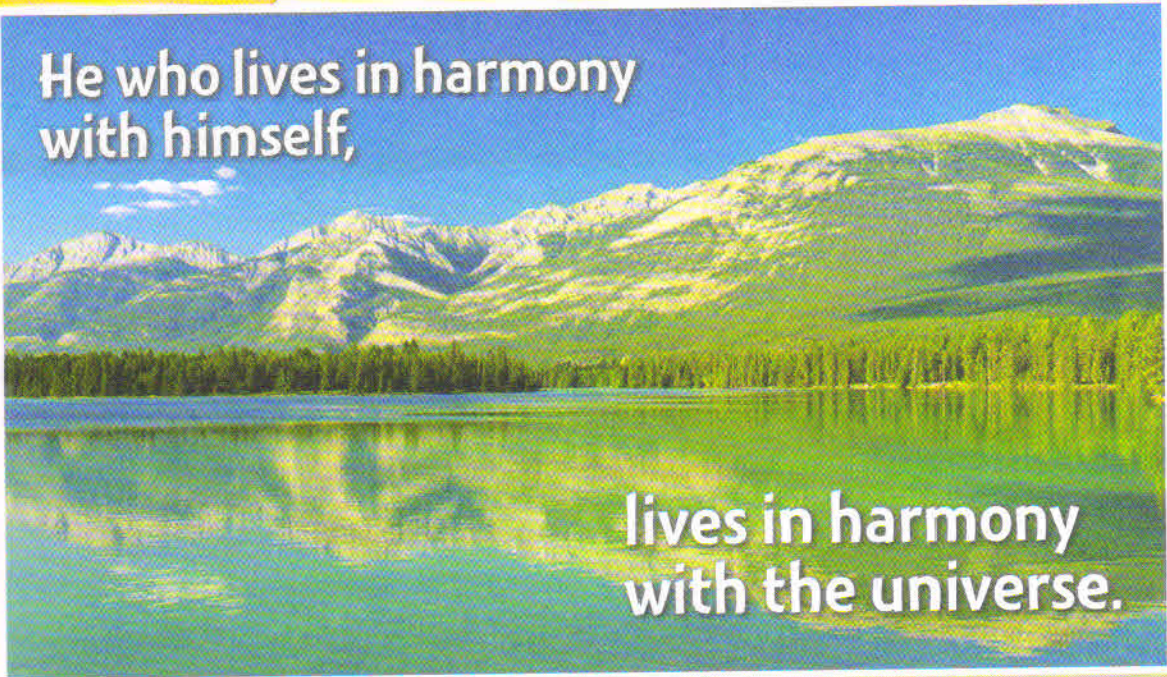


# 1 Living in Harmony

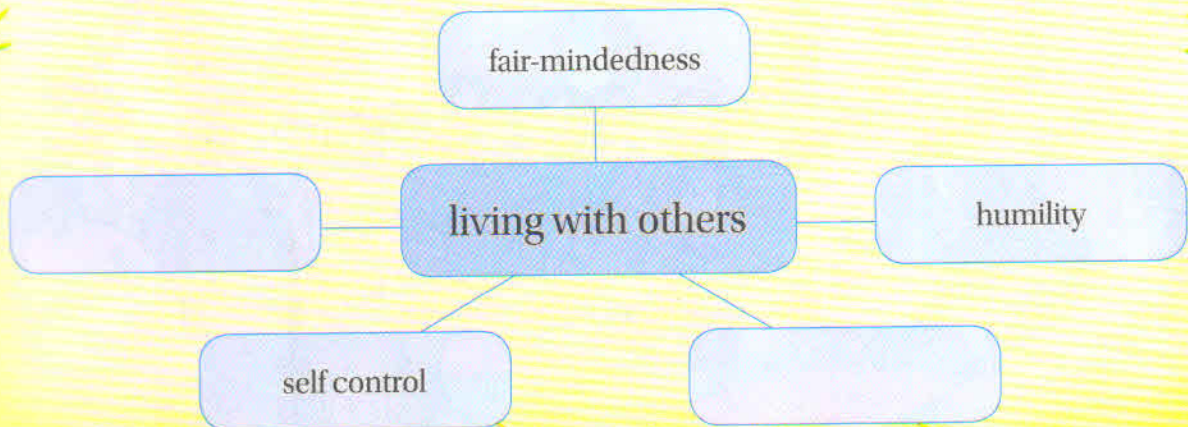
## Introduction

He who lives in harmony  
with himself,



lives in harmony  
with the universe.

- What do you think this quote means? Explain in a few lines.
- Draw a poster to show people living in harmony with each other.
- Complete this graphic organiser.





# Three Questions

Leo Tolstoy



## Warm-up

Work in pairs. Discuss these questions.

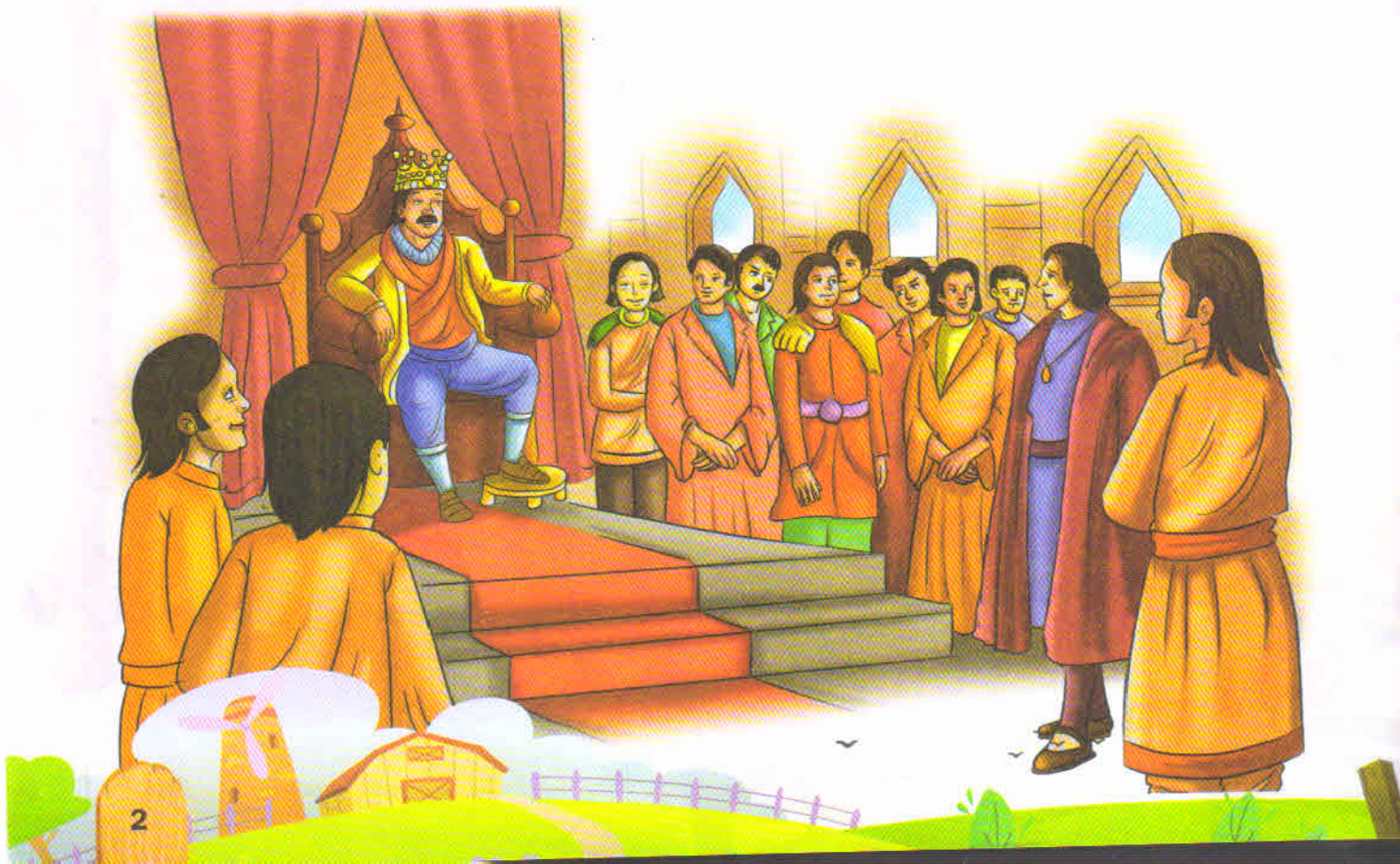
1. When does a person ask questions?
2. If you were to meet a very wise person, what three questions would you ask him/her?
3. Why would you ask these particular questions?

Once a certain King had an idea. If he always knew the right time to begin everything, if he knew who the right people were to listen to, and who to avoid, and, above all, if he always knew what was the most important thing to do, he would never fail in anything he might undertake.

Since he was convinced that he was right in thinking this way, he had a proclamation made

in his kingdom. He would give a great reward to anyone who would teach him what the right time for every action was, and who the most necessary people were, and how he might know the most important thing to do.

Many learned men came to the King, but they all answered his questions differently.





In reply to the first question, some said that to know the right time for every action, one must draw up in advance, a table of days, months and years, and must live strictly according to it. Others declared that it was impossible to decide beforehand the right time for every action; but that, not letting oneself be absorbed in idle pastimes, one should always attend to all that was going on, and then do what was most essential. Yet others said that it was impossible for one man to decide correctly the right time for every action and that the King should instead, have a council of wise people, who would help him fix the proper time for everything.

Equally varied were the answers to the second question. Some said the people whom the King needed the most were his councillors; others, the priests; others, the doctors; while some said the warriors were the most necessary.

To the third question about what was the most important occupation, some replied that the most important thing in the world was science. Others said it was skill in warfare; and to others, it was religious worship.

The King was not convinced by any of these answers and gave the reward to none. Instead, he decided to consult a hermit, widely renowned for his wisdom.

The hermit lived in a forest, which he never left. He spoke only to common folk. So the King put on simple clothes and approaching the hermit's cell,



dismounted his horse, and left his bodyguard behind.

When the King arrived, the hermit was digging the ground in front of his hut. The hermit was **frail** and weak, and each time he struck the ground with the spade and turned a little earth, he breathed heavily. The King went up to him and said, "I have come to you, wise hermit, to ask you to answer three questions—How can I learn to do the right thing at the right time? Who are the people I most need, and to whom should I, therefore, pay most attention? And what affairs are the most important and need my immediate attention?"

The hermit listened to the King but answered nothing. He just spat on his hand and resumed digging. The King watched in silence for a while. Then, feeling sorry for the hermit, he said, "You

**proclamation** announcement; declaration  
**frail** weak; feeble





are tired, let me take the spade and work awhile for you.”

The hermit silently handed over the spade and sat down on the ground. When he had dug two beds, the King stopped and repeated his questions. The hermit again gave no answer, but rose, stretched

The King turned around and saw a bearded man come running out of the forest. The man held his hands pressed against his stomach, and blood was flowing from under them. When he reached the King, he fainted and fell on the ground, moaning feebly. The King and the hermit unfastened the

man’s clothing. There was a large wound in his stomach. The King washed it as well as he could, and bandaged it with his handkerchief and a towel that the hermit had. But the blood would not stop flowing, and the King removed the bandage soaked with warm blood again and again, and washed and bandaged the wound. When at last the blood stopped flowing, the man recovered and asked for something to drink.

out his hand for the spade, and said, “Now rest awhile—and let me work a bit.” But the King did not give him the spade, and continued to dig. One hour passed, and another. The sun began to sink behind the trees, and the King at last drove the spade into the ground, and said, “I came to you, wise man, for an answer to my questions. If you can give me none, tell me so, and I will return home.”

“Here comes someone running,” said the hermit. “Let us see who it is.”

The King brought fresh water and gave it to him. Meanwhile the sun had set and it had become cool. So the King, with the hermit’s help, carried the wounded man into the hut. The man lay there quietly with his eyes closed. By now, the King was so tired with his walk and the work he had done, that he lay himself down and fell asleep. When he awoke in the morning, it took him some time to remember where he was, or who the strange bearded man was, lying by his side and gazing intently at him.





"Forgive me!" said the bearded man in a weak voice, when he saw that the King was awake and was looking at him.

"I do not know you, nor do I have anything to forgive you for," said the King.

"You do not know me, but I know you. I am that enemy of yours who swore to revenge himself on you, because you executed my brother and seized his property. I knew you had gone alone to see the hermit, and I resolved to kill you on your way back. But the day passed and you did not return. So I came out from my ambush to find you. Your bodyguards recognised me and wounded me. I escaped from them but would have bled to death had you not dressed my wound. I wished to kill you but you saved my life. Now if I live, and if you wish it, I will serve you all my life."

The King was very glad to have made peace with an enemy so easily, and to have gained him for a friend. He not only forgave him but said he would send his men and his own physician to attend to him.

The King then took leave of him and went out of the hut to look for the hermit. Before going away, he wished once more to beg for an answer to the questions he had asked. The hermit was outside, on his knees, sowing seeds in the beds that had been dug the day before.

The King approached him and said, "For the last time, I pray you to answer my questions, wise man."

"You have already been answered!" said the hermit still crouching on his thin legs and looking up at the King who stood before him.



"What do you mean?" asked the King.

"Do you not see?" replied the hermit. "If you had not pitied my weakness yesterday and stayed to dig these beds for me, you would have gone back and been killed by that man. So the most important time was when you were digging the beds; and I

<b>recovered</b>	<i>returned to life/consciousness or recover from illness</i>
<b>intently</b>	<i>with full attention</i>
<b>resolved</b>	<i>determined; committed</i>
<b>ambush</b>	<i>trap; a hidden position from which a surprise attack is made</i>
<b>crouching</b>	<i>squatting; sitting on one's heels</i>





was the most important man; and to do me good was your most important business. Afterwards, the most important time was when you were attending to that man, for if you had not attended to his wounds, he would have died without having made peace with you. So he was the most important man and what you did for him was your most important business. Remember then, there is only one time

that is important—now! It is the most important time because it is the only time when we have any power. The most necessary person is the one whom you are with, for you do not know whether you will ever have dealings with anyone else; and the most important thing is to do this person good, because for that purpose alone were you sent into this life!”



## Reading

(reading for main ideas)

### A. Answer these questions.

1. What were the three questions that the King asked?
2. What did he do to find answers to his questions?
3. Was he satisfied with the answers he received? Why/why not?
4. Whom did the King finally approach for the answers?
5. Describe the train of events that took place when the King was waiting for the answers.

### B. Choose the right options to complete these sentences.

1. The bearded man fainted because
  - a. he was tired of running too long.
  - b. he was badly wounded in the stomach.
  - c. he was frightened when he saw the King.
  - d. all of the above
2. The bearded man wanted to kill the King because
  - a. the King had taken away his kingdom.
  - b. the King had abducted his wife.
  - c. the King had executed his brother.
  - d. all of the above
3. The hermit answered the King's questions
  - a. by giving him a suitable example from his own life.
  - b. as soon as the King came to the hut.
  - c. in the night before the King fell asleep.
  - d. none of the above





**C. Think and answer.**

(reading for inference; HOTS)

1. "You have already been answered!" Explain this statement.
2. How did the hermit teach the King a lesson? What was this lesson?
3. What is your reaction to this story? Did you enjoy it? Would you recommend it to a friend? Why?
4. What opinion have you formed about the bearded man, the King's enemy?

**D. Discuss in class.**

(value-based questions)

1. Based on this story, what do you think is the importance of empathy and compassion in one's life?
2. Do you think that the present is the most important time? Why/Why not?



## Using Grammar

(modal auxiliaries)

Read these sentences from the text.

- He **would** give a great reward to anyone who would teach him what the right time for every action was, and who the most necessary people were, and how he **might** know the most important thing to do.
- How **can** I learn to do the right thing at the right time?

The highlighted words in these sentences are called **modals** or **modal auxiliaries**. These are special verbs and are different from verbs like **work, dance, sing**. They do not change their form. They give additional information about the main verb that follows it.

Modal verbs are used to express functions such as—

- |                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. <b>permission</b>        | can, could, may, might       |
| 2. <b>ability</b>           | can, could                   |
| 3. <b>obligation</b>        | must                         |
| 4. <b>prohibition</b>       | must not                     |
| 5. <b>lack of necessity</b> | need not                     |
| 6. <b>advice</b>            | should, ought to, had better |
| 7. <b>possibility</b>       | can, could, may, might       |
| 8. <b>probability</b>       | may, might                   |
| 9. <b>necessity</b>         | has/have to                  |

**A. Choose the most suitable modal verbs to complete these sentences.**

1. There are plenty of vegetables at home. You (needn't/wouldn't/couldn't) buy any from the store.



2. The teacher said we (can/must/should) do this assignment for our own knowledge, as it is optional.
3. (Will/May/Must) I enter the room?
4. (May/Can/Should) you stand on one leg for an hour?
5. Drivers (could/should/may) move only when the traffic light turns green.
6. He (mustn't/must/had better) be tired after studying for so long.
7. It is better to stay at home as it (might/should/needn't) rain soon.

**B. Choose the right answers to these questions.**

1. Which sentence expresses an ability?
  - a. Can I invite my friends for the party?
  - b. He can speak Spanish.
2. Which sentence expresses a request for permission?
  - a. May I go to watch a movie?
  - b. My father may wash his car today.
3. Which sentence expresses an obligation?
  - a. I must attend the lecture.
  - b. I might attend the lecture.
4. Which sentence expresses a possibility?
  - a. It is raining, so she must carry an umbrella with her.
  - b. It seems unlikely, but India might win this test series.
5. Which sentence expresses a request?
  - a. Could I park my car in your garage?
  - b. You could park your car in my garage.



## Using Words

(synonyms)

**Synonyms** are words that have similar or the same meaning.

- ...one should always attend to all that was going on, and then do what was most **essential**.
- ...while some said the warriors were the most **necessary**.

The two words, **essential** and **necessary**, are synonyms.

**A. In these sentences, circle the words that have the same meaning.**

1. He likes to teach in school and tutor students at home.
2. This toy is inexpensive and the jacket is cheap.
3. The boy threw the ball to his sister and she tossed it back to him.
4. The guests devoured the dessert after they had eaten the dinner.
5. The old woman was very frail and her husband was feeble.





**B. Read the sentences and tick the right answers.**

1. **Jogging** is (swimming/dancing/running/singing) at a slow speed.
2. When you **vacate** a place, you make it (empty/clean/new/different).
3. When you **secure** something, you make it (safe/unsafe/ugly/beautiful).
4. **Confuse** is the same as (clarify/simplify/baffle/dangerous).
5. When something is **ancient**, it is (kind/old/modern/huge).



## Spelling

(revision of spelling rules)

**Complete these sentences with the correctly spelt words.**

1. The bus will be (stopping/stoping) in an hour.
2. The moon had a (redish/reddish) glow today.
3. I was (hoping/hoping) to get a holiday today.
4. Let me know the (wieght/weight) of the suitcase.
5. Please let me know when you (receive/recieve) the parcel.
6. The cow has given birth to two (calfs/calves).
7. The newborn puppy is (lovable/loveable).



## Writing

(writing a dialogue)

**You are visiting your grandfather's home for the winter vacations. There you find that your grandparents are unable to use modern gadgets like smartphones, tablets and digital cameras. A dialogue ensues between your grandfather and you. Write the dialogue.**

You may begin like this.



**Me:** Hi, Grandpa! How are you this morning?

**Grandfather:** Good morning. I am fine, (your name). I was trying to download a taxi booking app but I don't seem to be able to do it. Could you have a look at it?

**Me:** Aww, Grandpa, that's as simple as pie!

**Grandfather:** ...





**HOLY TRINITY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**  
**Melpalai, Edaicode Post, K.K. District.**  
**1. A. Three Questions (Coursebook)**  
**GRADE VIII.**

**I. Answer the following questions. TBQ**

1. What were the three questions that the king asked?  
The three questions that the king asked were:
  - i. How could he learn to do the right thing at the right time?
  - ii. Who were the most important people?
  - iii. What was the most important thing to do?
2. What did he do to find answers to his questions?  
He arranged for a reward that would be given to anyone who could answer his questions correctly.
3. Was he satisfied with the answers he received? Why / why not?  
No, the king was not satisfied with the answers he received initially. This might be because none of the answers he received seemed to have convinced him.
4. Whom did the king finally approach for the answers?  
The king finally approached a wise hermit, who lived in the forest, to seek the answers to his questions.
5. Describe the train of events that took place when the king was waiting for the answers.  
The hermit did not answer the king's questions immediately and continued to dig. He appeared frail and weak, so the king took the shovel from him and began to dig. After a while, he asked the hermit the three questions again, but they were interrupted by a bearded man, who was also wounded, as he ran towards them. The king and the hermit saved his life. The king was so tired that he fell asleep and when he woke up the next morning, he was confronted by the bearded man, who apologised to him for he had come to kill the king to avenge himself, but had been wounded by the king's guards. Since the king had saved his life, he was now indebted to him. Before the king left, he asked the hermit again, who told him that the questions had already been answered and then proceeded to explain.
6. "You have already been answered!" Explain this statement.  
This statement made by the hermit refers to the fact that the king had answered his questions himself through his own acts.
7. How did the hermit teach the king a lesson? What was this lesson?  
The hermit taught the king a lesson by not answering his questions immediately and by using his own example to make him learn. The lesson was that the most important time was now, the most important person was the one next to him and the most important thing was to do good to that person.
8. What is your reaction to this story? Did you enjoy it? Would you recommend it to a friend? Why?  
Yes, I would recommend it to a friend. The hermit was wise. He used the king's own actions and took his example to teach him a lesson. Such a lesson can never be forgotten, thus the hermit turned out to be very wise.
9. What opinion have you formed about the bearded man, the king's enemy?  
The bearded man, initially, wanted to kill the king in order to avenge the death of his brother. This implies that he was full of contempt and hatred. Later on, when the king saved his life, the bearded man forgot his hatred and apologised to the king. This shows that even the bearded man learnt a lesson.



10. Based on this story, what do you think is the importance of empathy and compassion in one's life?

Empathy and compassion play a very vital role in one's life. In order to live peacefully and in harmony with others, one should always strive to understand the sentiments of others and act accordingly. If every person starts following this principle, there would be no hatred among the people and everyone would live happily, and in harmony.

11. Do you think that the present is the most important time? Why/why not?

Whenever we are in a difficult situation, taking decisions gets harder. At such times, as long as the result of our act will be good for the people around us, as long as we do good then, we can be rest assured that we are doing the right thing.