



## English Reading

# Intermediate Worksheets

### Worksheet - 1

Read the story given below, and answer the questions.

There was once a very kind young man who lived in old China. One day, while cleaning the garden, he stumbled across a wounded swallow. He stopped what he was doing and took it home hurriedly. He nursed it tenderly until it recovered. The young man became very fond of the bird. However, when the bird was well, he knew that it was time to let it go.

Feeling sad, he took the bird to the window. It hopped about on the windowsill, looking thrilled, and flew away. But, to his great joy, it flew back to him.

The next day however, the bird flew out of the window and away into the sky. The young man was miserable. He missed the swallow's company. He looked out of his window one day at the empty sky. "I wonder how the swallow is faring," he thought.



To his great delight, the bird came back with a large seed in its beak. It put the seed down, and flew away. The young man planted the seed in the garden. It sprouted and grew into a large pumpkin vine, which bore just one enormous pumpkin. When it was ripe, he opened it to find that it was full of gold and silver. He was now a rich man.

**Simple questions on facts**

1. Where did the young man live? (1)

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2. What did the bird give to the young man, when it came back to him finally?  
(1)

1.  
2. ....  
.....



**More difficult questions on facts**

3. 'Feeling sad, he took the bird to the window.' Why did the young man feel sad? (2)

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4. What good fortune did the seed offer the young man? (1)

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5. Who does 'he' in the first paragraph refer to? (1)

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**Questions demanding answers in students' own words**

6. How did the swallow recover in the young man's home? Answer in your own words. (2)

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**Questions involving deductions from the text**

7. Why do you think the young man took the bird home 'hurriedly'? (1)

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8. Write down a word or expression of your own to describe how the young man would have felt when he opened the pumpkin.(1)

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**Questions involving tests of language**

9. What does 'stumbled across' tell you about how the young man found the bird? (1)

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10. Pick out and write down an expression used in paragraph 2, that compares the bird to a human being. (1)

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## **Answers**

### **Simple questions on facts**

1. Where did the young man live?

The young man lived in Old China.

2. What did the bird give to the young man?

The bird gave a seed to the young man.

### **More difficult questions on facts**

3. 'Feeling sad, he took the bird to the window.' Why did the young man feel sad?

The young man was fond of the bird. However, since the bird recovered, he knew he had to let it fly away.

4. What good fortune did the seed offer the young man?

The seed that the bird gave grew into a pumpkin which bore a fruit. Inside the fruit there was a lot of gold and silver.

5. Who does 'he' in the first paragraph refer to?

'he' refers to the young man.

### **Questions demanding answers in students' own words**

6. How did the swallow recover in the young man's home? Answer in your own words.

The swallow recovered because the young man took care of it lovingly.



### **Questions involving deductions from the text**

7. Why do you think the young man took the bird home 'hurriedly'?

The young man was afraid that if he lost any time, the bird would die or get worse.

8. Write down a word or expression of your own to describe how the young man would have felt when he opened the pumpkin.

Amazed.

### **Questions involving tests of language**

9. What does 'stumbled across' tell you about how the young man found the bird?

The young man found the bird accidentally.

10. Pick out and write down an expression used in paragraph 2 that compares the bird to a human being.

The word is 'thrilled'.