

NCERT Solutions for Class 8 English (Poorvi)

Chapter 12 : Waiting for The Rain

Let us discuss

I Complete the table given below. One example has been done for you. Share your answers with your classmates and teacher.

What was Said	Who Said	What was Said	Who Said
1. It doesn't look encouraging.	Velu	to himself	He looked up at the sky.
2. The rains came all these years without any such consultations...	Velu		
3. So many favourable conditions but still no rain			

Answer:

What was Said	Who Said	What was Said	Who Said
1. It doesn't look encouraging.	Velu	to himself	He looked up at the sky.
2. The rains came all these years without any such consultations...	Velu	to his companions	I can't see how talking to astrologers will bring rain
3. So many favourable conditions but still no rain	officials	to Velu	Very odd

II Do you think the old woman would help Velu? If yes, why? If no, why not?

Answer: Yes, the old woman helps Velu—not by giving him rain, but by offering him a new way of thinking. She explains that just like people, the land also needs rest, which comforts and enlightens Velu during a time of hopelessness.

III Will Velu's wait continue or will it rain?

Answer: Velu's wait will not continue for long. By the end of the story, clouds begin to gather, and raindrops fall, indicating that rain has finally arrived, bringing relief and joy to Velu.

Let us discuss

I Complete the following statements given below with suitable reasons.

1. Velu asked the old woman to stop smiling because _____.
2. Velu said that it was hard not being able to work since _____.
3. Velu was confused when the old lady said that the land needed rest because _____.
4. The old lady said that it was good for the land when it didn't rain as _____.
5. Velu ran home laughing and happy because _____. Answer:
 1. there was no rain, and he felt there was nothing to smile about during such a difficult time.
 2. he had been working continuously for six years and could not bear to sit idle.
 3. he had never thought of land as something that needed rest like humans do.
 4. it allowed the land to rest and rejuvenate after years of continuous cultivation.
 5. he felt the cool breeze and saw raindrops, realizing that the long-awaited rain had finally come.

Let us think and reflect

I Read the given extracts and answer the questions that follow.

1. "...I can't see how talking to astrologers will bring rain." He decided to go to the weather office in the city and talk to someone. But the people at the weather office said they couldn't really tell him when the sky would gather clouds and bring rain. "We are at a loss ourselves!" they exclaimed. "So many favourable conditions but still no rain. Very odd!"

(i) What does the first line of the extract tell us about Velu's beliefs?

Answer: It shows that Velu is a practical and rational person. He does not believe in superstitions or relying on astrologers.

(ii) Complete the following sentence with a suitable reason.

Velu is determined to seek information about the rain because _____. (he was at a loss of words/he wants to find a practical solution to the drought affecting his farm)

Answer: he wants to find a practical solution to the drought affecting his farm

(iii) Complete the table with reference to Velu's weather office visit.

Expectation (What I think will happen)	Outcome (What actually happened)

Answer:

Expectation (What I think will happen)	Outcome (What actually happened)
Velu expected to get a clear answer or forecast about when it would rain.	The officials were themselves confused and could not give any definite answer.

(iv) Complete the following sentence with a suitable option.

The absence of rain despite favourable conditions, shows _____.

- A. lack of astrological knowledge
 - B. ineffectiveness of farmers like Velu
 - C. delay in understanding the weather
 - D. unpredictability of nature
- Answer: D. unpredictability of nature

2. "The soil, the land, the earth... shouldn't someone let the land rest a bit?" the old woman said, softly, smiling.

"Rest? Let the land rest? I don't understand," Velu looked at her, a little puzzled. "Yes, my son, that is the difficulty. You don't realise that the earth is old..."

(i) The old woman's advice was accompanied with a soft tone and a smile. What does that tell us about her?

Answer: It shows that she is wise, gentle, and calm. She speaks kindly, with care and understanding.

(ii) Fill in the blank with the correct option from those given below.

The old woman's advice _____ Velu, at that moment.

- A. failed to impress
- B. confused

- C. scared
D. made sense to Answer: B. confused

(iii) State one thing about the old woman when she referred to Velu as 'my son', while offering advice.

Answer: It shows that the old woman was affectionate, motherly, and caring in her attitude toward Velu.

(iv) Complete the following sentence with a suitable explanation.

The 'difficulty' that the old woman mentions is due to the fact that _____.

Answer: people like Velu fail to understand that even the earth needs rest after constant use.

II Answer the following questions.

1. How does the old woman convey Nature's wisdom to Velu?

Answer: The old woman explains that just as people need rest, the land also needs time to recover. She personifies the earth, showing that it has worked for centuries and must be allowed to breathe and rejuvenate.

2. The writer says, 'The fields lay untended...' Why couldn't the farmers tend to their fields in the absence of rain?

Answer: Without rain, the soil became dry, cracked, and hard. It was impossible to plough, sow seeds, or grow any crops. Hence, the farmers could not tend to their fields.

3. Support the old woman's perspective that the land needs rest just like people do.

Answer: Just as continuous work tires human beings, the earth too becomes exhausted after constant cultivation. Leaving it fallow helps it restore nutrients and moisture. This rest helps in better crop growth later.

4. What can be inferred about Velu's character based on his reaction to the drought?

Answer: Velu is hardworking, sincere, and deeply connected to his land. He feels helpless and anxious when he cannot work. His actions show that he is responsible and practical, though initially impatient.

5. What does the story suggest about the life of farmers and their relationship with nature?

Answer: The story shows that farmers are closely tied to the rhythms of nature. Their lives depend on natural events like rainfall. It also suggests that farmers must learn to respect nature's cycles, including times of rest.

6. How might the rest and care of land contribute to a balanced and sustainable ecosystem?

Answer: Resting the land prevents soil exhaustion, preserves moisture, and helps maintain its fertility. This practice supports healthy crop cycles and ensures long-term productivity, contributing to a sustainable farming ecosystem.