



Name _____

Class _____ Roll no. _____

Out of the box thinking

Once there was a poor man. He had a son, Hamid, who was very intelligent. The poor man owed a large sum of money to a roadside dhaba owner. The dhaba owner, a cruel and cunning man, wanted Hamid to work as a helper in his dhaba. So he proposed a bargain. He said he would forgo the poor man's debt if he let Hamid work at his dhaba. But the poor man wanted his child to go to school, not work. So the cunning dhaba owner suggested a way out. He told them he would put a black and white pebble into an empty bag. Then Hamid would have to pick one pebble.

1. If Hamid picked the black pebble, he would drop out of school, work at the dhaba, and his father's debt would be forgiven.
2. If he picked the white pebble, he need not drop out of school or work at the dhaba, and his father's debt would still be forgiven.
3. But they would have to pay double the owed amount if Hamid refused to pick a pebble or tried to run.

They were standing on a pebble-strewn path. As they talked, the dhaba owner bent over to pick up two pebbles. As he picked them up, the sharp-eyed Hamid noticed that he had picked up two black pebbles and put them into the bag. He then asked Hamid to pick a pebble from the bag. Now, imagine that you were standing in the field. What would you have done if you were Hamid? What advice would you give Hamid?
