

Chapter 12: The Laziest King

Fill in the blanks

1. King Tadashi was known as the world's _____ king.
2. Tadashi's bed had six pillows filled with _____ from specially bred birds.
3. The king's lands were so fertile that a dropped apple seed would grow into _____.
4. Count Dag coated his soldiers and horses with _____ to make them smell fierce.
5. James John stuffed Tadashi's armor with _____ to make it look like the king was standing guard.
6. The battle lasted from night until almost _____.
7. Tadashi's subjects cheered "_____" when they defeated Count Dag's army.
8. When Tadashi woke up, he thought the battle was just a _____.
9. James John was nearly _____ tall, which was unusual for that time.
10. The chapter ends with Tadashi going back to sleep until _____.

Choose the correct meaning for each word

1. The king's quiescent nature was evident in his tendency to sleep excessively. What does "quiescent" mean?
 - a) Restlessly energetic and unable to relax
 - b) In a state of tranquil inactivity or dormancy
 - c) Pretending to sleep to avoid responsibilities
 - d) Suffering from a medical sleep disorder
2. Count Dag's army was malodorous due to the skunk cabbage coating. What does "malodorous" imply?
 - a) Gleaming menacingly in the darkness
 - b) Moving with synchronized precision
 - c) Emitting an extremely unpleasant smell

d) Heavily armored for maximum protection

3. James John demonstrated sagacity by devising the armor trick. What does "sagacity" mean?

- a) Physical strength in battle
- b) Blind loyalty to authority
- c) Artistic creativity in problem-solving
- d) Keen mental discernment and shrewdness

4. The opulent castle had fresh flowers in every room daily. What characterizes something as "opulent"?

- a) Luxuriously rich and lavish in appearance
- b) Strategically designed for military defense
- c) Minimalist and functionally austere
- d) Ancient and historically significant

5. Tadashi's subjects showed fealty despite his laziness. What does "fealty" entail?

- a) Reluctant obedience under threat
- b) A theatrical display of exaggerated respect
- c) Fierce loyalty owed to a rightful leader
- d) Periodic rebellion against authority

Multiple Choice Questions

1. What motivated Count Dag to attack King Tadashi's kingdom?

- a) Personal revenge for a past insult from Tadashi that damaged his honor
- b) Religious differences over the proper way to maintain royal gardens

- c) Jealousy of Tadashi's prosperous lands and luxurious lifestyle
- d) A prophecy warning that Tadashi would eventually conquer his lands

2. How did James John's physical appearance contribute to his role?

- a) His short stature allowed him to move unseen through the castle
- b) His six-foot height made him intimidating as a warrior
- c) His resemblance to Tadashi enabled him to impersonate the king
- d) His frail build made the armor trick more believable

3. What literary device is most prominent in describing Tadashi's bed?

- a) Hyperbole - exaggerating its comfort and luxury
- b) Metaphor - comparing it to a royal throne
- c) Onomatopoeia - mimicking sleeping sounds
- d) Flashback - recalling its creation story

4. Why did the skunk cabbage serve as an effective weapon?

- a) Its smell demoralized enemies by triggering memories of poverty
- b) Its toxic properties physically weakened opposing soldiers
- c) Its unpleasant odor created a psychological advantage
- d) Its sticky texture made weapons hard to hold

5. What does the sentry's reaction reveal about Count Dag's reputation?

- a) His distinctive smell preceded his military forces
- b) His attacks were predictable seasonal occurrences
- c) He always sent spies ahead of his main army
- d) He was known for targeting royal gardens specifically

6. How did the pillow-stuffed armor psychologically affect Tadashi's subjects?

- a) It made them question their own perception of reality
- b) It provided comforting familiarity during chaos
- c) It symbolized their king's invisible spiritual presence
- d) It created an illusion of leadership and stability

7. What makes Tadashi's final dialogue about his dream ironic?

- a) He accurately describes events he supposedly slept through
- b) He attributes James John's cleverness to his own subconscious
- c) He mistakes reality for fantasy due to his sleep addiction
- d) He unknowingly reveals secret knowledge of the battle

8. Which theme is best supported by the subjects' victory?

- a) Appearance can be more powerful than reality
- b) Laziness inspires creative problem-solving
- c) Natural leadership cannot be faked
- d) Teamwork overcomes individual weakness

9. What does the story suggest about effective leadership?

- a) Strict discipline creates the strongest armies
- b) Wealth automatically commands respect
- c) Intelligence must be paired with vigilance
- d) Physical presence is less important than earned loyalty

10. How does the narrative structure contribute to the humor?

- a) By contrasting grandiose battle scenes with Tadashi's indifference
- b) Through repetitive descriptions of the king's sleeping habits

- c) Using the villain's perspective to mock the hero
- d) Employing rhyming couplets during tense moments