

## Reading Comprehension 13- Passage

### Grade 5

#### MAHENDRA SINGH DHONI - THE CAPTAIN COOL

Mahendra Singh Dhoni, affectionately known as 'Captain Cool' or simply 'Mahi', was born on July 7, 1981, in Ranchi, a small city in Jharkhand, India. His journey from a small-town boy to becoming one of India's most celebrated cricket captains is a remarkable story of perseverance and determination.

In his early days, Dhoni wasn't focused on cricket. He excelled in badminton and football during his school years. His football coach noticed his exceptional goalkeeping skills and suggested he try wicket-keeping in cricket. This casual suggestion changed the course of Dhoni's life forever.

Life wasn't easy for young Dhoni. Coming from a middle-class family, his father Pan Singh worked as a junior manager in a construction company. To support himself and chase his cricketing dreams, Dhoni took up a job as a ticket collector at Kharagpur railway station. He would work during the day and practice cricket in the evenings, often traveling long distances just to play in local matches.

The turning point in Dhoni's career came when he was selected for the Bihar Ranji team in 1999. Despite his talent, Dhoni faced numerous rejections and setbacks. Cricket selectors often overlooked him because he wasn't from a major cricket-playing city. However, Dhoni never lost hope. He continued to work hard, improving his unique batting style and wicket-keeping skills.

His persistence paid off when he was finally selected for the Indian cricket team in 2004. Dhoni's rise to fame began with a spectacular 148-run innings against Pakistan in 2005, followed by a breathtaking 183 not out against Sri Lanka. His powerful hitting and unconventional batting technique quickly made him a fan favorite.

In 2007, Dhoni was appointed captain of the Indian Twenty20 team, leading India to victory in the first-ever ICC T20 World Cup. His calm demeanor under pressure earned him the nickname 'Captain Cool'. Dhoni's greatest achievement came in 2011 when he led India to victory in the ICC Cricket World Cup after a 28-year wait. The sight of Dhoni hitting the winning six remains one of cricket's most iconic moments.

What makes Dhoni special isn't just his cricket achievements but also his humble nature and leadership style. He never blamed his teammates for losses and always gave them credit for

victories. Dhoni believed in giving opportunities to young players and standing by them during difficult times.

After a glorious international career spanning 16 years, Dhoni announced his retirement from international cricket on August 15, 2020. However, he continues to inspire millions with his journey from a small-town railway employee to becoming one of cricket's greatest captains. Dhoni's story teaches us that with hard work, perseverance, and self-belief, even the most challenging dreams can be achieved.

### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Where and when was Mahendra Singh Dhoni born?
2. What sports did Dhoni excel in during his school years?
3. What job did Dhoni take to support himself while pursuing cricket?
4. In which year was Dhoni selected for the Indian cricket team?
5. What major achievement did Dhoni accomplish in 2011?
6. Why was Dhoni nicknamed 'Captain Cool'?
7. When did Dhoni announce his retirement from international cricket?
8. What was the turning point in Dhoni's cricket career?

### VOCABULARY QUESTIONS

9. Find a word from paragraph 2 that means "very good or impressive."
10. What does 'perseverance' mean as used in the first paragraph?
11. Find a synonym for 'overlooked' in the passage.
12. What does 'unconventional' mean as used in paragraph 5?

### GRAMMAR QUESTIONS

13. Identify the proper noun in this sentence: "Dhoni was appointed captain of the Indian Twenty20 team."
14. Change this sentence into passive voice: "Dhoni led India to victory in the ICC Cricket World Cup."
15. Identify the adjective in this phrase: "his humble nature and leadership style."

16. Rewrite this sentence using the past continuous tense: "He works during the day and practices cricket in the evenings."

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## ANSWER KEY

### Comprehension Answers:

1. Mahendra Singh Dhoni was born on July 7, 1981, in Ranchi, Jharkhand, India.
2. Dhoni excelled in badminton and football during his school years.
3. Dhoni worked as a ticket collector at Kharagpur railway station.
4. Dhoni was selected for the Indian cricket team in 2004.
5. In 2011, Dhoni led India to victory in the ICC Cricket World Cup.
6. Dhoni was nicknamed 'Captain Cool' because of his calm demeanor under pressure.
7. Dhoni announced his retirement from international cricket on August 15, 2020.
8. The turning point in Dhoni's career was when he was selected for the Bihar Ranji team in 1999.

### Vocabulary Answers:

9. Exceptional
10. Perseverance means continuing to try despite difficulties or delays in achieving success.
11. Rejected
12. Unconventional means not based on or conforming to what is generally done or believed.

### Grammar Answers:

13. The proper noun is "Indian".
14. India was led to victory in the ICC Cricket World Cup by Dhoni.
15. The adjective is "humble".
16. He was working during the day and was practicing cricket in the evenings.