

5 **READING COMPREHENSION ACTIVITY**

Mister Bean

Once upon a time many years ago, there lived an affluent farmer in a small province of Western Colombia. The farmer, Mister Bean, lived on a big three-story house high on a hill above the Sixth Avenue. He used to hire many farmworkers in order to grow coffee in a small farm he **owned** beyond Candle Area (between Grassland and Flowered). Each year, as the rains ceased pouring down, Mister Bean had to decide how to provide for all his farmworkers during the coming year.

One day, Mister Bean was thinking about the coffee crop of the coming growing season. "I believe that 45 hectares of my land, being worth five bushels of coffee beans per hectare, will produce enough coffee for export next year, but who should do the farming? I'll give Bob and Fred the responsibility of growing the coffee." So Bob and Fred were called for an audience in Mister Bean's house.

"Bob, you will farm on the 30-hectare lot and Fred will farm the 15-hectare lot," Mister Bean began. "I will give Bob 30 bushels of coffee seeds and 30 pounds of fertilizer (twenty pounds of fertilizer are worth two bushels of coffee beans). Fred will get 15 bushels of coffee seeds and 15 pounds of fertilizer. I will give each of you an ox to pull a plow, but you will have to make arrangements with mister Crazyplower, the plowmaker, for a plow. The oxen are only three years old and have never been used for farming, so they should be useful for the next 10 years. Take good care of them because an ox is worth 50 bushels of coffee beans. Come back next year and return the oxen and the plows along with your harvest."

At the end of the growing season, Bob and Fred returned to Mister Bean's house in order to account for the tasks they were given. Bob presented a completely exhausted ox, a broken plow (that could not be repaired), and 220 bushels of coffee beans. He **owed** mister Crazyplower, five bushels of coffee beans for the plow he got from him. Bob used up the fertilizer and seed. He reminded Mister Bean that he had taken 25 bushels for his own personal use; "and you have unpaid utilities for 20 bushels of coffee beans," finally said Bob.

Fred spoke next. He presented 100 bushels of coffee beans, a partially used ox, and a plow (useful for the next four years), for which he gave mister Crazyplower 5 bushels of coffee beans from his harvest. He, too, spent all his seed and fertilizer. He reminded Mister Bean that he took 35 bushels in advance; "and your unpaid utilities are worth 10 bushels of coffee beans," finally said Fred.

"You did well", said Mister Bean. The two farmworkers got their emoluments and departed. After they had left, Mister Bean began to think about what had happened. "Yes" he thought, "they did well, but I wonder which one did better."

ACTIVITY

1. For Bob's farm, prepare balance sheets as of the beginning and end of the growing season.
2. For Bob's farm, prepare an income statement for the season.
3. For Fred's farm, prepare balance sheets as of the beginning and end of the growing season.
4. For Fred's farm, prepare an income statement for the season.
5. Which farmworker (Bob or Fred) did better? Why?

Please help to save a tree. For your answers use the back side of this worksheet
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