**THE CHERRY TREE**

**SUMMARY**

The story is an account by Ruskin Bond of how a cherry tree was planted by Rakesh and his grandfather. Written in simple language the story tells us about the trials and tribulations of the tree, how it grew and how it became even bigger than Rakesh in four years. It bore fruit and provided shade. The story also imparts the lesson of caring, hard work and love for nature. Grandpa says: ‘Nothing is lucky if you put it away. If you want luck, you must make it work for you.’ He consoles Rakesh when the goat eats the young leaves and says: ‘It will grow again. Cherry trees are tough.’ When he sees the cherry blossom he and Rakesh gaze at the tree as though it had performed a miracle. And in the end he explains to Rakesh that the tree is special because they had planted it themselves.

**Understanding the Text:**

1. Tick **(✓)** the correct answer:
2. Rakesh was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years old when he planted the cherry tree.  
   a. fifteen b. six  
   c. eight d. nine

**Ans**: b. six

1. There were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ fruits in the foothills of Northern India where Rakesh lived.  
   a. many  b. any  
   c. not many d. a great number of

**Ans**: c. not many

1. Rakesh ate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the cherries on his way home.  
   a. most b. a few  
   c. none d. all

**Ans**: a. most

1. Grandpa advised Rakesh to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.  
   a. roll the seed in his mouth  b. enjoy its tang  
   c. throw it away d. plant the seed

**Ans**: d. plant the seed

1. Rakesh did not allow himself to look at the cherry tree every morning because he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.  
   a. didn’t like it  
   b. didn’t want the goat to eat it  
   c. didn’t want Grandpa to know it was growing  
   d. didn’t want to be disappointed at its slow growth

**Ans**: d. didn’t want to be disappointed at its slow growth

1. Rakesh came back from the village \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.  
   a. after helping his parents plough and sow fields  
   b. because he was bored there  
   c. and saw the praying mantis on the cherry tree  
   d. because he saw a caterpillar on his cherry tree

**Ans**: a. after helping his parents plough and sow fields

1. **Answer these questions:**
2. **Why did Rakesh circle the tree with pebbles?**

**Ans**: He circled it with pebbles to give it privacy.

1. **Describe the season in which the cherry tree grew quickly.**

**Ans**: The tree grew quickly during the monsoon season. Rakesh plodded to and fro from school in rain coat and gum boots. Ferns sprang from the trunks of trees, strange looking lilies came up in the long grass, and even when it wasn’t raining the leaves in the trees dripped with dew and mist came curling up the valley.

1. **How was the cherry tree attacked before it could grow really big?**

**Ans**: The cherry tree was about two feet high when a goat entered the garden and ate all the leaves. Only the main stem and two thin branches remained. Towards the end of the rainy season new leaves appeared on the tree. Then a runaway cart rumbled down the hill and snapped the young tree in half. By the time summer came round again, it had sent several new shoots with tender green leaves. After the next monsoon it grew another foot and came up to Rakesh’s chest.

1. **What did Grandpa see on the cherry tree one winter morning?**

**Ans**: Grandpa saw a pale pink blossom on the cherry tree one winter morning.

1. **Why did Grandpa and Rakesh love the cherry tree the most?**

**Ans**: They loved it the most because they had planted it themselves and saw it growing every single day.

1. **Answer these questions with reference to the context:**
2. ***‘Then I’ll keep it.’***
3. **Who said this to whom?**
4. **What was it?**
5. **What was he advised to do with it?**

**Ans**:

1. Rakesh said this to grandfather.
2. It was a cherry seed.
3. He was advised to plant it.
4. ***‘They‘ll be better next year,’ said grandpa.***
5. **Who was Grandpa talking to?**
6. **What would be better?**
7. **How were they this year?**

**Ans**:

1. Grandpa was talking to Rakesh.
2. The cherries would be better and not so sour in taste.
3. They were sour in taste.
4. ***‘How it changed!’ he said.***
5. **Who said this?**
6. **What had changed?**
7. **What did Grandpa and Rakesh feel about it?**

**Ans**:

1. Rakesh said this.
2. The tiny seed had changed into a tall, beautiful cherry tree.
3. They loved the tree.