



A Bottle of Dew

- *Sudha Murty*

From text to thought-

CHARACTERS

Rama Natha

Sage Mahipati

Madhumati

THEME

The main theme of Sudha Murty's story "A Bottle of Dew" is that lasting wealth and success are achieved only through hard work, patience, and practical effort, not through luck or magic shortcuts.

VALUES/ LIFE SKILLS

The story "A Bottle of Dew" emphasizes the values of hard work, perseverance, and the dignity of labour as essential life skills for achieving true success.

EVENTS

The story follows Rama Natha, who inherited wealth but became obsessed with finding a magic potion to create gold.

A wise sage tricked him into planting a banana plantation, telling him a "bottle of dew" was needed to make the trees yield magical results.

Over several years of diligent hard work, Rama Natha and his wife generated substantial wealth from selling the fruit, eventually realizing that the "magic potion" was simply a lesson in the power of their own labour and perseverance.

TEST YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1. (b) Mahipati.
2. (a) He advised him to plant mango trees and look after them.
3. (d) Human desires are endless and sometimes meaningless.
4. (b) His wisdom.
5. (c) Valuable.

REFERENCE TO THE CONTEXT-

A. *"There is no magic potion that can turn things into gold. You worked hard on your land and created this plantation. While you looked after the trees, your wife sold the fruits in the market. That's how you got this money. It was your hard work that created this wealth, not magic. If I had told you about this earlier, you would have not listened to me, so I played a trick on you."*

(i) **Who is being told that there is no magic potion?**

Rama Natha is being told that there is no magic potion.

(ii) **What according to the speaker created the wealth?**

The speaker says that their hard work and effort created the wealth.

(iii) **Find a word from the passage that is opposite of 'laziness'.**

The word is 'hard work'.

(iv) **Why did the speaker choose to trick the person instead of telling him the truth?**

The speaker chose to trick him because Rama Natha was obsessed with magic potions and would not have listened to the truth about hard work initially. The experience was a better teacher.

B. *"He spent all his time to learn more about this potion. People cheated him often, promising to tell him about it, but he did not give up. His wife, Madhumati, was tired of this and also worried because she saw how much money Rama Natha was spending. She was sure that soon they would be without money."*

(i) **Who is 'he' in the above extract?**

'He' in the above extract refers to Rama Natha.

(ii) **How did people cheat him?**

People cheated him by promising to tell him about the fake magic potion.

(iii) **Do you think his determination was admirable or foolish? Give reasons to support your answer.**

His determination was foolish because he was chasing an illusion (a magic potion) and wasting money, instead of focusing his determination on productive, real-world tasks like farming.

(iv) **Find a word from the passage that is the homophone of 'wood'.**

The word is 'would'

THINK AND ANSWER-

Short answer questions.

(i) **How did the sage prove that "wealth is created through hard work, not magic"?**

The sage had Rama Natha plant mango trees and work on the land for years. When the trees matured and their fruits were sold, a fortune was made. The sage then revealed that the "bottle of dew" was just dew, and the wealth came from the work, not magic.

(ii) **What were the consequences of Rama Natha's belief in the magic potion?**

Rama Natha wasted a lot of time and money, and people often cheated him. His wife was constantly worried they would become poor due to his obsession.

(iii) **Write a pen portrait of Rama Natha.**

Rama Nath was initially an idle, yet covetous man. He was naive, easily tricked, and obsessed with the idea of instant wealth through magic. He was determined, but his determination was misguided until the sage guided him towards hard work.

(iv) **In the present era, several youngsters often desire overnight success or constantly seek shortcuts. In light of the same, how does the story "A Bottle Dew" serve as a reminder about the importance of patience, hardwork and setting realistic goals? (word limit:100-120)**

The story serves as a reminder that patience, hard work, and realistic goals are crucial. In a world of "get rich quick" schemes and instant success myths, it highlights that genuine, lasting success is typically built over time through sustained effort. The "magic potion" is simply a metaphor for consistent, diligent work, a lesson as relevant today as it was in the story's time.

GRAMMAR–

A. Use the homophones in the box to write a short story. (word limit:100)

knight-night sun-son blew-blue road-rode aunt-ant eight-ate

A lone **knight** was riding home one **night**. The **sun** had set and his beloved **son** was waiting. The sky was a clear **blue** when a sudden wind **blew** past. He **rode** his horse quickly down the dusty **road**, thinking of his **aunt** who worked hard as an **ant**. He had not eaten for **eight** hours, but finally **ate** a hearty meal when he arrived home.

B. Read the diary entry written by the sage after Rama Natha had left, but the sage forgot to use conjunctions. Fill in the blanks with suitable conjunctions given in the box.

yet because for althrough but as and when since, for and though

Friday, July 23-2026, 8:00 P.M

Dear Diary

Today, I taught the foolish man a lesson, though he valued the bottle because it held only dew. He believed in its power and others admired it, but I knew truth must shine brighter than illusion. Though I gave him nothing magical, he became wiser and humbler. Since then, he understands value lies not in objects but in perception. I smiled, as knowledge grew, and ignorance faded—as it always does when mind and heart unite.

–Sage

LET'S BE CREATIVE–

Imagine you have discovered a mysterious bottle of dew in the forest. Describe what it looks like, how does the texture feel, and what magical or unusual qualities it might possess.

I discovered a mysterious bottle of dew glowing softly like silver moonlight in the bushes of wild musk roses. The glass feels cool and silky, as if it is alive, and tiny droplets slide across it without falling. When I touch the dew, it tingles like a whisper of magic. The liquid shimmers with flickering colours and fragrance of rain and wild musk roses. Legend says , "a single drop can heal wounds, reveal secrets paths, and allow the seeker a moment of pure, joyful calm."

Activity 1: Story-to-Message Illustration

Hard work and patience lead to real success, not blind belief in magi

Activity 2: Value Ladder

Blind belief in magic

Hope without effort

Realisation of truth

Learning the dignity of labour

Faith in hard work and honesty