**CLASS VIII ENGLISH**

**CHAPTER – 8 JALEBIS**

**HANDOUT 1/1**

**Reference : NCERT English Supplementary Reader**

**Recapitulation of the salient points and reflections on the piece:**

* The school-going boy, Munna, is in fifth standard. He is an obedient and meritorious student from a well-to-do Muslim family.
* One day he went to school with four rupees in his pocket in order to pay the school fee.
But his class teacher, Mr. Ghulam Mohammed, was on leave that day.
* All through the day the coins just sat in his pocket. But when he walked out of the school the coins began to jingle.
* The coins started speaking to him. One coin said to him to eat the hot, syrupy and fresh jalebis. The coin told that ‘money is meant to be spent.’
* The boy hesitated to spend his fees money. He knew how strict his class teacher was and further, he was scared to face Allah Miyan (god) after doing such an act.
* The coins are not convinced and they all started speaking together, thus, making lot of noise. The boy grabbed all four of them tight in his fist.
* However, as soon as he loosened his grip, the oldest coin asked him if he didn’t feel like eating the jalebis. And also suggested that he was to get the scholarship money the next day with which he could pay the school fees.
* The boy’s mouth watered. But still he didn’t dare to buy the jalebis. He was brilliant in studies and came from a well to do family. It wasn’t right for him to eat jalebis in the middle of the bazaar.
* But the coins were relentless. They persuaded the boy. They were so keen on getting spent that day.
* The boy returned home and went inside for lunch. He wanted to control his desire for jalebis but finally he surrendered.
* He ran to the sweetmeat shop and bought jalebis for a rupee. He got quite a lot of them.
* Seeing his uncle returning from court, the boy ran into a lane. He ate as many jalebis as he could stuff in.
* Soon the boys from the neighbourhood surrounded him. He started distributing the jalebis among the children. He spent the remaining three rupees also on jalebis and handed them out to the children and felt no less than the Governor Saheb.
* He returned home but found it difficult to digest the jalebis and all night he had stomachache.
* The next day in school he was asked to pay the fee and it was informed that the scholarship money would be given the following month.
* With this shocking news he felt confused and defeated. He was now afraid of his class teacher and tried to escape from school without being noticed by anybody. He went to the Railway station so that he could while away (spend time idly) till the evening.
* Sitting under the tree the boy prayed to God to send the money (four rupees) needed to pay the fees through his Farishta (angel). He admitted his mistake and promised that he will not repeat the same again in future. But he receives nothing from God.
* The next day also the boy goes to the same spot near the Railway station. He again requests God to grant him only what is needed i.e., four rupees.
* He tried his best to prove before God that he is God – fearing, disciplined, hard working and obedient. He kept on persuading God till evening but all in vain. Then he decides to come to the same place the next day in order to observe Namaz to Allah Miyan very strictly after washing his body and changing clothes.
* Meanwhile his parents get the news of his continuous absence from school. We can imagine what happens afterwards.
* But the boy, up to his class VIII, was not able to understand as to why God had not granted his wish and made an innocent and devoted child like him suffer.
* When the boy grew up he finally understood that if Allah Miyan (God) were to provide/grant everybody’s wish then man would have been living in nests like vultures and crows and would not have taken the pain of learning the art of making jalebis i.e., man would have become lethargic
* The story tells us that God provides to the hard working and not to people who are hardly working i.e., God is not a divine entity to grant wishes. But mankind has to work to get anything. Success or failure cannot completely depend on God’s mercy but on one’s effort. Consistent effort will lead to success as well as will have god’s blessing.
* This chapter also tells us that – its human to err – i.e., human beings tend to make mistakes, however, accepting and rectifying needs courage. Children should not be discouraged by scolding but should be encouraged to stand up and accept their mistakes and learn from it. Scolding will instill fear and will make them shy away from accepting their fault and it can lead to major issues when they grow up.
* **Keep the world an open place where there is scope enough to commit mistakes, learn from it and grow as better individuals.**