

The Firework Maker's Daughter
Reading Comprehension: Chapter 1

1. Why is the opening sentence 'A thousand miles ago' an unusual opening?
2. Why might Lila be a 'cross little thing'? (Use evidence from the text)
3. How did Lila feel when her father told her he wanted to find her a husband?
4. Why did Lalchand think he should have sent Lila to Jembavati?
5. Name the three things that the King said the courtiers had to do to take care of the White Elephant
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
6. Why do you think Chulak and Lila are the only ones who know that the White Elephant can talk?
7. a. Why was Chulak letting people write on Hamlet?

b. Why do people want to write on the white elephant?
8. What word means you have no money on page 11?
9. Where does Chulak plan to travel to?

10. What is unusual about the sentence '*full of crackling smells and pungent noises*'?

11. In no more than six sentences, sum up the main events of Chapter 1.

Challenge Questions:

1. What sort of character do you think Chulak is? Why do you think that? Give evidence in your answer.

2. How does Lalchand feel about Chulak? How do you know? Give evidence for your answer.

Possible answers

1. Why is the opening sentence 'A thousand miles ago' an unusual opening?

Usually it is time e.g. a thousand years ago

2. Why might Lila be a 'cross little thing' (Use evidence from the text).

Lalchand's wife had died (when Lila was young). Her mother was dead.

3. How did Lila feel when her father told her he wanted to find her a husband?

_____ horrified _____

4. Why did Lalchand think he should have sent Lila to Jembavati?

Because Jembavati is his sister (Lila's) aunt and he wonders if she would bring her up better because her hair is a mess, she is stained with chemicals, her fingers are burnt and eyebrows scorched.

5. Name the three things that the King said the courtiers had to do to take care of the White Elephant

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Sleep on silk sheets, eat mango-flavoured Turkish delight, have tusks covered with gold daily.

6. Why do you think Chulak and Lila are the only ones who know that the White Elephant can talk?

Because the elephant would go with no-one else

7. a. Why was Chulak letting people write on Hamlet?

To make money

- b. Why do people want to write on the white elephant?

It will bring them luck

8. What word means you have no money on page 11?

bankrupt

9. Where does Chulak plan to travel to?

India

10. What is unusual about the sentence 'full of crackling smells and pungent noises'?

Crackling is a sound and sounds don't make smells and pungent is a smell and not a noise. The adjectives would normally be the other way round.

11. In no more than six sentences, sum up the main events of Chapter 1.

Own answers

Challenge Questions:

1. What sort of character do you think Chulak is? Why do you think that? Give evidence in your answer.

Own answers with evidence

E.g. Secretive – he told no one the elephant could talk

Trusting – he shared the secret with Lila

Deceitful – he lies to his master

Idleness – Lalchand calls him idle

2. How does Lalchand feel about Chulak? How do you know? Give evidence for your answer.

e.g. Trusting – he tells Chulak about the Three Gifts
