



# The Wise Minister

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## Warm Up

Look at the picture. Find the things shown below.



To observe is to look carefully. If you can notice people and things around you exactly, you have powers of observation. This is a story about a person with great powers of observation.

There once lived a king who had a wise and clever minister called Chatur, who seemed to know everything. The king came to the conclusion that Chatur could read minds. Chatur protested that he couldn't, that he only observed things, but the king refused to believe him and so they quarrelled.

"Everyone says you can read minds and you won't even show me how you do it," the king said angrily.

"I truly cannot read minds, sire," Chatur said quietly.

"I don't believe what he says. I will trick him into

came to the conclusion started to believe  
protest disagree  
sire a word used to address a king

proving he can," thought the king, giving Chatur a sly look.

"Let's go riding," the king said to Chatur. Chatur and the king rode into the nearby forest and came across a man.

"Chatur, do you see that man there?" asked the king.

"Yes, sire," said Chatur.

"What do you think he does for a living?" the king asked.

"He is a carpenter, Your Majesty," Chatur replied without hesitation.

"And what is his name?" the king asked craftily.

"The same as mine, Chatur," said the minister.

The king gave him a sharp look and said, "Give him some money. He looks hungry and in need of food."

"That's not necessary, sire," said Chatur, "he's not hungry. He's just eaten some sweets."

"You appear to know a lot about a total stranger," the king said stonily. "Now let's ask him and see if you are right."

"Of course he is," the king thought peevishly, "he can read minds."

a sly look a look showing you know something that others do not  
do for a living the work you do to earn money  
without hesitation without stopping, right away  
craftily cleverly  
stonily showing no feeling  
peevishly in a bad-tempered way



They rode up to the man. "Are you a carpenter named Chatur, and have you just eaten some sweets?" asked the king.

The man looked up in surprise. "Yes I am, and yes, I've just eaten some sweets. But how do you know that?"

"Never mind," said the king, glaring at his minister.

When they returned to the palace, the king sent for all his ministers and courtiers and told them how Chatur knew so much about a total stranger. "And you still say you can't read minds!" snapped the king, looking at Chatur.

"I cannot read minds, sire," Chatur insisted without heat. "All I did was make sense of what I saw. I knew the man's name because when you took my name, he turned around. I knew he was a carpenter from the way he was checking the trees, chipping off bits to see if the wood was hard. As for the sweets, there were some flies buzzing around his mouth."

The king began to smile and then shouted with laughter. "You've not only shown me you don't read minds, but also that I don't understand what my eyes see! For we both saw the same things!"

Chatur sighed with relief. Being around an angry king is very uncomfortable.

*never mind* a way of saying "let it be" without heat without getting angry  
*sigh with relief* let out a long deep breath because you feel happy that something bad has not happened  
*uncomfortable* something that causes problems and worries

