Courtiers mocked him (*"I wonder if these are magic seeds!"*, *"Perhaps he found them on the moon!"*). The king called it **absurd**.
- Rama, **unfazed**, said the real issue was **the person who sows them**: seeds must be sown with care, and *"what if the person had a habit of yawning while sowing?"* The court laughed; the king himself **yawned**. Rama asked: *"is there anyone in this world who does not yawn? It is as natural as breathing."*

D. Realisation and reunion

- The king realised he had been **unfair** to the queen: yawning is not disrespect.
- That evening he apologised: *"I have been foolish... I let my pride blind me. I'm so sorry."* The queen forgave him and asked to hear his poem.
- Rama, who had **orchestrated** the settlement, felt victorious and was given **valuable gifts**. The palace **brimmed with joy and laughter** again.

Setting and narration. Place: the palace and royal court of Vijayanagara. Time: the reign of Krishnadeva Raya (16th century). Narration: third person. Structure: background → problem (quarrel) → plan → trick in court →

realisation → happy ending.

1.2 Themes, title and characters ★★★

Themes

1. **Wit and wisdom solve problems.** Rama solves a royal quarrel with a clever, gentle trick instead of argument.
2. **Pride blinds judgement.** The king's pride in his poem made him punish a natural act. He admits: "I let my pride blind me."
3. **Small misunderstandings, big problems.** A few yawns led to weeks of silence and a gloomy palace.
4. **Tact and timing.** Rama does not scold the king; he lets the king **discover** his own mistake, so his dignity is saved.
5. **Forgiveness and apology.** The king says sorry; the queen forgives at once. Relationships are restored.
6. **Humour heals.** Laughter in court replaces sarcasm and tension.

Significance of the title

"The Wit that Won Hearts": Rama's **wit** (clever humour) wins the heart of the **king** (who understands his error), reunites the **king and queen**, wins over the mocking **courtiers**, and also wins the reader's heart. The title states the central idea: cleverness used kindly.

Characters

Tenali Rama

Quick-witted and humorous (the paddy-seed trick), **patient and thoughtful** ("this needs a well-planned approach"), **observant** (watches the court "with an amused smile"), **calm** ("unfazed" by sarcasm), **tactful and kind** (makes the king realise his error without hurting his pride). A true problem-solver and peacemaker.

King Krishnadeva Raya

Wise ruler and poet, but **proud and sensitive** about his poetry; he **overreacts** (weeks of silence). Yet he is **open to reason**: he realises his mistake, feels regret and **apologises humbly**.

Queen Thirumalambal

Honest (admits she yawned), **loving** (distracted by the quarrel), **sensible** (seeks help from the right person), **forgiving and gracious** ("we can leave this quarrel behind us. I would very much like to listen to your poem").

The courtiers and ministers

Avoided the king's poem with excuses; **sarcastic and sceptical** about Rama ("magic seeds"), later genuinely amused.

★ **Exam tip:** For a character sketch, give 3–4 qualities, each with **proof from the text**: "patient: he says he may need time to find the right strategy".

1.3 Key lines explained, words and grammar ★★

Lines to know

"His absence cast a shadow over the palace." The king's anger made the whole palace sad and gloomy (metaphor).

"...I was so exhausted after a tiring day that I yawned." The real cause of the quarrel: tiredness, not disrespect.

"But this needs a well-planned approach..." Rama knows a proud king cannot be told directly that he is wrong.

"...the real issue lies not with the seeds themselves but with the person who sows them." The turning point: Rama shifts attention to "the person", setting the trap.

"Your Majesty, is there anyone in this world who does not yawn? It is as natural as breathing." The moral of the trick: yawning is natural and cannot be an insult.

"I let my pride blind me." The king's honest self-realisation (metaphor: pride as blindness).

"Rama, who had orchestrated this settlement, felt victorious." Like a conductor of an orchestra, Rama arranged every step of the peace.

Words and expressions

word	meaning in the story
renowned / illustrious	well known / respected and famous
patron	supporter (of learning)
insurmountable	too great to overcome
trivial	unimportant
forlorn / distraught	lonely and sad / extremely upset
vague	unclear
profusely	in large amounts (thanked him profusely)
gnawed	(here) kept troubling
sarcasm / snickers	mockery / suppressed laughter
absurd / unfazed	illogical / not worried
sceptical	doubtful
orchestrated / brimmed	arranged / overflowed

Grammar in the lesson: conditionals

- **If + present, will** (real possibility): "If you like, I **will** try my best."
- **If + past, would** (imaginary): "If something **were** to go wrong, our farmers **would** suffer."
- **If + past perfect, would have + V3** (past, cannot change): "If I **had known**, I **would have chosen** another day."

X Don't do this: The queen's name is **Thirumalambal**. The yield promised was **three times** greater. The poets were the **Ashtadiggajas** (eight).

NCERT exercises, fully solved

Before you read

I. Qualities of a person who uses wit.

Ans. wise, clever, humorous, observant, charming, creative, confident. A witty person must observe quickly, think creatively, speak confidently and use humour charmingly; wisdom keeps the wit kind.

II. Riddles.

Ans. Friend or foe, joy or pain → words. Measured, spent but not saved → time. Always in front of you but can't be seen → the future. Must be shared before you can keep it → a secret.

Discuss in pairs (model).

Ans. 1. Humour and wit ease tension, make people likeable and help solve problems without anger. 2. Witty courtiers could give honest advice in a pleasant way and solve tricky problems; they also entertained the court. 3. Listen to both sides calmly, find the real cause, suggest a fair solution, and help them see each other's view. 4. Model: a friend thought I ignored her when I had simply not heard her; we talked and laughed about it.

Let us discuss: rectify the false statements

Ans. 1. The queen did **not** insult the poem; she **yawned** because she was exhausted, and the king took it as disrespect. 2. Rama did **not** go to the king at once; he said it needed a **well-planned approach** and time, and acted in court the next morning. 3. The courtiers did **not** praise the poem; the ministers **avoided** the king, making excuses. 4. The ministers were **not** eager; they were **sarcastic and sceptical** ("magic seeds", "found them on the moon"). 5. The king **did** realise his mistake and **apologised** to the queen.

Let us think and reflect: extracts

Extract 1 ("...The king thought I was disrespecting his poem...")

Ans. (i) Rama was known for his **quick wit** and clever solutions to problems that seemed impossible; he was close to the king and trusted, while she herself had tried and failed. (ii) **B. She regrets the unintended misunderstanding.** (iii) He listens patiently, does not rush, and plans a careful strategy because a proud king cannot be corrected directly. (iv) **takes great pride.**

Extract 2 ("That evening, the king approached the queen...")

Ans. (i) his pride in his poetry stopped him from seeing that the queen's yawn was natural, so he judged her unfairly. (ii) She is forgiving and only wants their happy bond back; the sincere apology is enough for her. (iii) **maturity and self-awareness.** (iv) She is **forgiving / gracious** (she even offers to listen to his poem).

Let us think and reflect: answer the questions

1. Why was the Vijayanagara Empire in its "Golden Era" under Krishnadeva Raya?

Ans. Art, literature and architecture flourished. The king was a patron of learning, a great warrior and a gifted poet (Amuktamalyada, Jambavati Parinayam), and his court had the eight famous poets, the Ashtadiggajas.

2. How did Tenali Ramakrishna gain a special place in the court?

Ans. Through his quick wit and humour. He was both a poet and a witty advisor, and his clever solutions to seemingly insurmountable problems made him a beloved figure.

3. How did the quarrel affect the palace?

Ans. The king stopped speaking to and visiting the queen. His absence cast a shadow over the palace; the once cheerful corridors became quiet and forlorn, and the queen was distraught.

4. What strategy did Tenali Rama use?

Ans. In the court discussion on paddy, he offered "revolutionary" seeds that would triple the yield, then said the problem was the sower: what if he yawned while sowing? The court laughed, the king yawned, and Rama asked if anyone does not yawn, as it is natural as breathing. Without naming the queen, he made the king see that her yawn was not disrespect.

5. How did the courtiers react to the "special" seeds?

Ans. A murmur swept through the room; they mocked Rama ("magic seeds", "found them on the moon") and snickered. The king called the idea absurd. Later the sarcasm changed to genuine laughter.

6. How does the story end, and what is the lesson?

Ans. The king apologises, the queen forgives him and asks to hear his poem, Rama receives valuable gifts and the palace is joyful again. Lessons: pride clouds judgement; do not overreact to small things; a sincere apology and wise, gentle handling can heal any quarrel.

Let us learn

I. Paragraph with expressions.

Ans. 1. (a) murmur swept through the room · 2. rippled through · 3. stormed off · 4. hush fell over (the room) · 5. mind raced back · 6. cast a shadow

II. Sound words.

Ans. 1. murmur · 2. sighed · 3. mumble · 4. gasped · 5. snickers · 6. thud · 7. groan · 8. rattle · 9. roared · 10. whispered

III. Compound words.

Ans. 1. (i) quick-witted (G) · (ii) soft-spoken (C) · (iii) common sense (F) · (iv) household (H) · (v) bookstore (E) · (vi) ill-tempered (B) · (vii) sky blue (D) · (viii) dance hall (A).
2. (i) soft-spoken · (ii) household · (iii) ill-tempered · (iv) quick-witted · (v) dance hall · (vi) sky blue · (vii) bookstore · (viii) common sense

IV. Clauses in sentences 2 and 3; match.

Ans. 2. Subordinate: "If, by chance, something were to go wrong"; main: "our farmers would suffer". 3. Subordinate: "If I had known this would happen"; main: "I would have chosen another day".
Match: (i) C · (ii) E · (iii) F · (iv) A · (v) B · (vi) D

V. Complete (model answers).

Ans. 1. ...if you do not complete your homework. 2. ...if they had left home on time. 3. You will feel tired in class... 4. ...she would tell us. 5. She would have passed the test... 6. ...I would build a library in my village.

VI. "If I were..." (model answers).

Ans. 2. ...I would start a reading hour every day. 3. ...I would fly over mountains and seas. 4. ...I would make every child's lunchbox full of fruit. 5. ...I would have scored better marks.

Let us listen (transcript in the textbook)

Ans. I. 1. (ii) **thick** · 2. (iii) **arrogant**.

II. Order: 5 → 8 → 2 → 3 → 1 → 7 → 6 → 4. (The visitor wanted to show superiority; the scholars feared the king; Rama accepted; he came with a silk bundle; the scholar was ashamed; the king asked about the work; Rama showed the sticks and rope; the king laughed.)

Let us speak: intonation

Ans. Rising tone (yes/no questions): (i), (iii), (v), (vii), (ix). Falling tone (wh-questions): (ii), (iv), (vi), (viii), (x).
Question words (model): Who is the witty character? Why is his wit important in the story? What is his most famous trick? When is the story set? How did he use his intelligence? Where does the story take place?

Let us write: narrative essay (model)

Ans.

The Day I Learnt the Value of Teamwork

Last November, our class was asked to make a model of a solar-powered village for the science fair. I was sure I could do most of it alone, so I took charge and gave everyone small jobs.

Two days before the fair, disaster struck. The cardboard houses I had built kept collapsing, the wiring of the little bulbs did not work, and I had not left time to paint. I sat in the art room close to tears. Then Meera, who was good at crafts, quietly fixed the houses with ice-cream sticks. Arjun, who loved electronics, found the loose wire in five minutes. The others stayed back after school to paint the fields and roads.

On the day of the fair our model lit up perfectly, and we won second prize. When the judge praised "the team", I felt a little ashamed of my bossiness and very proud of my classmates.

That day I learnt that no one is good at everything. When we share work and respect each other's talents, the result is better than anything one person can do alone.

Let us explore: a limerick (model)

Ans. A boy who was learning to bake
Made a huge chocolate birthday cake.
It looked like a dream,
With chocolate and cream,
But he'd used salt instead of sugar by mistake!

Extra questions from the text

1. What kind of poem had the king written?

Ans. A poem full of vague expressions such as sun, moon, stars and beautiful sky; it made little sense.

2. Describe the royal court on the morning of the discussion.

Ans. It was bustling with ministers, scholars and courtiers; carved pillars rose to a high ceiling and sunlight fell on fine rugs. But there was tension, as the king sat stern on his throne.

3. What did the king say about cultivating the new seeds?

Ans. He said it was absurd; such seeds would need special soil, manure and pest repellents, and if something went wrong the farmers would suffer.

4. How was Rama rewarded?

Ans. The king and queen presented him with valuable gifts for bringing them together.

Important exam questions, fully solved

School-exam pattern for Class 8: extract (4-5 marks), short answer (2-3 marks, 30-50 words), long answer (5 marks, 100-120 words).

A. Extract-based questions

Extract · 5 marks

Even the wisest rulers face moments of disharmony, and at one such time, the king had a quarrel with his queen, Thirumalambal, over a seemingly trivial matter. For weeks, he did not utter a single word to her, and in his frustration, stopped visiting her altogether. His absence cast a shadow over the palace, and the once cheerful corridors seemed quiet and forlorn.

- (i) What was the quarrel about? (ii) Choose the correct meaning of "trivial": (A) serious (B) unimportant (C) secret (D) old. (iii) How did the king show his anger? (iv) Name the figure of speech in "His absence cast a shadow over the palace". (v) Find a word from the extract that means "lonely and sad". [5]

Ans. (i) The queen had yawned while the king recited his poem, and he took it as disrespect. (ii) **(B) unimportant**. (iii) He did not speak to her for weeks and stopped visiting her. (iv) **Metaphor** (sadness shown as a shadow). (v) **forlorn**.

Extract · 5 marks

Rama smiled, unfazed. "That may be true, Your Majesty, but the real issue lies not with the seeds themselves but with the person who sows them."

- (i) What did the king say just before this? (ii) What does "unfazed" tell us about Rama? (iii) Why does Rama shift the topic to "the person who sows them"? (iv) Fill in: Rama's reply is the _____ (beginning / end) of his trap. (v) What happened soon after this? [5]

Ans. (i) That the idea was absurd, as such seeds would need special soil, manure and repellents, and the farmers would suffer if something went wrong. (ii) He was calm and confident, not upset by mockery. (iii) To lead the talk to yawning, so that the king would see his own mistake. (iv) **beginning**. (v) Rama asked about a sower who yawns; the court laughed, the king yawned, and Rama said yawning is as natural as breathing.

B. Short answer questions

Short answer · 3 marks

Why did the queen yawn, and how did the king misunderstand it? [3]

Ans. The king came late in the evening to recite his poem, after his ministers had avoided him. The queen was exhausted after a tiring day, so she yawned several times. The proud king thought she was disrespecting his poem and stormed off.

Short answer · 3 marks

Why did Rama not go directly to the king? [3]

Ans. The king was angry and proud of his poetry; telling him directly that he was wrong could hurt his pride and make him angrier. So Rama planned a clever, indirect way that let the king discover the truth himself.

Short answer · 3 marks

"Is there anyone in this world who does not yawn?" Why is this question important? [3]

Ans. It is the turning point. The king had just yawned himself, so he could not deny it. He understood that yawning is natural, not an insult, and realised he had been unfair to the queen. [3]

Short answer · 2 marks

How did the queen respond to the king's apology? [2]

Ans. She smiled, said they could leave the quarrel behind, and asked to hear his poem. This shows she was forgiving and loving.

Short answer · 2 marks Who were the Ashtadiggajas?

[2]

Ans. The eight celebrated poets of Krishnadeva Raya's court, including Allasani Peddana and Tenali Ramakrishna, who enriched literature with their masterpieces.

C. Long answer questions (5 marks, 100–120 words)

Long answer · character Sketch the character of Tenali Rama as seen in the story.

[5]

Ans. Tenali Rama is the hero of the story. He is **quick-witted and humorous**, famous in the court for clever solutions to problems that seem impossible. He is a **patient listener**: he hears the queen's whole story before acting. He is **thoughtful**, saying the matter "needs a well-planned approach". In court he is **observant and calm**; he watches with "an amused smile" and stays "unfazed" when courtiers mock him. Above all, he is **tactful and kind**: instead of blaming the king, he uses the paddy seeds and a joke about yawning to make the king realise his mistake himself, so the king's dignity is saved. He brings the royal couple together and fills the palace with joy again. He shows that wit used wisely can win hearts.

Long answer · theme "I let my pride blind me." How does pride create the problem in the story, and how is it solved?

[5]

Ans. The king was a gifted poet and very proud of his poetry. When the tired queen yawned during his recitation, his pride was hurt, and he took a natural act as an insult. He stopped speaking to her for weeks, and the palace became gloomy. Pride also made the problem hard to solve, because a proud king does not like to be told he is wrong. Tenali Rama solved it cleverly. Through the story of the paddy seeds and a sower who yawns, he made the king yawn and admit that everyone yawns. The king then saw his error himself. He humbly apologised: "I let my pride blind me." The lesson is that pride clouds judgement, and humility and apology restore relationships.

Long answer · beyond the text Write a diary entry as Queen Thirumalambal on the evening the king apologised.

[5]

Ans.

Thursday, 9 p.m.

Dear Diary

Today the shadow over the palace has finally lifted. For weeks the king did not speak a word to me, all because I yawned while he recited his poem. I was only tired, but he thought I had insulted him.

I had placed my last hope in Tenali Rama, and he did not fail me. I heard that in court he spoke of magic paddy seeds and a farmer who yawns, until the king himself yawned and everyone laughed. This evening the king came to me with a gentle face and said, "I let my pride blind me. I'm so sorry."

My heart was full. I told him we could leave the quarrel behind, and I asked to hear his poem. I will listen with full attention, even if I am tired! How lucky we are to have Rama.

Thirumalambal

★ **Exam tip:** For a diary entry: date/day/time, "Dear Diary", feelings in the first person, events in order, and a closing thought with the name.

Quick-reference sheet

point	remember
empire, king	Vijayanagara; Krishnadeva Raya (1509–29 CE), the Golden Era

king's works	Amuktamalyada (epic), Jambavati Parinayam (Sanskrit drama)
court poets	Ashtadiggajas (eight), incl. Allasani Peddana, Tenali Ramakrishna
queen	Thirumalambal
cause of quarrel	the tired queen yawned while the king recited a vague poem
effect	weeks of silence; palace "quiet and forlorn"
court topic	improving paddy cultivation
Rama's claim	seeds giving three times the yield
the trick	"what if the person had a habit of yawning while sowing?"
key line	"It is as natural as breathing."
ending	apology, forgiveness, gifts to Rama, joy in the palace

Extract-based practice (answers at the end of the chapter)

Set 1.

Thirumalambal, distraught and upset, tried her best to resolve the issue but failed. With no other alternative, she decided to seek the help of Tenali Rama, the court's brilliant and witty poet. Rama listened patiently as the queen recounted the incident in detail.

- (i) Why did the queen go to Tenali Rama? (ii) Find a word that means "extremely upset". (iii) Which quality of Rama is seen here? (iv) Choose: "recounted" means (a) counted again (b) told in detail (c) forgot (d) wrote.

Set 2.

A murmur swept through the room. One of the courtiers, known for his sarcasm, whispered just loud enough to be heard, "I wonder if these are magic seeds! Next, he'll claim they grow without water." Another muttered, "Perhaps he found them on the moon!" Snickers rippled through the court.

- (i) What had Rama just claimed? (ii) What do the courtiers' remarks show about them? (iii) Find a word meaning "suppressed laughter". (iv) Fill in: The courtier spoke with _____ (respect / sarcasm).

Set 3.

The king's expression shifted as realisation dawned. His mind raced back to the quarrel with the queen. He remembered scolding her harshly for yawning while he recited his poem. He realised how unfair he had been.

- (i) What did the king realise? (ii) What made the realisation "dawn"? (iii) Pick a phrase showing quick thinking. (iv) What did the king do that evening?

Practice set: test yourself *Exam-style*

Try every question before looking at the answers. 49 or more out of 61 means you are ready for the exam.

A. Fill in the blanks (1 mark each)

1. Krishnadeva Raya ruled the _____ Empire.
2. His reign is called the _____ Era.
3. The eight court poets were called the _____.
4. The queen's name was _____.
5. The court was discussing improving _____ cultivation.
6. Rama said the new seeds would give _____ times the yield.
7. Rama said yawning is as natural as _____.

8. The king said, "I let my _____ blind me."

B. True or false? (1 mark each)

1. The ministers loved listening to the king's poem.
2. The queen yawned because she was exhausted.
3. Rama went straight to the king the same night.
4. Rama brought a plate of wheat to the court.
5. The courtiers mocked Rama's seeds.
6. The king yawned in court.
7. The queen refused to forgive the king.
8. Rama received valuable gifts.

C. Very short answer (1 mark each)

1. Name the epic written by Krishnadeva Raya.
2. Name one Ashtadiggaja other than Tenali Rama.
3. For how long did the king not speak to the queen?
4. Name two things mentioned in the king's poem.
5. What did the ministers do when the king recited his poem?
6. Where did Rama stand during the discussion?
7. What did the king call Rama's idea at first?
8. What did the queen ask for after the apology?

D. Short answer (2 marks each)

1. Why is Krishnadeva Raya called a patron of learning?
2. How did the quarrel begin?
3. Why did the queen say "Only you can help the king understand"?
4. How did the courtiers' mood change during Rama's speech?
5. How did the king apologise?
6. What did you learn from Rama's way of solving the problem?

My score (fill in after checking the answers)

Section	A / 8	B / 8	C / 8	D / 12	E / 15	F / 10	G (bonus)	Total / 61
My marks								

Rough work

E. Long answer (5 marks each)

1. Describe the scene in the royal court from Rama's entry to the king's realisation.

2. Compare the king at the beginning and at the end of the story.
3. Imagine you are Tenali Rama. Write a diary entry about the day you solved the royal quarrel.

F. Beyond the text (5 marks each)

1. "A small misunderstanding can cause a big problem." Write a short story that shows this.
2. Write a speech for the morning assembly on "Humour: the best way to solve conflicts".

G. HOTS (higher-order thinking, 2 marks each)

1. Why did Rama choose paddy seeds and not simply tell the king the truth?
2. Was the queen also partly responsible for the quarrel? Give reasons.
3. What might have happened if Rama had failed?

★ **Exam tip:** For long answers: introduce the point, give 3-4 ideas each with a detail from the text, and end with the message.

Assertion-Reason (6)

(a) Both true, R explains A. (b) Both true, R does not explain A. (c) A true, R false. (d) A false, R true.

1. A: The king stopped talking to the queen. R: He thought her yawning was disrespect to his poem.
2. A: Rama acted against the king at once. R: Rama believed the matter needed a well-planned approach.
3. A: The courtiers laughed in the end. R: Rama's question about a yawning sower was funny.
4. A: Rama was rewarded with gifts. R: He had brought the royal couple together.
5. A: The queen forgave the king. R: She wanted to punish him for his pride.
6. A: Krishnadeva Raya's reign is called the Golden Era. R: Art, literature and architecture flourished then.

Key: 1 (a) · 2 (d) · 3 (a) · 4 (a) · 5 (c) · 6 (a)

20 MCQs

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Krishnadeva Raya ruled from:
(a) 1409 to 1429 CE (b) 1609 to 1629 CE (c) 1509 to 1529 CE (d) 1709 to 1729 CE | 6. The queen yawned because she was:
(a) bored (b) angry (c) sleepy after lunch (d) exhausted |
| 2. "Ashtadiggajas" refers to:
(a) eight poets (b) eight ministers (c) eight elephants (d) eight queens | 7. The king reacted by:
(a) storming off (b) laughing (c) punishing her (d) writing a new poem |
| 3. Tenali Rama was known for his:
(a) strength (b) wealth (c) silence (d) quick wit and humour | 8. "Forlorn" means:
(a) bright (b) crowded (c) lonely and sad (d) noisy |
| 4. The king's poem was full of:
(a) battle scenes (b) vague expressions (c) jokes (d) prayers | 9. Rama said the problem needed:
(a) money (b) a new queen (c) soldiers (d) a well-planned approach |
| 5. When the king recited his poem, the ministers:
(a) praised it (b) avoided him with excuses (c) wrote it down (d) sang it | 10. The court was discussing:
(a) war (b) paddy cultivation (c) taxes (d) a festival |

11. Rama claimed his seeds would increase the yield:
(a) two times (b) four times (c) three times (d) ten times
12. A courtier said the seeds might be:
(a) magic seeds (b) poisonous (c) stolen (d) rotten
13. At first the king called the idea:
(a) brilliant (b) absurd (c) old (d) costly
14. Rama said the real issue was:
(a) the soil (b) the water (c) the person who sows the seeds (d) the weather
15. In court, the king:
(a) fell asleep (b) left (c) wept (d) yawned
16. "It is as natural as breathing" is said about:
(a) yawning (b) laughing (c) sleeping (d) singing
17. "I let my pride blind me" shows the king's:
(a) self-realisation (b) cruelty (c) anger (d) fear
18. "Orchestrated" means:
(a) played music (b) forgot (c) ruined (d) arranged
19. The queen asked the king to:
(a) leave the palace (b) recite his poem to her (c) punish Rama (d) write a letter
20. The main message of the story is that:
(a) kings are always right (b) yawning is rude (c) wit and humility can heal quarrels (d) seeds are magical
- 1 (c) · 2 (a) · 3 (d) · 4 (b) · 5 (b) · 6 (d) · 7 (a) · 8 (c) · 9 (d) · 10 (b) · 11 (c) · 12 (a) · 13 (b) · 14 (c) · 15 (d) · 16 (a) · 17 (a) · 18 (d) · 19 (b) · 20 (c)

Answers

Extract sets. Set 1: (i) she had tried and failed to make peace and had no other way; Rama was brilliant and witty (ii) distraught (iii) patience (he listened patiently) (iv) (b). Set 2: (i) that his seeds would give three times the yield (ii) they were sarcastic, sceptical and enjoyed mocking him (iii) snickers (iv) sarcasm. Set 3: (i) that he had been unfair; the queen's yawn was natural, not disrespect (ii) Rama's question "is there anyone... who does not yawn?" after the king himself yawned (iii) "his mind raced back" (iv) he apologised to the queen.

A. 1. Vijayanagara 2. Golden 3. Ashtadiggajas 4. Thirumalambal 5. paddy 6. three 7. breathing 8. pride

B. 1. F (they avoided him) 2. T 3. F (he planned first, acted next morning in court) 4. F (paddy seeds) 5. T 6. T 7. F (she forgave him) 8. T

C. 1. Amuktamalyada 2. Allasani Peddana 3. weeks 4. sun, moon, stars, beautiful sky (any two) 5. avoided him, making excuses 6. at the edge of the court 7. absurd 8. to listen to his poem

D. 1. he supported scholars and poets, was a poet himself, and literature flourished in his court 2. the tired queen yawned during his recitation; he felt insulted and stormed off 3. Rama was witty and trusted, and could make the king see sense where she had failed 4. from sarcasm and snickers to genuine laughter and amusement 5. he went to her gently and said he had been foolish, had overreacted, had let pride blind him, and was sorry 6. solve problems calmly and kindly; let people discover their own mistakes; humour can ease tension

E. 1. tense court, stern king; discussion on paddy; Rama's seeds and triple yield; mockery; king calls it absurd; "the person who sows"; yawning sower joke; laughter; king yawns; "natural as breathing"; realisation 2. beginning: proud, oversensitive, angry, silent for weeks; end: humble, regretful, apologises, wants to hear his poem shared, joy returns 3. diary as Rama: date; the queen's request; planning; the seeds; mockery; the king's yawn; the apology; gifts; satisfaction at bringing joy back

F. 1. story: a clear misunderstanding, its growing effects, a moment of truth, apology, lesson 2. speech: greeting; humour relaxes people and lowers anger; example of Tenali Rama; kind humour, not mockery; listen and smile; closing call

G. 1. a proud, angry king would resent being told he was wrong; a story lets him find the truth himself and keeps his dignity 2. partly: she could have told him she was tired; but yawning was natural and she meant no insult, so the king overreacted 3. the quarrel might have gone on, the palace would have stayed gloomy, and the king's pride might have hardened

Last-night summary

- Vijayanagara, King Krishnadeva Raya (1509–29 CE), the Golden Era; eight poets, the Ashtadiggajas; Tenali Rama: wit and humour.
- The tired queen Thirumalambal yawned while the king recited a vague poem; he felt insulted and stopped speaking to her for weeks.
- She asked Rama for help; he planned "a well-planned approach".
- Court discussion on paddy: Rama's "revolutionary" seeds (three times the yield); courtiers mock ("magic seeds").
- Trick: a sower who yawns; the king yawns; "It is as natural as breathing."
- King realises his mistake, apologises ("I let my pride blind me"); queen forgives; Rama gets gifts; joy returns.
- Themes: wit and wisdom, pride blinds, tact, apology and forgiveness. Grammar: three types of if-sentences.