



GRADE: VIII	<b>ENGLISH</b>	Categories: One Word, SAQ, LAQ, MCQ, Match the following
	<b>The Boy Who Broke the Bank</b>	

<b>I</b>	<b>ANSWER IN A WORD</b>
1	Who is the author of the story <i>The Boy Who Broke the Bank</i> ? Ruskin Bond
2	What is the first novel authored by Ruskin Bond? 'The Room on the Roof'
3	Who is the protagonist of the story <i>The Boy Who Broke the Bank</i> ? Nathu, the sweeper boy
4	Who is Sitaram? the washer man's son
5	Who is the owner of the bank? Seth Govind Ram
6	Who is the owner of the electrical goods shop? Jugal Kishore
7	Whom is the barber mentioned in the story? Faiz Hussain
8	Where was Seth Govind Ram holidaying? Kashmir
9	Which bank staff is on sick leave? The Clerk
<b>II</b>	<b>SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS</b>
1	Why was Nathu, the sweeper boy annoyed? Ans: Nathu, the sweeper-boy, was annoyed because his employer, Seth Govind Ram's careless business dealings had almost left him penniless. Nathu hadn't even received his regular pay for two months. Govind Ram owned a small local bank and Nathu could not understand how he could hold up a poor man's salary.
2	How is Nathu introduced to the readers? Ans: Nathu is introduced as a sweeper-boy working in a small bank owned by Seth Govind Ram. He is unhappy at his job because the bank did not pay his salary for two months.
3	How do we know Sitaram is Nathu's friend?

	<p>Ans: Sitaram is the washerman's son. He asks him why he is in a temper and offers to look out for a job for him.</p>
4	<p>Who is Sitaram? How does the speaker arouse our sympathy for him?</p> <p>Ans: Sitaram is a washerman's son delivering pressed clothes to customers' houses. He carries such a huge bundle on his head that it hangs from his head and shoulders. Also, he walks barefoot.</p>
5	<p>Why is Sitaram happy with what he has done?</p> <p>Ans: He has helped both his friend, Nathu and his customer, Mrs. Prakash.</p>
6	<p>What is wrong with the way Mrs Prakash shares the news with her friend, Mrs Bhushan?</p> <p>Ans: She is wrong to exaggerate that the bank had not paid its employees when she heard that only one sweeper has not been paid. She lies that she heard it from the sweeper-boy himself when she heard the information from the boy's friend</p>
7	<p>Why was the gentleman unwilling to believe that Seth Govind Ram was holidaying in Kashmir?</p> <p>Ans: He had heard that the bank had collapsed and was in a panic that he had lost his money. So, he preferred to believe that Seth had left the town to escape the wrath of investors like him.</p>
8	<p>What did they presume was the reason for the collapse of the bank?</p> <p>Ans: They put it down to the owner's expensive style of living and his careless business dealings.</p>
9	<p>What was the effect of the call the elderly gentleman made from the public phone?</p> <p>Ans: The news spread panic throughout the town. People gathered to discuss the aftermath of the collapse and the crises it could create among investors.</p>
10	<p>Why did the clerk at the bank think everyone had gone mad?</p> <p>Ans: He could not understand why people were trying to take out their deposits when he could see no reason for any panic.</p>
11	<p>What does the commotion outside the bank tell the reader about the people portrayed in this episode?</p> <p>Ans: People tended to exaggerate a story and to be interested in other people's concerns, even when it does not affect them. They also behave poorly when in a crowd because they can remain safe and anonymous. They are ready to believe negative stories and rumours. People can also be instrumental for panic and violence to spread like wildfire.</p>
12	<p>What is the irony in Nathu's response to the mess in front of the bank?</p> <p>Ans: He grumbles at having to clear the increased mess without realising that he was indirectly responsible for the debris.</p>

13	<p>Who do you think will be more affected by the collapse of the bank? Businessmen like Seth Govind Ram or workers like Nathu?</p> <p>Ans: Daily-wage earners like Nathu will be more affected since he and his family would rely on his earnings to meet their daily expenses.</p>
14	<p>In your opinion, who was truly responsible for 'breaking' the bank—was it Nathu, Sitaram, the bank clerk, Seth Govind Ram or the town? Give reasons for your answer.</p> <p>Ans: Gossip-mongers like Mrs Prakash and Mrs Bhushan created the panic through a baseless rumour that grew with each telling. The investors, and the mischief-makers who joined them, acted without verifying the rumours.</p>
15	<p>How did Nathu, the sweeper boy, express his anger?</p> <p>Answer: Nathu was vexed with his employer Seth Govind Ram for not paying his salary on time. Annoyed by this, Nathu swept the place hurriedly, raising dust everywhere and banging the pan against a dustbin. He also swore to Sitaraman that he would quit the job the moment he received his salary.</p>
16	<p>Why did the rumour spread so fast in the small town?</p> <p>Answer: The small town in the foothills was a quiet town and the people in the town lived a peaceful life. It had not faced any major crisis of any sort. It was not even affected by natural calamities. Hence, the news of the bank going bankrupt spread like wildfire and caused a lot of excitement among the people.</p>
17	<p>How did the people disperse in the evening?</p> <p>Ans: The news had spread that Seth Govind Ram's bank was about to collapse. So, one evening people from half the town went to the bank to take out their money. They seemed to have gone mad. They demanded their money. They threw stones at the bank. The mob became more violent. The police reached there and pushed the mob back. Gradually everyone dispersed.</p>
III	<b>LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS</b>
1	<p>Describe the commotion outside the bank.</p> <p>Ans: Some of the clients drew out their money and the bank manager could not satisfy the others as the government banks from which he could draw funds were closing. As the clerks closed the counters, people shouted to get their money back and to see Seth Govind Ram who, they insisted, was hiding in one of the safety vaults. They also threatened to break into the bank. Even those who did not have an account in the bank joined in the fray for the fun of it. They were not pacified even when the manager assured them that they could withdraw their assets the next day. Some even resorted to pelting stones.</p>
2	<p>Give a brief account of what ensued when the rumour of the bank collapse spread.</p> <p>Answer: The news spread like wildfire. There was total pandemonium and a riot-like situation in that small, sleepy, quiet town. Those who had an account</p>

	in the bank panicked and rushed in groups to the bank. They demanded their deposited money back. Even a few miscreants joined in the melee by throwing stones, though they were in no way connected to the money or the bank. In groups, people discussed the situation. No one remotely thought of checking if there was any truth to the matter. No amount of assurance from the bank manager assured anyone.
3	<p>Ruskin Bond has a message for the readers through this short story, The Boy Who Broke the Bank. Identify and elaborate.</p> <p>Answer: The story tells us how important it is not to share any important news in public without making sure about the authenticity of the information. In the story, we see how Sitaram, Mrs Prakash and Mrs Bhushan are the initial contributors to the chaos in this quiet town. Mrs Bhushan, in particular, should have been careful while sharing information in public. Her loud announcements that the bank was entering bankruptcy made many run in panic to the bank. People, in general, are more liable to believe negative news than positive information. As panic and violence come quickly and easily to humans, we should take care not to initiate anything that would encourage such happenings.</p>
IV	<b>MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS</b>
1	<p>“I don’t want to talk about it”. Who said this? What do they want not to talk about?</p> <p>(a) Sitaram doesn't want to talk about the pain he feels by carrying the heavy load of clothes</p> <p>(b) <b>Nathu doesn't want to talk about his erratic and low salary</b></p> <p>(c) Mr. Faiz Hussain doesn't want to talk about the collapse of the bank</p> <p>(d) The bank clerk does not want to talk about the absurd way in which everyone was taking out their money</p>
2	<p>What made the crowd collected around the bank finally disperse?</p> <p>(a)The bank manager's statement that they could come tomorrow</p> <p>(b) <b>The arrival of the police</b></p> <p>(c) They found out that the government bank was open</p> <p>(d) Mrs Bushan told everyone that it was a rumour</p>
3	<p>The part-time workers hadn’t been paid. What was the reason given by the clerk?</p> <p>(a)The bank was short of money</p> <p>(b) <b>The clerk who looks after their payment was on sick leave</b></p> <p>(c) Seth Govind Ram had abandoned the bank</p> <p>(d) The Police had shut down the bank</p>
4	Whom did Sitaram meet on the fourth home he visited?

	(a)Nathu (c)Seth Govind Ram	(b) Faiz Hussain (d) <b>Mrs. Prakash</b>
5	“Goondas, Hooligans! May they suffer a thousand ills.”-Who said this? To whom did they mean to say this? (a)Mr. Bushan to Mrs. Bushan (c)Nathu to his employers	(b) Sitaram to Nathu <b>(d) Nathu to the customers</b>
6	What does Ruskin Bond want to tell us through this story? (a)Don't inhabit small villages (c) Sweeper boy is greedy	<b>(b) Gossiping can have dangerous effects</b> (d) The bank management nowadays is very careless.
7	“The elderly gentlemen did not believe it”. What does he not believe? (a) Nathu was not getting paid (c) Seth Govind Ram was a thief	(b) Sitaram was Nathu's friend. <b>(d) Seth Govind Ram was holidaying in Kashmir.</b>
8	What expressions show that Nathu was angry with the bank? (a) <b>Banging the dustbin and using the broom hurriedly and carelessly</b> (c) Mumbling to himself with anger	(b) Walking fast (d) None of these
9	Why did the people gather around the bank? (a) They wanted to take a loan <b>(c)To draw their money back</b>	(b) There was something wrong with their accounts (d) To deposit money
10	What did the manager tell the crowd? (a) We don't have money right now (c) The manager did not say anything	(b) They can draw the money in the afternoon (d) <b>They can draw the money the next day</b>
<b>V</b>	<b>SYNONYM MATCH</b> <b>Match column A with Column B</b>	

Column A	Column B
1. Haphazard	A. Wreck
2. Plod	B. Anxiety
3. Ruin	C. Rapid
4. Frenzy	D. Careless
5. Hurtle	E. Slow walk

**Answers:**

1-D, 2-E, 3-A, 4-B, 5-C