

**Key points:**

- i. The story is written by A.K. Ramanujam.
- ii. It is based on the theme that wisdom is regarded and worshipped everywhere and foolishness is our greatest enemy.
- iii. We can face any troubles and make our ways with the power of wisdom.
- iv. In the kingdom of Fools, both the king and the minister were idiots.
- v. They didn't want to run things like other kings.
- vi. They changed night into day and day into night, and everything cost the same, a single duddu.
- vii. One day a guru and a disciple came to the kingdom.
- viii. The guru left the kingdom immediately but the disciple remained there to enjoy as everything was cheap and cost only a single duddu..
- ix. One night a burglar died when the wall fell on him.
- x. The king asked his men to find a fat man for execution as the accused could not fit the stake for execution.
- xi. The soldiers immediately took the fat disciple for execution.
- xii. The guru arrived and befooled both the king and the minister.
- xii. The guru said whoever would die first would become king and the next to die would be minister.
- xiii. The king and the minister believed the guru agreed to die.
- xiv. Finally guru became the king and he changed the old foolish rules of the kingdom.
- xv. Now day would be day and night would be night. and not everything would cost a single duddu.

**Very Short Answer Questions :****Q 1. Who were idiots in the kingdom of fools?**

Ans. In the kingdom of fools, both the king and the minister were idiots.

**Q 2. What was decided by the king and the idiots of the kingdom of fools?**

Ans- They decided to change the day into night and night into day.

**Q 3. What is Duddu?**

Ans- In kannada language its meaning is money.

**Q 4. Why did the disciple decide to stay in the kingdom of fools ?**

Ans- The disciple decided to stay in the kingdom of fools because everything was cheap there and cost a single duddu.

**Q 5. Why did the guru decide to leave the kingdom of fools immediately?**

Ans- The guru realised that this was a kingdom of fools and it wouldn't be good to stay there.

**Q 6. Who broke into a rich merchant's house on a bright day?**

Ans. A thief broke into a rich merchant's house on one bright day.

**Q 7. What happened to the thief as he was carrying out his loot?**

Ans- The wall of the old house collapsed on his head and killed him on the spot.

**Q 8. Who was summoned first in the court?**

Ans. The merchant who was the owner of the house was called first in the court.

**Q 9. Why did the bricklayer not make the wall properly?**

Ans- The bricklayer did not make the wall properly because of the dancing girl, whose anklet jingling sound distracted him.

**Q 10. Who went to search for the goldsmith?**

Ans- The king's bailiffs went to search for the goldsmith.

**Short Answer Questions :****Q 1. What are the two strange things the guru and his disciple find in the Kingdom of Fools?**

Ans- The guru and the disciple found that in the Kingdom

of Fools people used to work during nights and sleep during days. Everything was cheap and cost the same a single duddu.

**Q 2. Why does the disciple decide to stay in the Kingdom of Fools? Is it a good idea?**

Ans- Everything was cheap in the Kingdom of Fools. The disciple was a greedy fellow. He was tempted by the cheap food. So he decided to stay in that kingdom. It was not a good idea to stay there for a long time as one could be in danger any time because of the unpredictable behaviour of fools.

**Q 3. Who is the real culprit according to the king? Why does he escape punishment?**

Ans- The merchant's dead father was held responsible for making the wall weak. But according to the king the rich merchant was the real culprit because he had inherited both sins and riches of his father. He escaped the punishment because he was too thin to fit the stake.

**Q 4. How does the Guru manage to save his disciple's life?**

Ans- The Guru arrived on time to save his disciple and created a drama. He told the king that it was not an ordinary stake and whoever went to the stake first would become the king in the next life. The second to die would become his minister. The king believed the guru. The Guru and his disciple were released. Thus the Guru managed to save his disciple's life.

**Q 5. How did the guru get rid of the foolish king?**

Ans. The guru succeeded in getting rid of the foolish king by fooling him. He convinced the king that the person to die first at the stake of the God of justice would be reborn as king. The foolish king believed this and readily agreed to die at the stake lest his kingdom was taken over by someone else.

**Q 6. Who was finally blamed for the crime and why?**

Ans- The rich owner of the house was finally blamed for the crime. He said that his father had ordered the jewellery and he should have been responsible. But his father had died, the king gave judgement that he would die in his father's place.

**Long Answer Questions**

**Q 1. Name all the people who are tried in the king's court, and give the reasons for their trial.**

Ans- The owner of the house, the merchant, the bricklayer, the dancing girl and the goldsmith were

tried in the king's court. They all were tried because the thief died when the wall of the merchant's house had collapsed. The merchant was tried for building a weak wall. The bricklayer was tried for doing his work carelessly. The dancing girl was tried for disturbing the concentration of the bricklayer. The goldsmith was blamed for making the dancing girl walk up and down to his house a dozen times.

**Q 2. What are the Guru's words of wisdom? When does the disciple remember them?**

Ans- The Guru was full of wisdom and knew well that the unpredictable behaviour of the fools could create danger anytime. The Guru's words were, "They are all fools. This won't last very long, and you can't tell what they'll do to you next." The disciple remembered them when he was arrested by the men of the king to execute merely because he fitted the stake. It was because of the Guru's words of wisdom that the execution was postponed.

**Q 3. How did the Guru and his disciple become the king and the minister of the kingdom?**

Ans- The Guru knew that his king and his minister were fools. In order to save his disciple, Guru hatched a plan. He said that the first one to be executed at the state, would become the king in the next life and the second to be executed would be the king's minister. The foolish king and his minister got themselves executed. As the kingdom was without king, the guru and his disciple were made the king and the minister.

**Q 4. How did the king and his minister die in place of the guru and his disciple?**

Ans. The guru fooled the king and said that the first one to be executed at the state, would become the king in the next life and the second to be executed would be the king's minister. The king believed the words of guru and told the executioners to put to death the first and second man who come to them the next morning. That night, the king and the minister went secretly to the prison. They released the guru and his disciple. They disguised themselves as the guru and the disciple. The next morning, the executioners killed them.

**MCQ**

**1. Who has written the story 'In the Kingdom of fools' ?**

- a. Ruskin Bond                      b. R.K. Laxman  
c. A. K. Ramanujam                d. Mulk Raj Anand

2. The story 'In the Kingdom of Fools' is a ..... folktale.
  - a. Bengali
  - b. Gujarati
  - c. Nagpuri
  - d. Kannada
3. What kind of story is 'In the Kingdom of Fools'?
  - a. a folktale
  - b. a serious tale
  - c. a thriller
  - d. both b and c
4. What is the theme of the story 'In the Kingdom of Fools'?
  - a. foolish people are unpredictable and dangerous
  - b. kings are dangerous
  - c. kings are wise
  - d. disciples are clever
5. What is the message of the story 'In the Kingdom of Fools'?
  - a. be wise and stay away from foolish people
  - b. listen to the king
  - c. be friendly with foolish people
  - d. be foolish and stay with foolish people
6. Who were the idiots in the kingdom of fools?
  - a. king
  - b. minister
  - c. guru
  - d. both a and b
7. Who came to the kingdom of fools?
  - a. minister
  - b. disciple
  - c. guru and disciple
  - d. guru
8. What was the cost of everything in the 'Kingdom of Fools'?
  - a. a single duddu
  - b. ten duddu
  - c. twenty duddu
  - d. five duddu
9. Who broke into a rich merchant's house?
  - a. guru
  - b. minister
  - c. disciple
  - d. thief
10. What collapsed on the thief when he was carrying out his loot?
  - a. door
  - b. window
  - c. roof
  - d. wall
11. What happened when the wall collapsed on the thief's head?
  - a. he died on the spot
  - b. he became blind
  - c. he became mad
  - d. he ran away
12. After the thief's death who went to the king for justice?
  - a. thief's father
  - b. thief's mother
  - c. thief's brother
  - d. thief's grandfather
13. Who was summoned first in the king's court?
  - a. merchant
  - b. goldsmith
  - c. dancing girl
  - d. disciple
14. Who was summoned in the king's court next to the merchant?
  - a. goldsmith
  - b. bricklayer
  - c. dancing girl
  - d. guru
15. Who did the bricklayer hold responsible for the weak structure of the wall according to the bricklayer?
  - a. goldsmith
  - b. merchant
  - c. dancing girl
  - d. disciple
16. What distracted the bricklayer when he built the wall?
  - a. jingling anklet of the dancing girl
  - b. tinkling sound of the bell
  - c. noise of the children
  - d. movement of the cattle
17. What had the dancing girl given to the goldsmith to make jewellery?
  - a. iron
  - b. silver
  - c. gold
  - d. diamond
18. Who was made the new king after the previous king's execution?
  - a. The guru
  - b. The Disciple
  - c. The king's minister
  - d. The king's son
19. It was decided to hang the disciple in place of the merchant because
  - a. he was the real culprit
  - b. he had not followed his gurus advice
  - c. he was living in the town illegally
  - d. he was fat enough to fit the stake
20. In whose house did the thief break into?
  - a. guru
  - b. disciple
  - c. goldsmith
  - d. merchant
21. Why did the disciple decide to live in the kingdom of fools?
  - a. because of the cheap food
  - b. because he was afraid of fools
  - c. because he was afraid of king
  - d. because he wanted to become king.

22. **In the kingdom of fools when did the people sleep?**  
 a. during the night      b. after a week  
 c. after 48 hours      d. during the day
23. **What did the king and the Minister decide to do?**  
 a. to give money to everyone  
 b. to change day into night  
 c. to change night into day  
 d. both b and c
24. **According to the Guru whose behaviour is unpredictable?**  
 a. goldsmith      b. merchant  
 c. foolish people      d. disciple
25. **On what condition did the Guru agree to be the next king?**  
 a. if old laws are changed  
 b. if everything cost 10 duddu  
 c. if fools would be his minister  
 d. if his disciple would be his minister
26. **What did Guru tell the king?**  
 a. that he was a great king  
 b. he was a kind King  
 c. Whosoever would die first would be the next king  
 d. that his ministers were foolish.
27. **How did Guru realise his disciple was in trouble?**  
 a. with his magical power and vision  
 b. another disciple informed him  
 c. the king's ministers informed him  
 d. the merchant informed him
28. **Who did the king decide to execute in place of a merchant?**  
 a. fat man who fit to stake  
 b. merchant's father  
 c. a poor man  
 d. a foolish man
29. **How were the people made to obey the king's orders?**  
 a. by threatening to kill  
 b. by speaking to them  
 c. by showing them sword  
 d. by giving a single duddu to everyone
30. **What did the Guru and his disciple find at the grocery shop?**  
 a. many beautiful things  
 b. price of everything a single duddu  
 c. many beautiful flowers  
 d. nothing
31. **The dancing girl put the blame on**  
 a. the bricklayer.  
 b. the rich merchant.  
 c. the goldsmith.  
 d. the rich merchant's father.
32. **The merchant said that his wall fell because...**  
 a. the thief had tried to break in  
 b. the wall was old and weak.  
 c. the bricklayer had not built it right  
 d. the hole made in it was too big.
33. **How was the bricklayer produced before the king?**  
 a. in a chariot      b. on a horse's back  
 c. tied hand and foot      d. without any chains
34. **Who became fat like a street side sacred bull?**  
 a. the guru      b. the disciple  
 c. the king      d. the minister
35. **What was the name of the currency in the Kingdom of Fools?**  
 a. rupee      b. duddu  
 c. dollar      d. pound
36. **In the Kingdom of Fools when did the men work?**  
 a. during the day  
 b. during the night  
 c. in the morning  
 d. when the sun was extremely hot
37. **What did the merchant plead?**  
 a. it was his father's deal and not his  
 b. it was goldsmith's fault  
 c. it was bricklayer's fault  
 d. None
38. **Why did the guru and his disciple visit the shops?**  
 a. to buy clothes      b. to buy groceries  
 c. to buy shoes      d. to buy fish
39. **Why were the guru and his disciple astonished?**  
 a. cost of everything was same  
 b. size of everything was same  
 c. colour of everything was same  
 d. all of these



40. The merchant told the king that his name was .....  
 a. such and such.      b. so and such.  
 c. such and so.      d. so and so.
41. Why was the guru and his disciple delighted?  
 a. to find everyone so happy  
 b. to see the mesmerizing greenery  
 c. to find that every item costs the same  
 d. to be able to rule over the kingdom
42. What was the order in the Kingdom of Fools regarding the time of going to bed?  
 a. as soon as the sun comes up  
 b. at the time of dusk.  
 c. only after lunch  
 d. only after the king sleeps
43. Who was a lazy scoundrel in the story 'In the Kingdom of Fools'?  
 a. the goldsmith      b. the thief  
 c. the merchant      d. the disciple
44. What did the Guru plead to the king to save his disciple?  
 a. to kill him first and later his disciple  
 b. the king was great  
 c. admired the king  
 d. none
45. Who made many excuses to dancing girl for not making the jewellery on time?  
 a. merchant      b. merchant's father  
 c. goldsmith      d. thief
46. Who said this 'It is not right for us to give over the kingdom to others in the next life'?  
 a. guru      b. disciple  
 c. minister      d. king
47. What does the word kingdom mean?  
 a. a country that is ruled by a guru or disciple  
 b. a country that is ruled by a king or queen  
 c. a country that is ruled by a merchant or goldsmith  
 d. a country that is ruled by a fool or servant
48. What is the meaning of fool?  
 a. wise      b. lazy  
 c. beautiful      d. silly
49. What does the word disciple mean?  
 a. a person who follows a teacher  
 b. a person who follows a king  
 c. a person who follows a fool  
 d. a person who follows a servant
50. Execution means.....  
 a. hanging to death      b. working hard  
 c. life imprisonment      d. banishment

### Answer Key

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|---|--|
| 1.c. A. K. Ramanujam                                | 26.c. Whosoever would die first would be the next king |
| 2.d. Kannada  | 27.a. with his magical power and vision                |
| 3.a. a folktale                                     | 28.a. fat man who fit to stake                         |
| 4.a. foolish people are unpredictable and dangerous | 29.a. by threatening to kill                           |
| 5.a. be wise and stay away from foolish people      | 30.b. price of everything a single duddu               |
| 6.d. both a and b                                   | 31.c. the goldsmith.                                   |
| 7.c. guru and disciple                              | 32.c. the bricklayer had not built it right            |
| 8.a. a single duddu                                 | 33.c. tied hand and foot                               |
| 9.d. thief  | 34.b. the disciple                                     |
| 10.d. wall  | 35.b. duddu  |
| 11.a. he died on the spot                           | 36.b. during the night                                 |
| 12.c. thief's brother                               | 37.a. it was his father's deal and not his             |
| 13.a. merchant                                      | 38.b. to buy groceries                                 |
| 14.b. bricklayer                                    | 39.a. cost of everything was same                      |
| 15.c. dancing girl                                  | 40.a. such and such.                                   |
| 16.a. jingling anklet of the dancing girl           | 41.c. to find that every item costs the same           |
| 17.c. gold.   | 42.a. as soon as the sun comes up                      |
| 18.a. The guru                                      | 43.a. the goldsmith                                    |
| 19.d. he was fat enough to fit the stake            | 44.a. to kill him first and later his disciple         |
| 20.d. merchant                                      | 45.c. goldsmith  |
| 21.a. because of the cheap food                     | 46.d. king   |
| 22.d. during the day                                | 47.b. a country that is ruled by a king or queen       |
| 23.d. both b and c                                  | 48.d. silly  |
| 24.c. foolish people                                | 49.a. a person who follows a teacher                   |
| 25.a. if old laws are changed                       | 50.a. hanging to death                                 |