



മിണിപുരം റിപ്പബ്ലിക് (എം) (M)

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)**

Government of Manipur

**CLASS IX**  
**ENGLISH LITERATURE READER**  
**CHAPTER 3 - THE PRINCESS WHO WANTED THE MOON**  
**JAMES THURBER**

**NOTES**

*The Princess Who Wanted the Moon* is an interesting story written by James Thurber. The story is full of wit and humour and ends on a soft and delicate note.

*The Princess Who Wanted the Moon* is about a princess whose name was Lenore and who was ill because of eating too many raspberry tarts. And she would get well only after getting the moon. So, the worried King summoned his wise men and told them to get the moon. The first to come along was the High Lord Chamberlain. He said that nobody could get the moon because the moon was 35,000 miles away, bigger than the Princess' room and also made of copper. Then, came the Royal Wizard and the Royal Mathematician and they also gave negative responses. The sad King turned to the Court Jester for comfort and he narrated what the wise men said. The Court Jester listened attentively to the king and suggested that they should hear the Princess' opinion about the moon. For the Princess, the moon was a tiny, golden thing not as high as the big tree outside her window. Then, the Court Jester asked the Royal Goldsmith to make a tiny, round golden moon and to hang it on a golden chain so that the Princess could wear it around her neck. The Princess was overjoyed to get the moon and got well again.

However, the King again had a problem. He was worried that when the moon rose at night, the Princess would see it and come to know her moon was not the real one and then fall ill again. So, he called his three wise men once again and asked for suggestions for hiding the moon from her. The impracticality of their suggestions angered the king and he sent them away. Then, he sought the company of the Court Jester and like the first time, the Court Jester came to his rescue again.

The witty Court Jester went to the Princess' bedroom and found her looking out of the window at the shining moon. Pretending sadness, he asked the Princess how the moon could be shining outside when it was hanging around her neck. Finding the question silly, the Princess laughed and explained that it was because when the old moon was gone, a new one came up and took its place as it was with other things like her tooth or the flowers in the Royal Garden. Saying thus, she fell asleep. Then, the Court Jester tucked the sheets around her and left her bedroom.



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