Reading Task: Sharing the Pratas

**Suggested Level:** S1-2

**Task Description**

Read the following story entitled “Sharing the Pratas” and answer the related questions.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Sharing the Pratas**  Raju and Shyam were the best of friends. They’d grown up together and now worked on the same farm, side by side. Every day they’d bring some pratas and curry and sit down to eat together.  On this particular day, as they were about to eat, a stranger greeted them as he passed by on the road. Raju and Shyam asked if he had eaten. He had not, so the two men invited him to join them.  Raju had brought three pratas and Shyam five. They divided each one into three parts and each man ate heartily the same amount. When they had finished, the stranger thanked them and took out eight silver coins by way of saying thank you for his meal.  The two friends protested – eight silver coins was far too much for a meal of pratas and curry! “Not at all,” said the stranger. “Besides, I am paying you for your kindness and company, which has been most welcome and refreshing!” And with a wave, he said goodbye and walked on.  Raju and Shyam couldn’t believe their good fortune! “Here,” said Raju, dividing the coins, “you take four and I’ll take four.”  “Excuse me, my friend,” said Shyam, “but you only brought three pratas, whereas I brought five. So I think I should have five”– and he took one coin off Raju’s pile, “and you should have three.”  “Sometimes I bring more, sometimes you bring more,” said Raju unhappily.  At that moment Shyam’s son passed by on his way home from school. Seeing their long faces, he asked, “What was the matter?” When his father had explained their problem about the eight pratas and how to divide the eight silver coins, the boy said, “Easy Dad! You should have SEVEN and Raju ONE!”  Raju was shocked! Only one? Shyam was confused. Huh? I should have seven?  “Well my friend, it’s too complicated for me,” said Raju. “I leave it up to you. Whatever you decide is fine by me.”  When he got home, Shyam told his wife what had happened. “I shared them 4 – 4 with Raju, but our son says I should have kept seven and given Raju one. Who was right?”  Shyam’s wife explained:  “There were 8 pratas, each divided into 3 parts, making 8 x 3 = 24 pieces. Each man ate the same amount (24/3) = 8 pieces.  Raju brought 3 pratas (= 9 pieces) and ate 8, leaving 1 piece for the stranger. Shyam brought 5 pratas (= 15 pieces) eat 8, leaving 7 pieces for the stranger.”  “So our son was right!” exclaimed Shyam. “Then – how can I also be right?”  “Because your answer was based on friendship, and the value of friendship is worth a lot more than three pieces of silver.” | 5  10  15    20  25  30  35 |

**Refer to the text and answer the following questions.**

1. Based on the story, decide if the following statements are True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG) by putting a tick “✓”in the appropriate boxes.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | T | F | NG |
| a) Raju shared Shyam’s pratas and curry for lunch every day. |  |  |  |
| b) Raju, Shyam and the stranger ate eight pieces of pratas each. |  |  |  |
| c) The stranger was grateful for Raju and Shyam’s kindness and the meal. |  |  |  |
| d) Raju was not happy after Shyam’s son had told him he should have one silver coin only. |  |  |  |
| e) Shyam’s son was good at mathematics. |  |  |  |

1. In line 11, what does “protested” mean?

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1. What does “company” mean in line 12?
2. Business
3. Work
4. Relationship
5. Companionship
6. Which adjective below can describe Shyam’s wife? Choose the best answer.
7. Charming
8. Mean
9. Sensible
10. Selfish
11. In line 27, what does “them” refer to?

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1. What is the theme of the story? Find evidence in the text to support your answer.

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1. If you were Shyam, how many silver coins would you take? Why?

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**Speaking Task: Short Story Recommendation**

**Task Description**

Prepare a presentation on recommending a short story.

**Situation**

You are Chris, a secondary two student. Your English teacher has asked you to prepare a presentation on recommending a short story you have read to your classmates. You can use some of the ideas from the following mind map and/or your own ideas in your presentation. You should speak for about one and a half minutes

You may use the following or your own words to begin and end your presentation.

|  |
| --- |
| Good morning/afternoon, everyone. Today, I’d like to recommend a short story to you.  I hope you will enjoy reading it too. Thank you. |

**Reading Task: Sharing the Pratas**

**Answer Key**

1. a) F

b) T

c) T

d) F

e) NG

1. Expressed disagreement or opposition (accept other appropriate answers)
2. D
3. C
4. The (eight) silver coins
5. Friendship is priceless/precious/more important than money. The last paragraph says, “The value of friendship is worth a lot more than three pieces of silver.” (accept other appropriate answers)
6. Any appropriate answers