Before You Read: New Words and Exercises

monk རུལ། monastery རོག་པ། share(d) བཅུམ་པ་ thin གོམ་རོལ། fight རིད་པ། prepare ལོག་པ་ knife གོ། return གོ་དེར་བ། deity བལ།

Exercises: New Words

1. Fill in the blanks with words from the story: དགོ་བོད་ཀྱིས་ཐོབ་ནས་ནོ་རེ་བཞིན་ནོ།

   a. Tsereng had been a____________for many years. People paid him to

      ______________________________.
b. Tsereng ____________ for his knife. He looked under the rock. He looked in the tent. Finally, he ______________ it.

c. He thought, “This sheep looks ___________. It is very ___________.”

2. People can **search** for many things. What have you searched for? Talk to a partner.

3. Have you ever been to a monastery? What was it like?

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Exercises: The Story
Tashi and Tsereng were brothers. Tashi was a monk. He lived in a monastery. Tsereng was a butcher. He lived in Kouman.

Tsereng had been a butcher for many years. People paid him to kill their yak or sheep. Tsereng used the money to buy food. He shared the food with Tashi.

One day, Tsereng walked by a tent. An old woman and a young man lived there.

The old woman asked, “Tsereng, please kill our sheep.”

Tsereng looked at the sheep. He thought, “This sheep looks sick. It is very thin.”

Tsereng told the old woman, “I do not want to kill this sheep. It is too thin.”

The woman said, “You are a butcher. You must kill this sheep!”

Tsereng did not want to fight with the woman. He put grass and water in front of the sheep. The sheep would not eat or drink.

Tsereng prepared his knife. He left the knife on a rock. He went into the tent. When he returned, the knife was gone. The sheep had hidden it. Tsereng searched for it. He looked under the rock. He looked in the tent. Finally, he found it.

He thought, “This sheep is like a human. It does not want to die. I should not have become a butcher. It is wrong to kill animals for money.”

Tsereng brought the sheep up a mountain and left it. He felt so sad about killing animals. He decided to jump off the mountain. After he jumped, Tsereng began to fly. He was a deity.

When Tashi heard this, he was angry. He thought, “Tsereng killed animals for money and became a deity. If I jump off the mountain, I will become an even better deity.”
Tashi jumped off of the mountain and died.
Grammar: The Tenses

There are three core tenses in English: PAST, PRESENT, and FUTURE.

Past: I searched for the knife. I search for the knife. I will search for the knife.

Present: NOTE: In present tense, HE/SHE/IT have an S at the end.

Future: Ex: རྩེ་ཡོད། He searches for the knife.

It searches for the knife.

She searches for the knife.

The sentences.

a. Tashi was a monk. ______________

b. He decided to jump off the mountain. ______________

c. He lived in a monastery. ______________

d. I will become an even better deity. ______________

e. This sheep looks sick. ______________

f. You are a butcher. ______________

Practice: Answer the questions using the correct tense.

a. What did Tsereng buy with his money? གཅོད་ལྡན་འཇོག་ཁོ་ལོང་ཞིང་བོད་ལ་སྣང་།
b. Why did the old woman ask Tsereng to kill her sheep? མཐུན་ཆི་ཡིན།

c. What does the sheep look like? ལུག་དེ་གི་བཞིན་ིན་

d. Why doesn’t Tsereng want to kill the sheep? ཆུ་ཞིག་ལ་ཙང་མིན་དེ་འདོད་པའི་མི་མཚན་ིའི་

e. What does Tashi think will happen if he jumps off the mountain? སྐབས་ཉིད་གཞིན་ི་ལྷའི་

Part 1: Circle the name of the correct person.

a. He thought, “Tsereng killed animals for money and became a deity. If I jump off the mountain, I will become an even better deity.” (Tsereng/ Tashi/ The Woman)
b. He thought, “This sheep looks sick. It is very thin.” (Tsereng/ Tashi/ The Woman)
c. She asked, “Tsereng, please kill our sheep.” (Tsereng/ Tashi/ The Woman)
d. He lived in Kouman. (Tsereng/ Tashi/ The Woman)
e. She said, “You are a butcher. You must kill this sheep!” (Tsereng/ Tashi/ The Woman)
f. He put grass and water in front of the sheep. (Tsereng/ Tashi/ The Woman)
g. He lived in a monastery. (Tsereng/ Tashi/ The Woman)

Part 2: What did Tashi think and feel about Tsereng?

Write a diary entry from Tashi’s perspective.

Dear Diary,

Today ________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________

. I feel __________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

Comprehension Questions: Follow the instructions below

Part 1: Circle the name of the correct person.

Part 2: What did Tashi think and feel about Tsereng?

Write a diary entry from Tashi’s perspective.
Tomorrow, I will jump off of the mountain and become a deity.

Tashi

Part 3: Answer the question and discuss in a group

Why do you think Tsereng became a deity but Tashi died?

Simplified English text by Rose Hyson.