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Question Bank

WBBSE Class 9 English (Bliss)

Lesson 1: Tales of Bhola Grandpa

by Manoj Das

Seen Questions, Grammar Exercises and Writing Practice

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38 questions: 24 Seen questions, 6 additional practice questions, 6 grammar questions, 2 writing tasks

Lesson Summary

"Tales of Bhola Grandpa" is a set of funny stories about an old man, told by a young narrator who knew him closely. Bhola Grandpa lived with his wife at the western end of the village, in a hut overshadowed by a large bokal tree where a small troop of monkeys lived. He was a simple man, and his great forgetfulness is the source of all the humour in the story.

The first tale takes place on a moonlit night after a festival. Bhola Grandpa had taken his grandson to the festival and held the boy's two fingers tightly, but he did not notice when the fingers slipped out of his grip. Only when someone asked him what he was holding did he realise the boy was lost, and he let out a loud wail. The boy was found before long, safe in a cosy shelter under a cow's belly. The second tale is about a gang of pirates. On a rainy afternoon Bhola Grandpa told the narrator's father and his friends that he had seen pirates burying a large box under a sand dune on the seashore. They dug till past midnight, with jackals howling around them, and then Bhola Grandpa confessed that there was no treasure at all. It had all been a dream from his midday nap.

The third tale is his great adventure in the Sunderbans. Returning from the weekly market one evening, he heard the growl of a Royal Bengal tiger about five yards behind him. He climbed up a banyan tree at once. The tiger roared, circled the tree about a hundred times, and settled under a bush, watching him all night. At dawn Bhola Grandpa came down and, forgetting the tiger completely, climbed a mound and asked the first man he saw for some water to drink. The man was amazed that he had walked past the hungry beast unharmed. Only then did Bhola Grandpa remember the tiger, and he ran home in fear. He lived to the age of ninety-five, and his eighty-year-old wife said with a sigh that the old man must have forgotten to breathe.

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Key Points

Author	Manoj Das (1934-2021), Indian writer who wrote in Odia and English
Theme	The humour of forgetfulness; simple village life in the Sunderbans; adventure told with affection; an old man's forgetfulness landing him in funny and frightening spots
Characters	

	Bhola Grandpa, the forgetful old hero of the tales; his wife; the narrator, a young man who knew him closely; the narrator's father; Bhola Grandpa's grandson; the man on the mound
Setting	A village at the edge of the Sunderbans; the hut under the large bokal tree; the seashore with its sand dunes; the jungle of the Sunderbans
Grammar topics taught	Narration (direct and indirect speech); articles and prepositions
Writing topics taught	Dialogue writing; story writing

Seen Questions

A. From the Textbook (Bliss IX)

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Exercise 1: Tick the correct answer [textbook exercise]

(1) In the bokal tree there lived (a) crows (b) monkeys (c) tigers (d) sparrows.

Answer: (b) monkeys. A small troop of monkeys lived in the bokal tree that overshadowed Bhola Grandpa's hut.

(2) On the way back from the festival, Bhola Grandpa tightly held on to the two fingers of his (a) son (b) cousin (c) grandson (d) nephew.

Answer: (c) grandson. He had taken his grandson to the festival and held the boy's two fingers tightly on the way back.

(3) A gang of pirates were burying a (a) large box (b) small box (c) large bag (d) small bag.

Answer: (a) large box. The pirates were burying a large box under a sand dune on the seashore.

> **Note:** Some guide websites key this question as "large bag". That is wrong. The textbook text says the pirates were "burying a large box", so "large box" is the correct answer.

(4) Bhola Grandpa was returning from the (a) yearly (b) monthly (c) daily (d) weekly market.

Answer: (d) weekly market. He was returning from the weekly market when he heard the tiger growl behind him.

(5) Bhola Grandpa died at the age of (a) eighty-five (b) ninety-five (c) fifty-five (d) seventy-five.

Answer: (b) ninety-five. He left this world one morning at the age of ninety-five.

Exercise 2: Answer within fifteen words [textbook exercise]

(a) When did Bhola Grandpa let out a loud wail?

Answer: He let out a loud wail when he realised that his grandson, whose fingers he had held, had slipped away and was lost.

(b) Where had the grandson found a cosy shelter?

Answer: The grandson had found a cosy shelter under a cow's belly.

(c) What request did Bhola Grandpa make to the first man he saw on the mound?

Answer: He requested the first man he saw on the mound for some water to drink.

(d) How old was Bhola Grandpa's wife when he died?

Answer: Bhola Grandpa's wife was eighty years old when he died.

Exercise 3: Answer within twenty-five words [textbook exercise]

(a) Why was no real treasure found under the sand dunes?

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Answer: No real treasure was found because there was no treasure at all. It was all a dream Bhola Grandpa had during his midday nap, and he confessed this past midnight after the villagers had dug for hours.

(b) What did the tiger do after Bhola Grandpa had climbed up the banyan tree?

Answer: The tiger roared and circled the tree about a hundred times, and then settled down under a bush without taking its eyes off him.

(c) What was the reason of Bhola Grandpa's death according to his wife?

Answer: According to his wife, the reason for his death was that the old man must have forgotten to breathe.

B. From School Papers

Birbhum Zilla School 2026, Ray and Martin pp. 75-77

Passage: "Once Bhola Grandpa had a great adventure in the Sunderbans..." (the tiger circles the tree; "She said with a sigh, 'The old man must have forgotten to breathe.'")

A. Choose the correct answer from the given alternatives [1 x 3 = 3]

(i) Bhola Grandpa heard the growl of a tiger at a distance of about (a) five yards in front of him, (b) five yards at his back, (c) five feet beside him, (d) five steps behind him. **[Birbhum Zilla School 2026, Ray and Martin pp. 75-77]**

Answer: (b) five yards at his back. The text says he heard the growl at about five yards behind him.

(ii) Bhola Grandpa climbed up a (a) banyan, (b) cedar, (c) mango, (d) willow tree. **[Birbhum Zilla School 2026, Ray and Martin pp. 75-77]**

Answer: (a) banyan. He instantly climbed up a nearby banyan tree.

(iii) Bhola Grandpa died at the age of (a) eighty, (b) ninety, (c) ninety-five, (d) eighty-five. **[Birbhum Zilla School 2026, Ray and Martin pp. 75-77]**

Answer: (c) ninety-five. He died at the age of ninety-five, when his wife was eighty.

B. Answer the following questions each in a single sentence [1 x 3 = 3]

(i) How many times did the tiger circle around the tree? **[Birbhum Zilla School 2026, Ray and Martin pp. 75-77]**

Answer: The tiger circled the tree about a hundred times.

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(ii) Who was waiting on the mound for Bhola Grandpa? **[Birbhum Zilla School 2026, Ray and Martin pp. 75-77]**

Answer: A group of men was standing on a mound a little away from the tree. The text names no single man; Bhola Grandpa climbed the mound and spoke to the first man he saw.

(iii) What was the age difference between Bhola Grandpa and his wife? **[Birbhum Zilla School 2026, Ray and Martin pp. 75-77]**

Answer: Fifteen years. Bhola Grandpa died at ninety-five and his wife was eighty at that time.

C. Write 'T' for True and 'F' for False. Also provide a supporting statement [2]

The man who saw Bhola Grandpa walking past the tiger was not at all surprised. Supporting statement: _____ **[Birbhum Zilla School 2026, Ray and Martin pp. 75-77]**

Answer: F. Supporting statement: The man was much bewildered and asked Bhola Grandpa what his secret was, that he had simply walked past the hungry beast and it did nothing.

1st Summative 2026, HazarNotes Set-4

Passage: "I remember another funny incident about Bhola Grandpa related by my father..." (pirates burying a box; the tiger in the Sunderbans).

Activity 1. Write the correct answers from the given alternatives (Any Two) [1 x 2 = 2]

(i) Bhola Grandpa had seen a gang of pirates (a) at the sea shore (b) in the forest (c) at the river bank (d) in his mid-day nap. **[1st summative 2026, HazarNotes Set-4]**

Answer: (d) in his mid-day nap. The pirates were only a dream he had during his midday nap; in the dream he saw them on the seashore, burying a box.

(ii) After sunset people used to go out of door in groups because of (a) robbers (b) snakes (c) Royal Bengal Tigers (d) pirates. **[1st summative 2026, HazarNotes Set-4]**

Answer: (c) Royal Bengal Tigers. Royal Bengal tigers roamed the jungles of the Sunderbans, so people moved about only in groups after sundown.

(iii) On seeing the tiger Bhola Grandpa climbed up the (a) neem tree (b) banyan tree (c) mango tree (d) banana tree. **[1st summative 2026, HazarNotes Set-4]**

Answer: (b) banyan tree. He instantly climbed up a nearby banyan tree to save himself from the tiger.

> **Note:** In question (iii) above, option (b) is printed "banayan tree" in the source paper. That is a misprint for "banyan tree". The answer is not affected.

Activity 2. Answer the following questions [2 x 2 = 4]

(a) What were the pirates doing when Bhola Grandpa saw them? **[1st summative 2026, HazarNotes Set-4]**

Answer: The pirates were burying a large box under a sand dune on the seashore by the village.

(b) Why did people move in groups, particularly after sundown? **[1st summative 2026, HazarNotes Set-4]**

Answer: People moved in groups after sundown because Royal Bengal tigers roamed the dense jungles of the Sunderbans, and it was not safe to move about alone.

C. Additional Practice **[Additional]**

Fresh questions on the lesson, with no source. Answers are given in the same style as above.

(1) Where did Bhola Grandpa live with his wife? **[Additional]**

Answer: Bhola Grandpa lived with his wife at the western end of the village, in a hut overshadowed by a large bokal tree.

(2) On whose shoulders was the narrator riding when the party returned from the festival? **[Additional]**

Answer: The narrator was riding on the village chowkidar's shoulders when the party returned from the festival.

(3) Whom did the narrator's father choose to go back with Bhola Grandpa to look for the lost grandson? **[Additional]**

Answer: The narrator's father chose two sharp-eyed men from the party to go back with Bhola Grandpa to the festival.

(4) What sound did Bhola Grandpa hear in the tree during the night? **[Additional]**

Answer: During the night Bhola Grandpa could hear the tiger beating its tail on the dry leaves below.

(5) What was the tiger doing at dawn while Bhola Grandpa asked the man for water? **[Additional]**

Answer: At dawn the tiger was stretching its limbs and yawning, still close by under the bush.

(6) What did Bhola Grandpa do as soon as he remembered the tiger? **[Additional]**

Answer: As soon as he remembered the tiger, Bhola Grandpa almost lost his senses in fear and ran back home.

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Grammar Exercises

Exercise 4: Change the mode of narration **[textbook exercise]**

(a) Bulbuli said to his friend, "Will you come tomorrow?"

Answer: Bulbuli asked his friend if he would come the next day.

(b) Paulami says, "I am fine."

Answer: Paulami says that she is fine.

(c) The teacher said to the students, "Keep quiet."

Answer: The teacher told the students to keep quiet.

(d) My mother said to me, "May your dreams come true."

Answer: My mother wished that my dreams might come true.

(e) The students said, "Sir, please allow us to play in the field."

Answer: The students requested the teacher to allow them to play in the field.

Exercise 5: Articles and prepositions [textbook exercise]

In each sentence of the following passage some articles and prepositions are used incorrectly. Underline the wrong ones and write the correct ones in the space provided:

"On an winter night I was aboard a boat. It was a moonlit night full on stars. The boat was anchored up a great river. I was thrilled to see a beauty of nature."

Corrected passage:

"On a winter night I was aboard a boat. It was a moonlit night full of stars. The boat was anchored in a great river. I was thrilled to see the beauty of nature."

Wrong word	Correct word	Why
an (before winter)	a	"An" is used before a vowel sound; "winter" begins with a consonant sound, so "a" is correct.
on (full on stars)	of	A night is "full of" stars, not "full on" stars.
up (anchored up)	in	A boat is anchored "in" a river, not "up" a river.
a (a beauty of nature)	the	"The beauty of nature" is a definite thing being spoken of, so "the" is correct.

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Writing Practice

Exercise 6: Dialogue within 100 words [textbook exercise]

Write a dialogue within 100 words on the need to ban the use of animals like tigers and lions as circus attractions.

Hints: wild animals decreasing, ill treatment to animals in circuses, criminal offence, laws against such, need to be humane to animals.

Model dialogue:

Rahul: Have you seen the new circus? It has tigers and lions jumping through rings.

Meera: Yes, and it worries me. Wild animals are decreasing in number, and we must protect them, not cage them for shows.

Rahul: But people enjoy shows. What is wrong with them?

Meera: The animals suffer. They are beaten, kept in small cages and forced to perform tricks. Such cruelty is a criminal offence, and there are laws against it.

Rahul: Then what should we do?

Meera: We must be humane. Let wild animals live in the wild, and let us refuse to watch shows.

Exercise 7: Story within 100 words (give a title)

[textbook exercise]

Write a story within 100 words using the given hints. Give a suitable title to the story.

Hints: returning from educational excursion by bus, night journey, sudden breakdown, tyres punctured, had to wait for two hours at a lonely place, tyres fixed, back home.

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Model story:

The Night the Bus Broke Down

We were returning from our educational excursion by bus. It was a night journey. Suddenly the bus stopped with a loud noise on a lonely road. The driver got down and found that two tyres were punctured. There was no garage nearby, so we had to wait for two hours there. Some of us sang songs while others shared stories to pass the time. At last the driver fixed the tyres with the help of a truck driver. We started again and reached home safely before dawn. The night taught us that patience can turn trouble into a good memory.