

DATE: _____

NAME: _____

CLASS: VII

Presence Of Mind



READING COMPREHENSION

Read this passage about a brave girl and answer the questions that follow.

"I dare you!" Aman said. Charu couldn't pass up a dare. She was the toughest kid in seventh class. She wasn't going to let a little thing like fear ruin her reputation.

"No problem," Charu shoved her hands in her pockets before anyone could notice they were shaking. So what, if there was a kid-hungry ghost living in the well on the abandoned lot! She could take a quick peek and run before it climbed up to eat her—right?

"You don't have to do this," Anita said.

"Yeah, Charulata. We'll understand if you're too scared," Aman taunted.

Charu hated being called Charulata. "I'm not scared of a silly story." She pushed through the crowd of kids and marched to the abandoned lot. Her palms were sweaty. No one went near the 'Howling Well'. A stray cat had jumped on the edge of it and something pulled it into the well. It happened so fast that no one saw what it did. But now, a horrible howling came from the well. Charu wasn't sure who had come up with the ghost theory, but she hoped that was all it was—a theory.

A great howling came from the well and Charu froze. "Scared?"



Teacher's Signature : _____

2

Aman yelled. Charu was scared, but she wouldn't admit it, especially to Aman. "You're the one that's scared. Why else would you dare people to look in the well? You're too chicken to do it yourself!"

"Look with her, Aman," Anita said.

"Yeah," the other kids said. "Fine." Aman walked over to Charu. He gulped, and for the first time, Charu realised he wasn't so tough. He put on a good show, but he was all talk. She wondered if he thought the same about her.

Charu grabbed Aman's sleeve and charged at the well. Something hairy moved inside. Yellow eyes glowed up at her. The howling was replaced by a scratching sound, like nails on rock. The creature was climbing up to get them!

Aman screamed and ran back to the bus stop. The sun peeked out from behind the clouds, and Charu squinted at the creature. She cranked the bucket, lowering it into the well. She heard a soft thump and cranked the bucket back up.

"Are you crazy?" Aman yelled. Charu pulled a grey kitten out of the bucket. "The cat didn't get pulled into the well. It fell. It got hurt, too. That's why it was howling."

"What are you going to do with it?" Anita asked. "Take it to the vet," Charu said. "I'll put up some posters, and if no one claims it, I'll keep it." She scratched the top of the kitten's head and it purred. "What will you name it?" Anita asked.

"Ghost," Charu and Aman both said.

A. Tick (✓) the most appropriate option based on the given story.

1. Where does this story mostly take place?
 - (a) on an abandoned lot near Charu's school
 - (b) on an abandoned lot near Charu's bus stop
 - (c) on an abandoned lot near a river
 - (d) on an abandoned farm land
2. How did Charu rescue the kitten from the well?
 - (a) She climbed down to get it.
 - (b) She called the fire department.
 - (c) She lowered a bucket into the well so the kitten could climb in.
 - (d) She made cat sounds so it would climb to the top.
3. What type of story is this?
 - (a) science fiction
 - (b) historical fiction
 - (c) mystery
 - (d) non-fiction

4. The word 'abandoned' (page 15) in the passage can be replaced by

- (a) left
- (b) isolated
- (c) huge
- (d) old

5. The word 'charged' (page 16) in the passage can be replaced by

- (a) ran
- (b) attacked
- (c) pulled
- (d) screamed

B. Answer the following questions in brief.

1. How are Aman and Anita different in the way they treat Charu?

.....

.....

2. How did the 'Howling Well' get its name?

.....

.....

3. What was making the howling sound in the well?

.....

.....

4. Do you agree that Charu was the toughest girl in seventh class? Give evidence to support your answer.

.....

.....

C. Match each vocabulary word from the story with its meaning.

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1. cranked | a. stopped moving |
| 2. ghost | b. teased |
| 3. froze | c. spirit |
| 4. taunted | d. part of a shirt that covers the arms |
| 5. chicken | e. plot of land |
| 6. abandoned | f. turned; rotated a handle |
| 7. lot | g. afraid |
| 8. sleeve | h. remained empty and unused |

Teacher's Signature : _____

