

Before-reading questions

Reader's own answers.

During-reading questions

INTRODUCTION

- 1 He has been arrested for possibly cheating on a television quiz show.
- 2 He is Neil Johnson, and he works for a company called NewAge Telemedia. He wants the Commissioner to help him prove that Ram Mohammad Thomas has cheated on the quiz show.
- 3 Her name is Smita Shah, and she is a lawyer. Ram is surprised because the woman says she is his lawyer, but he has never seen her before.
- 4 She asks him to tell her about all the parts of his life that gave him the answers to the TV quiz questions. She needs to know how he answered the questions so that she can help and protect him.

CHAPTER ONE

- 1 He was living in a small room in a chawl in Mumbai with his best friend Salim.
- 2 He was Armaan Ali, a famous Indian actor.

CHAPTER TWO

- 1 St Mary's Orphanage in Paharganj, Delhi
- 2 He had always called Father Timothy "father", believing that he was his real father, but he then realized that he was simply known as "Father" by everyone because he was a priest.
- 3 Because he does not want anyone to hear him checking whether Ram knows the answer to the next question. Next, he changes the question to one that Ram knows the answer to.

CHAPTER THREE

- 1 Mr Shantaram was the father of the family who moved into the flat next to Ram and Salim. He was a drunk and used to become angry and hurt his daughter when he was drinking. Ram also believed that he had money problems.
- 2 He promised Gudiya that he would look after her cat Pluto while she was in hospital. He then promised her that he would never let her father, Mr Shantaram, hurt her again.
- 3 Ram decided to run away from the chawl and catch a train to Delhi. He believed that the police could come and arrest him for murder if he did not leave, and he chose to go to Delhi because it was the only other city he knew.

CHAPTER FOUR

- 1 They were both young, orphaned boys, they had recently experienced one or more people close to them dying, and they both loved watching films.
- 2 A lucky one-rupee coin
- 3 They were interested in Salim because he was younger, good-looking, and he could sing very well. Because of this, they thought he would be able to earn a lot of money for them by begging. Ram was older, was not as good-looking and could not sing, so he was not valuable to them.

CHAPTER FIVE

- 1 Because Mr Taylor immediately knew when someone in the house had done something wrong.
- 2 Ram realized that Mr Taylor was a spy and that he had watched everyone in the house by using cameras. The clues were the papers with strange letters and numbers on them, the words "Top Secret", and books about spying that were on Mr Taylor's desk.

In the office there were also small cameras, strange-looking machines and TV screens showing images of different rooms.

- 3 Because while Ram was living with the Taylor family, he learned to speak English using Australian phrases and pronunciation. Later, this allowed him to seem to be an Australian during a phone call to the police.

CHAPTER SIX

- 1 He was a man who came to the bar where Ram was working. He was the owner of Surya, the biggest button factory in India. He was sad because his brother Arvind Rao had recently died, and Prakash felt partly responsible for his death.
- 2 She encouraged him to steal money from the family business. She also encouraged him to use magic to cause his brother health problems.
- 3 **Model answer:**
Ram probably took it and hid or kept it.

CHAPTER SEVEN

- 1 A new suitcase, some clothes, a train ticket, 50,000 rupees and a magazine.
- 2 He showed Akshay the 50,000 rupees that he was carrying in an envelope inside his trousers. He did this because he wanted to prove himself to Akshay.
- 3 He escaped by jumping down from the train and then catching several other trains, being careful to change trains and direction all night long. He did this because he remembered Mr Taylor's advice: "Confuse them to lose them."

CHAPTER EIGHT

- 1 The fight at Mandiala Bridge was difficult and dangerous. Many people died and others ran away. There were dead bodies everywhere and there were enemy soldiers

and machine guns that were causing damage and killing people.

2 **Model answer:**

It is likely that the man from the Soldiers' Care Group was telling the truth. Firstly, Balwant Singh never received an award for what he describes as an extremely brave act. Secondly, he did not come to the bunker the evening after the men from the Soldiers' Care Group visited him. During the night he hanged himself, which suggests that he felt bad about what he had done.

3 **Model answer:**

Prem Kumar is not happy that Ram has answered yet another question correctly. This is probably because the producer does not want one person to keep answering questions correctly as this will not be good for NewAge Telemedia.

CHAPTER NINE

- 1 five years
- 2 He protected him from the Hindus on the bus, and he offered him a well-paid job as a servant in his house.
- 3 The yellow envelopes contained the photographs, names and addresses of different men. Salim noticed that, every few weeks, the Mumbai Crime Watch programme announced the deaths of each of the men whose names had been in the envelopes. As a result, he realized that Ahmed Khan was being paid to kill people. Salim was very worried because the most recent envelope contained information about Abbas Rizvi, a man who had promised Salim a part in a new film. Because of this, Salim decided to change the photo and information to that of Mr Pillai.

CHAPTER TEN

- 1 To begin with, Ram was excited to be

working for a beautiful, famous actor who owned a big flat with expensive things in it. However, as he got to know her, he saw her as a sad, lonely person who made poor decisions.

- 2** The fact that she was known as the “Tragedy Queen of India” for playing characters who have very sad lives and die tragic deaths.

3 Model answer:

She planned her death carefully, so that she would appear to be beautiful, successful and dramatically tragic in death. Instead, her body was not discovered for a month, by which time it could not be easily identified, and the newspaper reports showed the opposite of what she had wanted.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

- 1** Nita is a beautiful girl who worked as a cleaner in an expensive hotel. Ram met her at the Taj Mahal when she came to visit it on her day off.

- 2** He cried because Nita’s brother Shyam increased the amount of money he was demanding from Ram and was making it impossible for him to see Nita.

3 Model answer:

After seeing the Who Will Win a Billion? TV quiz show advert, Ram decided that he would try to be a contestant on the show in order to win enough money to save Nita.

CHAPTER TWELVE

- 1** He tells the audience that he is changing the question because the first one was only part of a recording for a tea advertisement. The real explanation is probably that Ram knows the answer, and Prem Kumar does not want Ram to answer the question correctly.
- 2** For the first time, he thinks about the money he could win, and realizes that he could use

the money to make a big difference to many people’s lives.

- 3** Smita tells Ram that she is actually Gudiya, the girl that Ram helped in the chawl. She also tells him that her father, Mr Shantaram, did not die when Ram pushed him down the stairs. Ram is happy and cries, telling her that he has found a lawyer, a friend and a sister all at the same time.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

- 1** He arranges for the police to arrest the men at the home for disabled children, and for the children there to be freed and well cared for. He also enables Salim to finally get a part as a hero in a film.

2 Model answer:

In the chawl, Smita (Gudiya) and Ram became friends, and Ram was worried about her and wanted to protect her. During the time at the police station and in Smita’s flat, Ram is not sure who Smita is and does not know whether to fully trust her. At the end of the story, their friendship is stronger than ever, because they have both done everything they can to protect each other. They have also been honest with each other.

After-reading questions

- 1** *Reader’s own answer.*
- 2** **a** I am not working in that job for a short time
b very white
c asked again and again in a demanding way
d go away
- 3** **a** Ram found Father Timothy lying dead on the floor near the front of the church, just below the statue of Jesus Christ.
b Ram pushed Mr Shantaram down the stairs in order to kill or seriously hurt him so that he could not hurt Gudiya again.

c Ram pulled out a revolver and said he was going to shoot Prem Kumar as revenge for what he had done to Neelima Kumari and Nita. However, Ram could not make himself kill Prem Kumar, and instead Prem Kumar offered to give Ram the correct answer to the last question so that he could win the top prize.

4 Model answer:

Prem Kumar is a selfish man who lies and has treated women very badly indeed. He tried everything he could to stop Ram winning the top prize on the quiz show and seemed to enjoy doing this.

5 Model answer:

Ram became angry on the train when the robber took the largest amount of money that Ram had ever owned, and also when the robber tried to take Meenakshi with him. He also became very angry when Neelima Kumar and Nita were badly hurt by a man. He seems to be very upset when he sees someone, especially a woman, being put in danger or hurt and unable to protect themselves.

6 a As a very young baby, Ram was found inside a bin for old clothes outside the Church of St Mary in Delhi.

b Salim gave Ram a one-rupee coin that he said was lucky. Ram used it to help him make several important decisions during his life. However, we later hear that the coin is a fake coin which is the same on both sides.

c Ram took a revolver from the robber on the train and used it to shoot the man dead. He then threw the gun into a river.

d Ram took a revolver from Prakash Rao, the man who came into Jimmy's Bar in Mumbai, where Ram was working. Prakash fell ill and died, and Ram took the gun. He later pointed it at Prem Kumar in the toilets at the television studios.

7 *Reader's own answer.*

8 Model answer:

Father Timothy was a calm, loving person in Ram's life who gave him a home, a safe comfortable life, and an education. Father Timothy was like a real father to him.

Exercises

INTRODUCTION

- 1** 1 Ram Mohammad Thomas
- 2** 2 Inspector Godbole
- 3** 3 Neil Johnson
- 4** 4 Billy Nanda
- 5** 5 Mr Mikhailov
- 6** 6 Smita Shah

CHAPTER ONE

- 2** **1** The man **sat down** in the seat next to Salim.
- 2** The older man tried to **stand up** and move away from Salim.
- 3** The grey beard **came away** from the man's face.
- 4** At that moment, the lights **came on** in the cinema.
- 5** The man turned and **ran away** through a door with the word EXIT above it.
- 6** "Yes, we are ready to **find out** Who Will Win a Billion!"

CHAPTER TWO

- 3** **1** I was found in a bin that the nuns **had put** out for old clothes.
- 2** "We **have heard** that you have given a home to an orphan boy."
- 3** "Hindus in this part of India get very angry when anyone **tries** to make a person change their religion."
- 4** When I lived with Father Timothy, I **used to love** to sit and stare at the statue in the church.

- 5 Now Father Timothy **was lying** on his side on the cold, hard floor.
- 6 “Let me tell you what the next question is **going to be.**”

CHAPTER THREE

- 4 1 chawl
2 astronomer
3 rough
4 telescope
5 planet
6 tear

CHAPTER FOUR

- 5 1 Where **was Ram taken after Father Timothy died?**
2 Who **did Ram/he meet at the Delhi Home for Boys/home?**
3 What **did Salim give (to) Ram?**
4 Why **did Salim want to go to Mumbai?**
5 How **long did it take Ram and Salim/ them to get/travel to Mumbai?**

CHAPTER FIVE

- 6 1 The new cook asked Ram how much money he thought that stupid family had in the house.
2 The ambassador asked what was going on.
3 The ambassador asked why Mr Taylor had been told (that) he was persona non grata.
4 The ambassador asked the inspector how he had known (that) Kumar and Taylor had been going to meet.
5 The ambassador asked the inspector how he knew (that) the person was an Australian.

CHAPTER SIX

- 7 Ram was living in a small ¹ **hut** in the Dharavi ² **slum** and was working in a bar. He was waiting to hear if he would be accepted as a ³ **contestant** on the *Who Will Win a Billion?* quiz show. One night in the bar, he met a man

called Prakash Rao who owned a ⁴ **button** factory. Prakash told Ram about how he had met his wife, who had been working ⁵ **illegally** as a cleaner in New York. They married and went on ⁶ **honeymoon** to Port Louis in Mauritius. Later, his wife encouraged him to push a ⁷ **pin** into a doll that looked like his brother, in order to hurt him. Prakash showed Ram a ⁸ **revolver** and said that he now hated his wife, and was either going to leave her or kill her.

CHAPTER SEVEN

- 8 1 false
2 true
3 false
4 false
5 true

CHAPTER EIGHT

- 9 1 When the **sirens** sounded, Salim and Ram used to have to go underground.
2 The **bunker** was a large underground room beneath a school building.
3 Balwant Singh had been a soldier in the **army** when he was younger.
4 Balwant said that he had fought against the **enemy** at Mandiala Bridge.
5 There were lots of empty and useless **tanks** near the bridge.
6 The **grenade** that Balwant threw killed the last Pakistani soldiers.
7 Balwant explained that **machine guns** had killed many soldiers and also injured his leg.
8 Balwant was angry that he had not received a bravery **award**.

CHAPTER NINE

- 10 1 **Salim Ilyasi** wants to be an extra in a film.
2 **Abbas Rizvi** is a famous producer who makes films.
3 **Mukesh Rawal** works part time as a film extra and gives Salim advice.

- 4 **Mr Pillai** recognized Salim and chased him.
- 5 **Ahmed Khan** is a Muslim who helped Salim on a bus and then gave him a job.
- 6 **Sachin Malvankar** plays cricket on the Indian team.

CHAPTER TEN

- 11 1 length
- 2 wonder
- 3 relation / relative
- 4 tragedy
- 5 shock
- 6 mess
- 7 depth
- 8 luck

CHAPTER ELEVEN

- 12 1 "I am Swapna Devi," the woman **told** me.
- 2 "Why don't we get married so you don't have to work at the hotel?" Ram **suggested** to Nita.
- 3 "Shyam is not only the manager of the hotel. He's my brother, too," **said** Nita, quietly.
- 4 "Who has done this to you?" Ram **asked** Nita.
- 5 "It was a man from Mumbai," Nita **replied** to Ram's question.
- 6 "Please lend this money to me," **begged** the man at the hospital.
- 7 "Thank you so much!" **cried** the man, as he fell down at Ram's feet.

CHAPTER TWELVE

- 13 a 8 b 4 c 3 d 6
e 7 f 5 g 1 h 2

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

- 14 1 Ram believes that the men running the TV quiz show killed Prem Kumar, or had him killed.

- 2 Ram uses his money to persuade the police to arrest the men who run the home for disabled children.
- 3 Salim believes that a producer called Mohammad Bhatt has given him the part of hero in a film, but it is really Ram who has given him this part.
- 4 Ram is still living in Mumbai, but he has married Nita and not Smita.
- 5 Smita chose not to tell Ram who she really was, because she wanted to hear him tell her own story from the time of the chawl. She would know that he was telling her the truth.
- 6 Ram throws the one-rupee coin into the ocean because he does not need it to make decisions any more.

Project work

Reader's own answers.

Essay questions

Reader's own answers.