

The poem

'I think I've got the answer, Miss,
The answer's forty-one!'

'The answer's nothing like it, Jake,
Just show me what you've done.'

'I've nothing here to show you, Miss,
I did it my head.'
'In that case, Jack, next time please use
The abacus instead.'

'I think I've found the trouble, Miss
The answer's fifty-three!
'I'm sorry Jack, it's nothing like,
Come here and copy me.'

The next day Jack was talking
With his dad and with his mum,
'So, Jack,' they said, 'did you find out
The answer to that sum?'

'I did,' said Jack, 'although I couldn't
Do it in my head,
I found a way to get Miss Clark
To work it out instead!'

— GEORGE ANSELL

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Summary of the poem: The poem Problem Solving by George Ansell is a fun- filled poem. The poem describes how a child cunningly coerces his teacher to show him how to solve a particular problem. Jack, the child in the poem does not want to work on the problem on his own may be because he was lazy to work on the abacus.

The poem also described Jack to be confident and clever as he was solving the problem in his mind and was continuously giving the wrong answer. Jack's cleverness got him to get the right answer from his teacher.

The poem explains that it is important to be confident, clever and independent and to have problem solving abilities so that small as well as big problems can be handled in life.

About The poem

Read to Understand

A. Match the lines from the poem with their meanings.

1. I did it in my head ----b) I solve the sum mentally.
2. The answer's nothing like it---- d) It is not the correct answer.
3. Come here and copy me---a) Let me solve the sum for you.
4. I think I've found the trouble----c) I have found my mistake.

B. Answer the questions with reference to the context.

'I think I've got the answer, Miss,
The answer's forty-one!'

1. Who says these lines?

Ans: Jack, one of the students of the class says these lines.

2. How does the speaker get the answer ?

Ans: The speaker gets the answer as he did it in his head.

3. What does the teacher tell the speaker?

Ans: The teacher tells the speaker that the answer's nothing like it. In that case, use abacus instead.

C. Answer these questions briefly.

1. How many attempts did Jack make to solve the sum ?

Ans: Jack attempted twice to solve the sum.

2. Why did Jack have nothing to show the teacher?

Ans: Jack has nothing to show the teacher because he did the calculation in his mind.

3. What was the easy way that Jack found to solve the sum?

Ans: He went to Miss Clark and copied the answer.

Discuss and write

1. Jack's parents knew that he had difficulty in solving a sum. Why do you think they did not solve the sum for him?

Ans: Jack's parents knew that he had a problem in solving a sum but they did not solve the sum for him because they wanted him to be an independent child.

2. Jack repeatedly did the sum incorrectly so the teacher worked it out for him. Do you think getting others to solve your problems is right? Give reasons for your answer.

Ans: No, I don't think getting others to solve our problems is right because assignments or problem sums are given in class for our practice and it helps teachers determine how well the lessons and

