

Reading Comprehension - 3

Read the following passage and answer the questions given below:

Swami Vivekananda, the great soul loved and revered in East and West was born on Monday, January 12, 1863. It was the day when special worship is offered to the Ganga by millions of devotees. His mother, Bhuvaneshwari Devi, named him Vireswara. The family, however, gave him the name of Narendranath Datta, calling him, for short, Narendra, or more endearingly, Naren. The Datta family of Calcutta, into which Narendranath had been born, was well known for its affluence, philanthropy, scholarship, and independent spirit. The grandfather, Durgacharan, after the birth of his first son, had renounced the world in search of God. The father, Viswanath, an attorney-at-law of the High Court of Calcutta, was versed in English and Persian literature and often entertained himself and his friends by reciting from the Bible and the poetry of Hafiz, both of which, he believed, contained

truths unmatched by human thinking elsewhere. He derived a large income from his law practice and, unlike his father, thoroughly enjoyed the worldly life. An expert in cookery, he prepared rare dishes and liked to share them with his friends. Travel was another of his hobbies.

Narendra grew up to be a sweet, sunny-tempered, but very restless boy. Two nurses were necessary to keep his exuberant energy under control, and he was a great tease to his sisters. Naren felt a child's love for birds and animals, and this characteristic reappeared during the last days of his life. Among his boyhood pets were a family cow, a monkey, a goat, a peacock, and several pigeons and guinea-pigs. The coachman of the family, with his turban, whip, and bright-coloured livery, was his boyhood ideal of a magnificent person, and he often expressed the ambition to be like him when he grew up.

(adapted from *Swami Vivekananda-A Biography* by Swami Nikhilananda)

A. Fill in the chart with information from the passage:

- (i) Date of Birth of Swami Vivekananda:
- (ii) His mother's name:
- (iii) The name given to him by his mother:
- (iv) His father's profession:
- (v) Naren's boyhood pets were:
- (vi) His hobbies:

B. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false in the given boxes. Provide supporting statements for your answer.

- (i) Narendranath Dutta was born in an affluent family.

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(ii) Naren's father renounced worldly life.

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(iii) The boyhood ideal of Narendranath was the gardener of the house.

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C. Answer the following questions:

- (i) What was the Datta family well-known for?
- (ii) Why were two nurses necessary to look after little Naren?

D. Find words in the passage that mean the following:

- (i) respected
- (ii) practice of helping the poor and needy
- (iii) uniform

Study the flow chart and write how a school magazine is published.

Points: Formation of a committee - Notice for submission of writings - articles, stories etc - collection - editing - selection - sending to press - printing - delivery to school - distribution among students.