A Country Boy Quits School

Understanding the Text

**A.** 1. false 2. true 3. false 4. true

5. false 6. false

**B.** 1. Boys were not sent to school because they were now old enough to help the family with the work and to earn money.

2. The official proclamation was that unless a boy over six years of age is sent to school, an adult in the family would go to jail.

3. The result was that country boy of the story was sent to school.

4. The boy’s mother used some of the money she had got by selling her earrings.

5. The first lesson was ‘This is Mama’.

6. The mother did not like the picture of the Mama shown in the book. She thought that the picture did not resemble her at all.

7. The family stopped sending the boy to school because they thought that the school was teaching him things that he could not connect to, and things that had nothing to do with his life and his people.

**C.** 1. a. The grandmother said this.

b. Here, ‘he’ refers to the boy.

c. The boy’s books have cost them a dollar already.

2. a. The father says this to the boy.

b. He said this because they had to pay a lot for the books.

c. Yes, the boy tried to study hard.

3. a. The boy asks his teacher this question.

b. He wanted to know this because according to the book, the ox could tend a fire, and this was unlike any other ox that he had seen.

c. The teacher said that he was being too literal, and that most of the things in the book were make-believe.

**D.** 1. Encourage learners to come up with their own answers. Accept all logical responses. Sample answer:

This shows that they were very narrow-minded and closed. They could not imagine a world beyond their own, and was not able to accept other ideas and cultures.

2. Encourage learners to come up with their own answers. Accept all logical responses. Sample answer:

The family did not do the right thing. Staying in school, the boy would have learnt a lot. He would have learnt about the rest of the world and his life would have been much better as an educated person.