Unseen Passage for Class 8 with Answers

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A. Passage 1 (discursive)

Read the passage and answer the questions.

Learning from Failure

1 Nobody likes to fail. A low mark in a test, a lost match or a rejected idea can make us feel embarrassed and disappointed. Many students are so afraid of failing that they avoid trying anything difficult at all. Yet almost every great achievement in history was built on a pile of failures.

2 Think of how a child learns to walk. The child falls again and again, but each fall teaches the body something about balance. If the child gave up after the first fall, he or she would never walk. Learning, in fact, is impossible without mistakes.

3 Successful people are not those who never fail, but those who learn from failure. The inventor Thomas Edison tested a very large number of materials before he found one that worked for his electric light bulb. When asked about his failures, he is often quoted as saying that he had not failed, but had simply found many ways that did not work.

4 Failure becomes useful only when we ask the right questions. What went wrong? What could I do differently? Which part did I do well? A student who studies his answer sheet after a poor result and corrects his mistakes is taking his first step towards a better mark.

5 Of course, failure hurts, and it is natural to feel sad for a while. But we should not let one bad result decide who we are. As the saying goes, “Fall seven times, stand up eight.”

1. Why do many students avoid trying difficult things?

2. What example does the writer give to show that learning needs mistakes?

3. According to the writer, who are successful people? (a) those who never fail (b) those who learn from failure (c) those who are lucky

4. What did Thomas Edison say about his failures, according to the passage?

5. Write the three questions the writer says we should ask after a failure.

6. True or false: The writer says we should never feel sad after failing.

7. Find a word in paragraph 1 that means “feeling ashamed and uncomfortable”.

8. Find a word in paragraph 2 that is the opposite of “possible”.

9. Explain the saying “Fall seven times, stand up eight” in your own words.

10. How can a student use a poor result to improve? Answer in 25–40 words.

11. Suggest another suitable title for the passage.

B. Passage 2 (facts)

Read the passage and answer the questions.

The Chipko Movement

1 In the early 1970s, the forests of the Garhwal Himalayas, in what is now Uttarakhand, were being cut down rapidly for timber. The villagers of the region depended on these forests for firewood, fodder for their animals and water. As the trees disappeared, landslides and floods became more common, and life grew harder, especially for women, who walked longer distances every day to collect wood and water.

2 In 1973, the villagers began to protest in a new and peaceful way. When contractors arrived to cut the trees, the villagers hugged the trees to protect them. The movement came to be called “Chipko”, from a Hindi word meaning “to stick” or “to hug”.

3 One of the best-known events took place in 1974 in Reni village. While the men were away, contractors came to fell the trees. Gaura Devi, a village woman, gathered other women and stood before the trees, refusing to move. The contractors finally left without cutting a single tree.

4 Leaders such as Chandi Prasad Bhatt and Sundarlal Bahuguna carried the message of Chipko across India. Bahuguna walked thousands of kilometres through the Himalayan villages to spread awareness. The movement led the government to ban the felling of trees in parts of the Himalayas for several years.

5 Chipko showed that ordinary people, many of them women, could protect the environment through peaceful action. It inspired many later movements to save forests in India and around the world.

1. Where did the Chipko movement begin?

2. Why did the villagers depend on the forests? Give two reasons.

3. How did cutting the trees make life harder for women?

4. How did the villagers protest when contractors arrived?

5. What does the word “Chipko” mean? (a) to cut (b) to stick or hug (c) to plant

6. What did Gaura Devi do in 1974?

7. How did Sundarlal Bahuguna spread the message of Chipko?

8. What was one result of the movement?

9. Find a word in paragraph 1 that means “wood used for building”.

10. Find a word in paragraph 3 that means “to cut down (a tree)”.

11. What does the Chipko movement teach us? Answer in 25–40 words.

12. True or false: The Chipko protests were violent.

Answer Key

A. Passage 1 (discursive)

1. They are so afraid of failing that they avoid trying anything difficult.
2. A child learning to walk falls again and again, and each fall teaches the body about balance.
3. (b) those who learn from failure
4. He is often quoted as saying that he had not failed, but had simply found many ways that did not work.
5. What went wrong? What could I do differently? Which part did I do well?
6. False. The writer says it is natural to feel sad for a while.
7. embarrassed
8. impossible
9. No matter how many times we fail, we should always get up and try again one more time.
10. The student can study the answer sheet, find out which answers went wrong and why, correct those mistakes and practise those topics again, so that the next result is better. (Answers may vary.)
11. Any suitable title, e.g. “Failure: The Best Teacher” or “Fall and Rise”.

B. Passage 2 (facts)

1. It began in the forests of the Garhwal Himalayas, in what is now Uttarakhand.
2. For firewood and fodder for their animals (also water). (Any two)
3. They had to walk longer distances every day to collect wood and water.
4. They hugged the trees to protect them.
5. (b) to stick or hug
6. She gathered the women of Reni village and stood before the trees, refusing to move, until the contractors left.
7. He walked thousands of kilometres through the Himalayan villages to spread awareness.
8. The government banned the felling of trees in parts of the Himalayas for several years.
9. timber
10. fell
11. It teaches us that ordinary people, including women, can protect nature through peaceful action, and that working together can change government decisions. (Answers may vary.)
12. False. They were peaceful.

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