

Class 7 English

THE FIGHT

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THEME

.Be true to yourself and you can handle any situation.

.Balance between friendship and competition.

SUMMARY

“Amigo Brothers” tells the story of Antonio Cruz and Felix Vargas, teenage best friends who live and breathe the sport of boxing. They train together whenever they can and share an encyclopedic knowledge of the sport and its stars. Their passion for boxing is a positive element of their lives that has kept them away from gangs and drugs, which are prevalent in their New York City neighborhood.

One day, Antonio and Felix learn that they are set to fight each other in an elimination bout that will determine which of them goes on to compete in the Golden Gloves—the first step towards a real professional fighting career.

Initially, the two friends pretend that their upcoming fight changes nothing. However, they soon agree that they should separate until the fight in order to train independently. In addition to physical training, both Antonio and Felix work to get into the right psychological state to fight their best friend.

On fight night, Tompkins Square Park is filled with cheering fans. Because they know each other so well, Felix and Antonio are able to counter each other's every move throughout the fight. Both boys are battered and exhausted by the end of the fight, but when the final bell sounds, they immediately embrace in shared triumph, and the crowd cheers. Before the winner of the fight can be announced, Felix and Antonio walk away, arm in arm.

MESSAGE

True friendship lasts forever, even after a great fight.

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

A. Choose the correct answers.

1. b. 2. c. 3. a. 4. b. 5. c

B. Read these lines and answer the questions.

1. Antonio glanced at Felix, who kept his eyes purposely straight ahead.

a. Where were Antonio and Felix?

Ans. Antonio and Felix were running along a river's edge.

b. Why did Antonio glance at Felix and why did Felix look purposely ahead? How do you think they were feeling?

Ans. Both Antonio and Felix must have been feeling rather awkward and uncertain at this point. They knew they were going to fight each other in a few days. They both were wondering how the fight might affect their friendship and how they should interact with each other. Antonio looked at Felix to see how he might be feeling. Felix looked purposely ahead because he was not ready to face Antonio yet.

2. "Yeah, it would be better for our heads."

a. What did the speaker and listener agree to do? Why?

Ans. The speaker and the listener -Antonio and Felix -agreed not to see each other till the day of their fight. They decided this because they thought it would be a good idea to face each other directly at the fight as competitors, rather than keep meeting as friends before the fight

b. What else did they agree?

Ans. They also agreed to face each other at the fight as two strangers who want the same thing - to fight equally, without trying to spare the other or letting their friendship come in the way of the fight.

3. "Let's have a clean fight."

a. Who said this to whom?

Ans. The referee said this to the two fighters- Antonio and Felix.

b. What does 'a clean fight' mean in the context?

Ans. In this context 'a clean fight' means a match fought fairly and honestly where each fighter tries his best and none tries to defeat the others by any unfair means.

c. Do you think the fight they followed was clean?

Ans. Yes, the fight that followed was a clean fight as both fighters fought as hard as they could. They did not try to spare each other because they were friends. In fact, they were only concerned with putting up a good fight, so they did not even wait to hear the result.

4. If Felix had any doubt about their friendship affecting their fight, it was being neatly dispelled.

a. Where was Felix?

Ans. Felix was in the ring, fighting a boxing match with Antonio.

b. Why might he have had doubts about their friendship affecting their fight?

Ans. He might have had doubt about his friendship affecting their fight because he and Antonio were great friends. When they had learnt that they were going to fight each other, they had been wondering whether their friendship was going to affect their fight (or vice versa) - whether they would fight less hard, try not to hurt each other or try to make the other person win.

c. How was his doubt being dispelled?

Ans. If Felix had any doubt it was been dispelled by the way Antonio was fighting and hitting back at him Antonio was not pulling punches at all and neither was Felix himself.

APPRECIATING THE TEXT

1. a roar of approval for good sportsmanship. From this text, what do you understand by the term 'sportsmanship'? Were the two boxers good sportsmen? Why or why not?

Ans. From this text 'sportsmanship' seems to mean the quality of participating in a sport honestly and to the best of one's abilities. It means the spirit of fairness where the sports person does not let other emotions, even positive emotions like affection, affect his performance.

Yes, the two boxers were good sportsman. We know this because they fought as well as they could, without letting their friendship affect their fight. They did not even wait to hear the result because winning was not as important as fighting fairly.

2. Read the ending of the story. The text leaves a question unanswered and yet brings a sense of satisfaction.
 - a. What is the unanswered question and why do we get a sense of satisfaction?

Ans. The unanswered question at the end of the story is who won the match. In spite of not knowing this, we get a sense of satisfaction as we see that Antonio and Felix remain great friends.

- b. Why do think this question was left unanswered?

Ans. At the end of this story, after fighting as hard as they could, the two fighters hugged each other and left the ring together, without waiting to know who had won the match. This proved that what mattered the most to the two boys was boxing itself - the importance of fighting well - and their friendship. They did not care to find out who had won the match. The question was left unanswered to stress the importance of friendship and sportsmanship over success and failure.