**STD 6 KALI AND THE RAT SNAKE NOTES**

**Value ‘Always have a positive attitude’**

**Q.1 Answer the following questions.**

1. What did Kali’s father do for a living?

Ans: Kali’s father was one of the most famous snake-catchers of the Irula tribe. Kali’s father was one of the most famous snake-catchers among the Irula tribe. The snake cooperative paid 150 rupees for each poisonous snake and Kali’s father bought many good things for the family.

2. How did the students react to Kali? Why? Do you think their attitude was fair?

Ans: At ­ first, the students nudged each other and giggled when Kali introduced himself. After that, as he was different from them, they ignored him and left him alone. I think their attitude was unfair as they did not take the time to get to know him.

3. What happened when the snake arrived? Why was only Kali ‘surprised’?

Ans: Everyone in the classroom panicked when the snake arrived. The teacher hid under his table and the children shouted and ran around in confusion. Kali was only ‘surprised’ because he had been around snakes all his life. He had helped his father on many snake-catching expeditions. The people of his tribe went towards snakes, not away from them. Hence, he was unafraid, and could not understand the fear and behaviour of the other students.

4. His people, the Irulas, always went towards snakes, not away from them. Explain.

Ans: The statement ‘Irulas only went towards snakes, not away from them’, explains the surprise that Kali felt when he saw his classmates trying to run away from the snake. Irulas are a tribe with a long history of catching snakes for making anti-venom serum. Hence they are familiar with the behaviour of snakes and know how to act calmly around them. The snake cooperatives would pay Rs 150 for each snake caught, so a poisonous snake was a potential source of income. This was the first thought that occurred to Kali when he saw the rat snake. This was also the reason why he was surprised that his classmates were running away, rather than towards, the snake.

5. The snake has been described as a threatening one. Pick words and phrases from the text to justify this.

Ans: The writer uses various words and phrases to create the idea of a large and terrifying snake. She describes the snake as ‘over six feet long’ and having a ‘long, muscular body’. She also builds suspense and tension by describing how ‘slowly more and more of its body uncoiled from the beam’, before it drops to the ground and creates a fresh wave of panic in the classroom. When Kali approached the snake, it ‘reared back like a horse, opened its mouth wide, hissed and struck.’

6. Kali and his friends grinned secretly at each other. What were they grinning about?

Ans: Kali and his friends secretly grinned at each other because after Kali had caught the snake, the teacher pretended to be unafraid and scolded the class for having been ‘silly children’, afraid of a non-poisonous snake. This was funny because everyone had witnessed the teacher’s terror, when he hid under his desk and then climbed on it while yelling ‘save me’ in total panic.

7. Give one reason to justify each of these traits in Kali.

perceptive  friendly  intelligent  courageous  loving

Ans: a) Perceptive:

We know that Kali was perceptive because he quickly realized that the other students stayed away from him because he was different from them. He hid his tiffi­n of fried termites because he knew they would ­ find it strange.

b) Friendly: We know that Kali was friendly because of this line in the story: … sat in the back row. Alone. Wishing he had friends. Though his teachers were happy with him, he was miserable at school because he longed to have friends.

c) Intelligent: We know Kali was intelligent because even though he was deliberately trying to do badly and be thrown out of school, he was still doing well compared to his classmates. Despite his best efforts to fail, his teachers were always happy with his work.

d) Courageous: We know Kali was courageous because while his teacher and classmates were running around in fear after spotting the snakes, he was unafraid and went towards it. In fact he was surprised by their actions and wondered, ‘Had everyone gone mad?’

e) Loving: We know Kali is loving because when he catches the snake, his sole motive was buying a new dress for his baby sister.

HOD PRINCIPAL