The competition was a really tough one. Much tougher than Aamir could have imagined. HPS Sangwan bagged the runners-up position while Shantanu won the best debater award.

In the next debate competition sponsored by YMCA, the HPS team bagged the top spot with Aamir being declared the best speaker.

You have made it to the final eleven," he told Sangwan on his way back. "The Mumbai Reds have four left-handers in their batting line-up. Your invoicing can prove very effective against them. You still have a couple of games to go. Practice your mensuration. You are also a better batsman than Shantanu you know.

"Thanks," Sangwan declared as he shook his captain's hand and went back to the nets with his feet barely touching the ground.

The next day after nets Sangwan and Aamir had their usual session in the standard practice ground, which Aamir had got for free. Aamir had taken permission from the Principal to be with Sangwan.

"Sangwan," Aamir called out. "Sangwan," Sangwan looked up at him. "It was Shantanu. His face looked tense, as if he was about to cry. "Why do you weep, Shantanu?"

"I want to be selected," Sangwan sobbed. "I have never made it to the final eleven. Why don’t you talk to our Coach about it?"

"I will," Aamir declared. "Now, let me tell you why. You have been selected for the inter-divisional meet."

"What!" Sangwan gasped. "Are you joking?"

"Aamir," he urged, "I don’t want to fight with you. I want to get out of here.

"No," Sangwan declared, "I want to study."

"That’s good," Aamir declared. "But first you have to get through the Inter-divisional meet."

Sangwan knew. He had an idea. Something had to be done. He scratched his head and then said with a knock on the door. "Aamir, can you come in?"

"Sure," Aamir declared. "What’s up?"

"My father has a piece of land in the forest..."

Aamir frowned. "What about it?"

"I want to cultivate it."

"You do?"

"Yes, I want to grow groundnuts, which Aamir had got for free."

"How much money do you need?"

"Not much."

"I will give you what you need."

"Thank you, Aamir.

Sangwan knew that Aamir was the only person who could help him. He had never failed him before.

As Sangwan hurried back to the nets, Aamir declared, "I will tell you how much money you need."

"Thank you, Aamir," Sangwan declared as he went back to the nets with a smile and a determination to win.

Questions:

1. What was the reason for Sangwan’s sadness?
2. What did Aamir promise to do for Sangwan?
3. How did Sangwan plan to get out of the Inter-divisional meet?
4. What was Aamir’s promise to Sangwan?
5. What was the condition for Sangwan to cultivate the land in the forest?

Answers:

1. Sangwan was sad because he had not been selected for the Inter-divisional meet.
2. Aamir promised to help Sangwan get through the Inter-divisional meet.
3. Sangwan planned to get out of the Inter-divisional meet by cultivating groundnuts for free and then selling them to Aamir.
4. Aamir promised to help Sangwan get enough money to pay for his father’s land cultivation.
5. Aamir promised to help Sangwan cultivate groundnuts for free and then sell them to him.