

**GRADE 9 LOCKDOWN TASK: FOLKTALE 2: (Answer the questions which follow the story)**

**THREE HAIRS OF A LION**

Segab's mother died when he was eleven years old.

His father married another woman, Bizunesh by name.

Segab did not like Bizunesh. But Bizunesh began to love the boy very much and tried to be a good mother to him.

She always made good breakfasts, dinners and suppers. But he did not eat them. She bought him many good clothes. But he did not look at them.

She gave him new shoes. But he went to the river and threw the shoes into the water. When she spoke to him, he always ran away.

One day the poor woman said to Segab, "I always wanted to have a son and now I have you, Segab. I love you very much, my dear boy!"

But Segab said angrily, "I am not your son. And you are not my mother. My mother is dead. I do not love you. I will never love you."

Bizunesh was very sorry and cried all night. In the morning she decided to go to a wise old man. She told him about Segab who did not love her.

The old man said, "I can help you. But first, you must bring me three hairs of a lion."

"But how can I do this? The lion will kill me," Bizunesh said.

The old man said, "I cannot answer your question. I need three hairs of a lion. Try to get them."

So Bizunesh went out to try to get the hairs. She went far, far away from her house and came to a place where a lion lived. The lion was very big and roared angrily. He was hungry.

Bizunesh was afraid of him and ran away quickly. But the next day she came back with some meat for the lion. She put the meat not far from him and ran away. The lion saw the meat and went to it. He ate it all very quickly.

The next day she again brought some meat for the lion and put it a little nearer. And again the lion ate it all up.

Every day Bizunesh brought some meat for the lion and he soon understood that the woman was his friend. He was not angry and he did not roar. He was happy

to see her.

And one day, Bizunesh came very near to the lion and gave him the meat from her hand. At the same time, she tore three hairs off his back. The lion was not angry. Bizunesh ran to the old man and showed him the hairs.

"What must I do with them now?" she asked.

"Nothing," he answered. "But you know how to go near a lion, little by little, step by step. Do the same with Segab. And I am sure he will love you."

**CONTEXTUAL QUESTIONS:**

1. What tragedy did Segab experience when he was eleven years old? (1)

2. What is the name of his father's second wife? (1)

3. Refer to paragraph 3; 'Segab did not ... good mother to him.'

What is the contradiction in the relationship between Segab and Bizunesh? (2)

4. State TWO ways how Bizunesh showed she cared for Segab. (2)

5. Do you think that Sageb appreciated Bizunesh in his life? Explain your answer. (2)

6. Refer to paragraph 7, ' But Segab said ... never love you.'"

Is Segab justified to act this way towards Bizunesh? Discuss your answer. (2)

7. What was the instruction of the wise man to Bizunesh after she consulted him? (1)

8. Is the instruction of the wise man easy or difficult? Explain. (2)

9. Refer to paragraph 15; 'Every day Bizunesh ... happy to see her.

9.1 What did Bizunesh give to the lion? (1)

9.2 Did the lion react positively or negatively towards Bizunesh? Quote two consecutive sentences to prove your answer. (2)

10. 'And one day Bizunesh came very near to the lion and gave him the meat from her hand.' (Paragraph 16)

Mention what the above statement indicates about both Bizunesh and the lion. (2)

11. What is the lesson Bizunesh learned? (2)

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