# Unseen Passage for Class 6 with Answers

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## A. Passage 1 (a story)

*Read the story and answer the questions.*

**The Old Bicycle**

**1** Every morning, Sameer watched his classmates ride to school on shiny new bicycles while he walked the three kilometres from his village. His father, a carpenter, could not afford a new bicycle, but one evening he came home pushing an old, rusty one that a neighbour had given away.

**2** Sameer's heart sank. The chain was loose, the seat was torn and one pedal was missing. "Everyone will laugh at me," he said. His father only smiled. "Let us see what we can do with it this weekend," he replied.

**3** All Saturday, father and son worked in the courtyard. They cleaned the rust, oiled the chain and fitted a pedal from the scrap shop. Sameer painted the frame bright blue, and his mother stitched a new cover for the seat from an old school bag.

**4** On Monday, Sameer rode proudly to school. A few boys pointed at his bicycle, but when he told them how he had repaired it himself, they wanted to learn too. That afternoon, three of them came to his house with their own broken bicycles. Sameer realised that what made something valuable was not its price, but the care and effort put into it.

1. How did Sameer go to school before he got the bicycle? (a) by bus (b) on foot (c) by bicycle

2. What was the job of Sameer's father?

3. Where did the old bicycle come from?

4. Why did Sameer's heart sink when he saw the bicycle?

5. Name three things the family did to repair the bicycle.

6. True or false: Everyone at school laughed at Sameer's bicycle all day.

7. Why did three boys come to Sameer's house that afternoon?

8. Find a word in paragraph 1 that means "to have enough money to buy".

9. Find a word in paragraph 4 that is the opposite of "ashamed".

10. What lesson did Sameer learn?

11. What kind of person was Sameer's father? Give a reason from the story.

## B. Passage 2 (facts)

*Read the passage and answer the questions.*

### The Toy Train of Darjeeling

**1** High in the hills of West Bengal runs one of the most famous railways in the world: the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, lovingly called the "Toy Train". It was built between 1879 and 1881 to carry people and tea from the plains up to the hill town of Darjeeling.

**2** The railway is about 88 kilometres long and climbs more than 2,000 metres from New Jalpaiguri to Darjeeling. Its track is very narrow, only two feet (about 61 centimetres) wide, which is why the train looks like a toy. To climb the steep hills, the engineers built clever loops and zigzags, where the train goes back and forth to gain height.

**3** The most famous of these is the Batasia Loop near Darjeeling, where the train goes round in a full circle. On the way, the train passes Ghum, one of the highest railway stations in India.

**4** In 1999, UNESCO declared the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway a World Heritage Site. Even today, some trains are pulled by old steam engines, and tourists from all over the world come to enjoy the slow ride through tea gardens, misty forests and busy hill markets.

1. In which state does the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway run?

2. Why was the railway built?

3. How long is the railway? (a) about 28 km (b) about 88 km (c) about 188 km

4. Why does the train look like a toy?

5. How do the loops and zigzags help the train?

6. What happens at the Batasia Loop?

7. True or false: Ghum is one of the lowest railway stations in India.

8. When did UNESCO declare the railway a World Heritage Site?

9. Find a word in paragraph 2 that means “rising sharply”.

10. Find a word in paragraph 4 that means “covered with a thin cloud of tiny water drops”.

11. Why do you think tourists enjoy this slow train ride?

# Answer Key

## A. Passage 1 (a story)

1. (b) on foot
2. He was a carpenter.
3. A neighbour had given it away, and Sameer's father brought it home.
4. It was old and rusty: the chain was loose, the seat was torn and a pedal was missing, and he thought everyone would laugh at him.
5. They cleaned the rust and oiled the chain, fitted a new pedal, painted the frame blue and stitched a new seat cover. (Any three)
6. False. A few boys pointed at first, but when he told them he had repaired it, they wanted to learn too.
7. They wanted to learn how to repair their own broken bicycles.
8. afford
9. proudly (proud)
10. He learnt that something is valuable because of the care and effort put into it, not because of its price.
11. He was patient and positive. Instead of getting upset, he smiled and worked with Sameer all Saturday to repair the bicycle.

## B. Passage 2 (facts)

1. It runs in West Bengal.
2. It was built to carry people and tea from the plains up to Darjeeling.
3. (b) about 88 km
4. Because its track is very narrow, only two feet wide.
5. They help it climb the steep hills by going back and forth or round in a circle to gain height.
6. The train goes round in a full circle.
7. False. It is one of the highest railway stations in India.
8. In 1999.
9. steep
10. misty
11. The slow ride lets them enjoy the beautiful views of tea gardens, forests and hill markets, and the old steam engines make it special.


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