

ENGLISH

CHAPTER 1: WHO DID PATRICK'S HOMEWORK?



WHO DID PATRICK'S HOMEWORK?

~Summary~

-by Carroll Moore

Patrick was like any other boy who loved outdoor games like basketball, hockey, Nintendo etc. He was a good player but was not interested in studies. Because of his less interest in studies, he did not do his work and was warned by his teacher.

One day Patrick saw his cat playing with a doll. But when he looked at it closely, he found that it was a small man-elf (a supernatural human). He was wearing a woollen shirt, a tall hat and breeches. He was scared of a cat as he felt the cat might kill him while playing and needed help badly. He wanted Patrick to save him, and instead, he promised to grant him a wish.

Patrick felt happy and called himself a lucky one. He asked the elf to do his homework. Though the elf was not good at it, he offered to do this for him for 35 days equals to one semester. However, a problem started when the elf told that he knew nothing of maths and history. He needed help to do these subjects. Patrick accepted and brought many books to read and discuss. He sat near the elf and put in ahead to complete the work.

Exactly after 35 days when the semester was over, the elf went away. Patrick scored grade 'A' in all the subjects. Everyone recognised him. He became a very better person who was hardworking and a good boy.

Patrick thought it is an elf who helped him score so high, but in reality, it was Patrick himself who did all the homework and improved his score.

~Conclusion~

Patrick's story shows how a person can achieve success by being hard-working and self-dependent. It is revealed at the end that the elf man was only a figment of Patrick's imagination. In reality, the transformation is caused by Patrick's own efforts. This answers the titular question "Who did Patrick's homework?" and teaches the value of self-help.

NCERT SOLUTIONS

Questions (Page No. 11) (Working with the Text)

Question 1. What did Patrick think his cat was playing with? What was it really?

Answer: Patrick thought that his cat was playing with a little doll, but it was really a man of the tiniest size.

Question 2. Why did the little man grant Patrick a wish?

Answer: The little man granted Patrick a wish because he wanted to get free from cat.

Question 3. What was Patrick's wish?

Answer: Patrick wanted the little man to do all his homework till the end of the semester, which was for 35 days.

Question 4. In what subjects did the little man need help, to do Patrick's homework?

Answer: The little man needed Patrick's help in English, Maths and human history.

Question 5. How did Patrick help him?

Answer: Patrick helped him by consulting a dictionary, guiding the little man in doing sums in arithmetic and read out portions from history book.

Question 6. Who do you think did Patrick's homework-the little man, or Patrick himself? Give reasons for your answer.

Answer: It was not the little man but Patrick himself had did his homework as little man did not know anything, in English, maths and human history. Patrick had to consult dictionary, guide him with maths and help him to read too. He stayed up at nights and worked hard. Therefore, it was Patrick who did the homework.

Questions (Page No. 11-12) (Working With Language)

Question 1. Fill in the blanks in the sentences below with the words or phrases from the box. (You may not know the meaning of all the words. Look such words up in a dictionary, or ask your teacher).

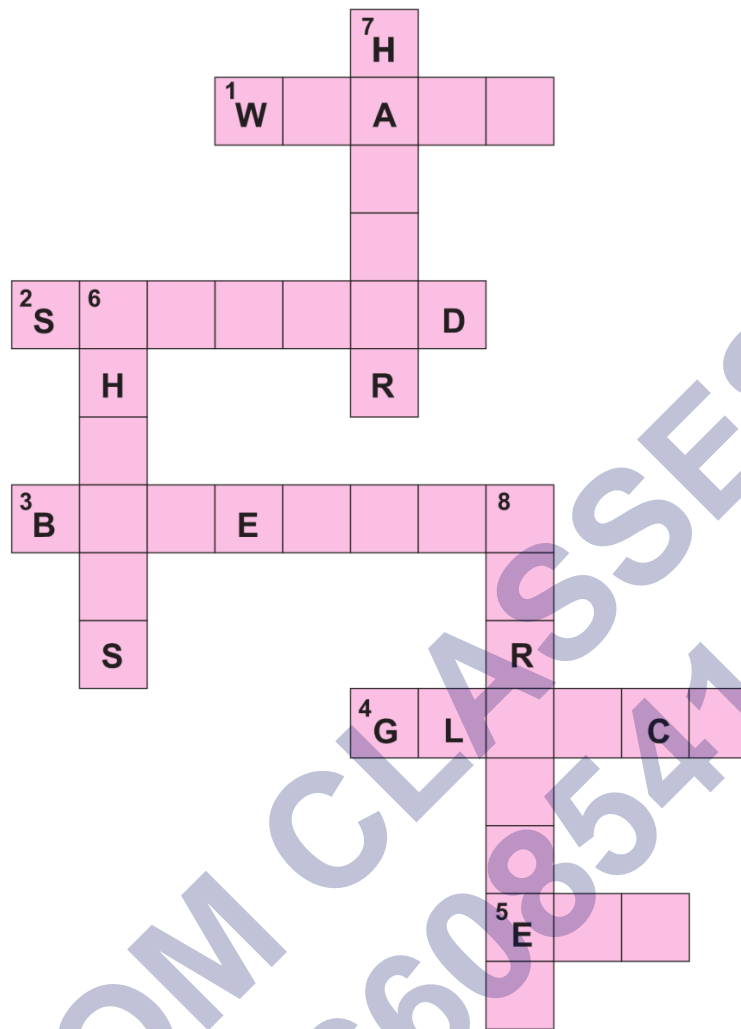
Out of luck, mystery, true to his word, chores, semester, between you and me, look up.

- a. Some people find household _____ a bore, but I like to help at home.
- b. Who stole the diamond is still a _____.
- c. This _____ we are going to have a class exhibition.
- d. _____, the elf began to help Patrick.
- e. Can you _____ this word in the dictionary?
- f. I started early to be on time, but I was _____.
- g. She says she's got a lot of books, but _____ I think most of them are borrowed.

Answer:

- a. Some people find household **Chores** a bore, but I like to help at home.
- b. Who stole the diamond is still a **mystery**.
- c. This **semester** we are going to have a class exhibition.
- d. **True to his word**, the elf began to help Patrick.
- e. Can you **look up** this word in the dictionary?
- f. I started early to be on time, but I was **out of luck**.
- g. She says she's got a lot of books, but **between you and me** I think most of them are borrowed.

Use the clues given below to complete this crossword puzzle.

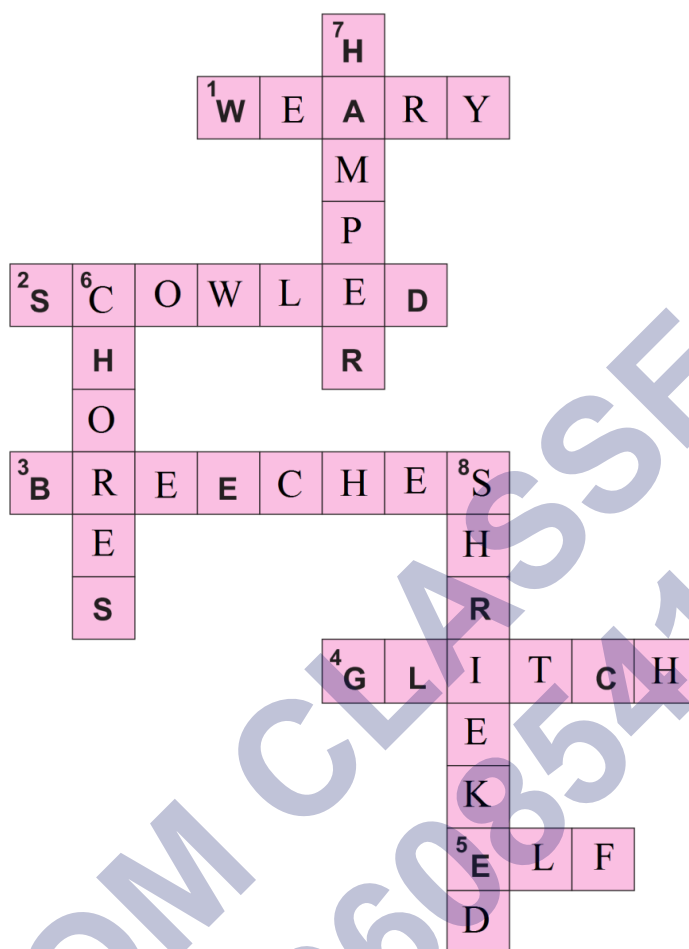
**Across:**

- a. Very tired.
- b. Had an angry look on the face.
- c. Short trousers.
- d. A fault in a machine that prevents it from working properly.
- e. A small and naughty boy-fairy.

Down:

- f. Work that must be done everyday, often boring.
- g. A basket with a lid.
- h. Gave a short, high-pitched cry.

Answer:



Questions (Page No. 13) (Speaking)

Question 1. In the story Patrick does difficult things he hates to do, because the elf pretends, he needs help. Have you ever done something difficult or frightening, by pretending about it in some way? Tell your classmates about it.

OR

Say what you feel about homework. (The words and phrases in the boxes may help you.) Do you think it is useful, even though you may not like it? Form pairs and speak to each other.

For example:

You may say, "I am not fond of homework". Your partner may reply, "But my sister helps me with my lessons at home, and that gives a boost to my marks".

(not) be fond of, (not) take to, (not) develop a liking for,
(not) appeal to, (not) be a boon, (not) have a taste for.

Support, assist with the aid of help be a boon give a boost to.

Answer:

- a. I am not very fond of keeping my room clean and tidy.
- b. But my sister does all this for me.
- c. I have not developed a liking for non-veg.
- d. But my elder brother does not support me.
- e. I have taken to playing football.
- f. I have developed a liking for chess also.
- g. I appeal to my friends to play some game.
- h. Sports can be a boon in career making.
- i. They give a boost to my confidence.
- j. My desk mate is keen on getting 'A' grade.
- k. I hope he will assist me also in preparing my lessons.

Questions (Page No. 13-14) (Writing)

Question 1. This story has a lot of rhyming words, as a poem does. Can you write out some parts of it like a poem, so that the rhymes come at the end of separate lines?

For example:

Patrick never did homework. "Too boring," he said.

He played baseball and hockey and Nintendo instead.

Answer:

The man of the tiniest size

was true to his word and wise

Patrick saved the elf from the cat

The elf promised to do all that

Patrick loved sports and hated homework

He wasted his time and studies shirk

Question 2. Look at these sentences.

- a. "Too boring", he said.
- b. Cleaned his room, did his chores.

When we speak, we often leave out words that can easily be guessed. We do not do this when we write, unless we are trying to write as we speak (as in the story).

So, if we were to write carefully, we would say:

- a. "Homework is too boring", he said.
- b. He cleaned his room and did his chores.

Answer: Read the sentences carefully.

Question 3. Rewrite the following incomplete sentences carefully, so that the reader does not have to guess what is left out.

- a. More and more books.
- b. Too difficult.
- c. Got up late, missed the bus.
- d. Solved the mystery.

Answer:

- a. The writers and poets read more and more books.

- b. This personal question is too difficult to answer.
- c. When I got up late yesterday morning, I missed the school bus.
- d. Lord Krishna solved the mystery of life after death.

Question 4. Look at this cartoon by R.K. Laxman. Read the sentence given below the cartoon. Discuss the following questions with your partner.



Get on with your homework — the sums, the composition, history, geography, chemistry, physics — and stop reading *The Laws Against Child Labour!*

- a. What is it about?
- b. Do you find it funny? If so, why?
- c. Do you think a cartoon is a serious drawing? Why or why not?

Answer:

- a. It is about a father's concern for the betterment of his child.
- b. Yes, the cartoon is really funny. Father orders the child to labour (to work hard) with his studies. But he forbids the boy to read the laws against child labour.
- c. A cartoon is chiefly meant to make us laugh.

It is also a serious drawing in one sense.

It draws our attention to some problem that affects us all.

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