



Subject: English

Prepared by: Paran Pareek

LESSON-4

Topic : THE ASHES THAT MADE  
TREES BLOOM

**Pre Activity: Write about any 2 unusual customs of Japan.**

**Word Meanings -**

1. Daimios – wealthy landowners
2. Snug – comfortable
3. Titbits – a small piece of tasty food
4. To and Fro – constant movement backwards and forwards
5. Scratching – cancel or strike out

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:**

**1. Why did the neighbours kill the dog?**

Ans. The neighbours killed the dog in anger. They expected the dog to help them get a treasure, but the dog had rather taken them to a foul-smelling kitten.

**2. The old farmer is a kind person. What evidence of his kindness do you find in the first two paragraphs?**

Ans. In the first paragraph it is written that the old farmer treated the dog like his own child. He would feed the dog small pieces of fish with their own chopsticks and offer boiled rice to him as much as he wanted. The second paragraph says that to provide food to the birds, the old farmer would often turn up the surface of the ground.

Both the above instances prove that the old man was a kind person.

**3. What did the dog do to lead the farmer to the hidden gold?**

Ans. The dog came running towards the farmer. He kept his paws against the farmer's legs and with its head it kept on directing towards a spot behind him. The old man initially ignored the dog, but it kept on whining and running to and from until the farmer followed it to the spot.

**4. i) How did the spirit of the dog help the farmer first?**

Ans. The spirit of the dog came in the farmer's dream and first asked him to chop the pine tree and make mortar and hand mill out of it. With the mortar and mill it gave the farmer heaps of gold.

**ii) How did it help him next?**

Ans. The dog's spirit again came in the farmer's dream for the second time and told the farmer to collect the ash of the mortar and the mill and sprinkle it on the withered trees and they blossom. The farmer did this in front of the daimio and was awarded with lavish gifts.

**5. Why did the daimio reward the farmer, but punish his neighbour for the same act?**

Ans. The farmer had sprinkled the ash over the withered cherry tree and it blossomed. Daimio was pleased seeing the miracle and he rewarded the farmer. His neighbour poured the ash over the cherry tree, but nothing happened to the tree. Fine particles from the ash entered the eyes of the daimio and his wife. They began to sneeze and cough. This spoiled the splendour of the procession and so the neighbour was punished by the man of landlord.

**Post Activity: Write a short story on "Kindness".**