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**Reading with Insight**

**1. Narrate 'The Tale of Melon City' in your own words.**

**Answer.**

Once upon a time, there reigned a calm king. He once wanted to build an arch that would eddy the people. The king's wish was quickly fulfilled, and a beautiful arch was built.

When the king rode down the thoroughfare, his crown fell from his head when it struck the arch, which was built too low. The king thought it was a disgrace to him and wanted to hang the perpetrator.

He commanded the chief of the builders to be hanged. The chief then stated that it was the builders' fault. The king then shifted the blame to the builders. The builders then cried that because the bricks were larger, the architect should be hanged. As a result, the architect was to be punished. The architect reminded the king that the king had made some changes to the design he had shown him. The blame was now back on the king.

He paused for a moment before ordering the soldiers to bring the wisest man in the country. They brought an old man who could barely see or hear, as the king had ordered. He proposed that the arch be hanged because it was the source of such disgrace, which was immediately implemented. Then one of the ministers disagreed, asking how they could shamelessly hang an arch. The king then reversed his decision and decided to deal with it his way.

They said the nation wanted someone hanged right away, so every man was measured, and only one man was tall enough to get trapped in the arch, and that man was the king. As a result, he was eventually hanged.

The country's people then desired a new king. They asked the first person to pass through the city gate, as is their custom. Regrettably, the individual was insane. When the soldiers questioned him about who should be the next king, he said, "Who should be the next king?" He said melon because he liked them the best. So a melon was finally crowned and placed on the throne.

**2. What impression would you form of a state where the King was 'just and placid'?**

**Answer.**

A state in which the king is just and peaceful will prosper if he is intelligent and strong as well. But in the state described in this poem, the king was so stupid that he convicted himself to death for no reason. He felt insecure about the actions he took and kept changing them. In such a state, no right decision can be made, and no situation can be handled properly.

**3. How, according to you, can peace and liberty be maintained in a state?**

**Answer.**

I believe that in a state, peace and liberty can be maintained,

1) by enforcing rules and making decisions that benefit the people. However, no law can be enacted that benefits everyone because what appears to be correct to one person may not be correct to another. As a result, laws should be drafted in such a way that they benefit the vast majority of people.

2) by disseminating a sense of unity among the people through all available means.

**4. Suggest a few instances in the poem which highlight humour and irony**

**Answer.**

**NCERT Solutions for Class 11 English Snapshots Chapter 8 -  
The Tale of Melon City**

There are a few instances in the poem where humour and irony are highlighted. They are as follows:

- 1) The king, who changed his mind after hearing each person he suspected of being a criminal.
- 2) The wise man's advice to hang the arch.
- 3) Finally, the madman's suggestion that they make a melon their king.

**5. 'The Tale of Melon City' has been narrated in verse form. This is a unique style which lends extra charm to an ancient tale. Find similar examples in your language. Share them in the class.**

**Answer.**

Write your own answer.



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