

Read the extract and answer the questions that follow.

Stopping her game abruptly Mini ran to the window which overlooked the main road, and began calling out at the top of her voice...

1)Where was Mini sitting? What was she doing there?

Ans:

Mini was sitting beside her father's writing table close to his feet. She was playing the game of knick-knack with her hands and knees.

2)Who did Mini call out to from the window?

Ans:

Mini called out to a tall, shabbily dressed Afghan who was walking down the street.

3)Who was the Afghan?

The Afghan was a street vendor from Kabul with a turban on his head and a sack on his back. His name was Rahman and he was called Kabuliwala by Mini.

4)Why did Mini call out to the Kabuliwala?
What did her father think when she yelled out to him?

Ans:

Mini called out to the Kabuliwala after abruptly stopping her game of knick-knack

while still in her father's room. There was no particular reason for her to call him.

Mini's father however, thought of him as a nuisance who would come in and interrupt his writing like his daughter.

The Kabuliwala took out some raisins and apricots from inside the bag and gave it to Mini, but she refused to take them and remained pressed against my knees with a redoubled suspicion. That was how their first meeting ended.

1)What was the intention of the Kabuliwala behind offering Mini raisins and apricots?

Ans:

The Kabuliwala wanted to befriend Mini and that is why he offered her some raisins and apricots.

2)Why did Mini refuse to take the goodies from Rahman?

Ans:

Although Mini called out to the Kabuliwala from her window, she didn't expect the tall Afghan to turn around and walk in her direction. His built and the sack on his back made her believe the story that the sack had living children in it. Her fear of the stranger made her refuse the raisins and

the apricots that Rahman offered.

3) Why did Rahman want to befriend Mini?

Ans:

Mini reminded Rahman of his own little daughter who lived in Afghanistan.

Therefore, when he heard Mini calling out to him, he was drawn to her. He offered Mini the dry fruits imagining that he was giving the goodies to his own daughter.

When they became friends Mini's company helped him forget the pain of being away from his own daughter.

4) What caused the commotion on the street?

Ans:

There was commotion on the streets as the

policemen had arrested Rahman and some other street urchins and they were being walked on the streets.

5) Why was the policeman carrying a blood-stained knife?

Ans:

The policeman was carrying a blood-stained knife which Rahman had used to stab a man who owed him money. As the man had refused to pay his dues, an argument broke out between them and in a fit of anger, Rahman stabbed the man.