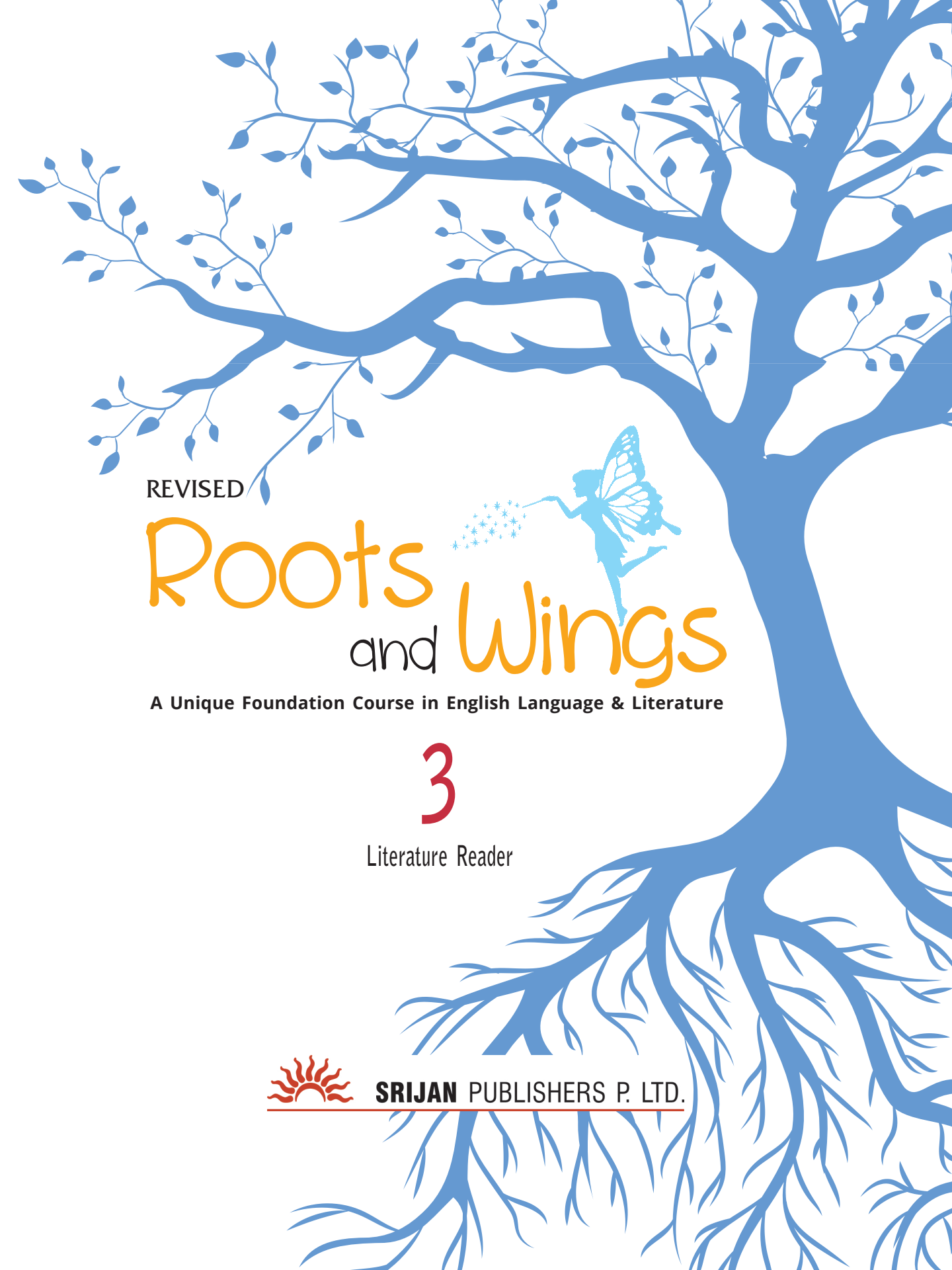




REVISED

Roots and Wings

A Unique Foundation Course in English Language & Literature

3

Literature Reader



SRIJAN PUBLISHERS P. LTD.

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1 Kind-hearted Siddhartha

This story tells us about Siddhartha's feeling towards an injured bird. The bird was injured by his cousin brother, Devdutta. Devdutta wanted the bird but Siddhartha refused to give him. There was an argument between the two. At last, they went to the king. Read what happens.

Gautam Buddha was called Prince Siddhartha when he was a child.



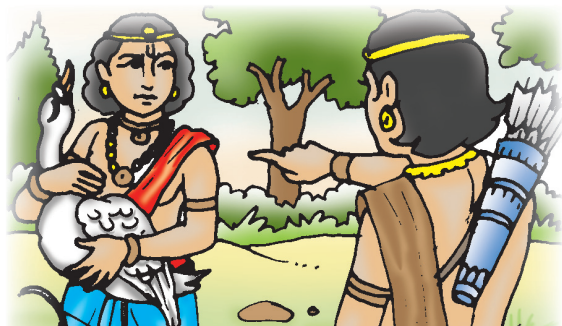
One day, Prince Siddhartha was playing in a garden.



Suddenly, a swan fell near his feet. It had been hit by an arrow.



Siddhartha took out the arrow from the bird. He then applied medicine to its **wound**. He also fed it with grains.



After some time, Devdutta came and said, "Give me this bird. I shot it with my arrow." Devdutta was the cousin brother of Siddhartha.



Siddhartha said, "I will not give this bird to you. I have saved its life." Devdutta said, "Let's go to the king. He will **decide**."



Both went to the king. The king said, "The swan belongs to Siddhartha. One who saves life is greater than one who kills."

NEW WORDS

wound: an injury in a part of the body

decide: to think carefully about the different choices and choose one of them

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

A. Tick (✓) the right answers.

1. Who shot the swan?

(a) Siddhartha. ☐ (b) Devdutta. ☐ (c) Charudatta. ☐

2. Who took out the arrow from the swan?

(a) Devdutta. ☐ (b) Charudatta. ☐ (c) Siddhartha. ☐

3. The swan was given to

(a) Siddhartha. ☐ (b) Devdutta. ☐ (c) Charudatta. ☐

3. The swan was given to

(a) Siddhartha. ☐ (b) Devdutta. ☐ (c) Charudatta. ☐

B. Answer these questions.

1. What was Gautam Buddha's childhood name?
2. How did Siddhartha save the life of the swan?
3. What did the king say?

LANGUAGE SKILLS

C. Fill in the blanks with 'in' or 'on'.

1. The cat was sitting _____ the table.
2. Mohan was playing _____ the park.
3. The racket is _____ my hand.
4. The hen was sitting _____ the eggs.

D. Fill in the blanks.

Positive degree	Comparative degree	Superlative degree
1. great	Greater	_____
2. small	_____	smallest
3. sweet	_____	sweetest
4. bad	_____	worst

WRITING SKILLS

- E. What will you do if you see a wounded bird on your way back home? Write a few lines explaining your decision.
- F. Write why we should be kind to animals.

2

Why the Bat has no Friends

Many years ago, there was a debate between animals and birds. The debate gradually led to a battle. A bat has the features of both the animals and the birds. He wanted to remain on the side of winners, therefore, he changed sides with the result of the battle. But, at the end, his selfish behaviour was revealed.

Long ago, a great battle was fought between birds and animals.

All the birds flew to the battleground and got ready for the battle.

Bat joined the birds. He said, “I have wings. So, I will fight from your side.”

The battle began. The birds attacked their enemies with their sharp beaks. Animals, in turn, used their teeth and claws to fight.



When Bat found that the birds were losing, he went away and hid behind a bush.

When the battle was over, the animals walked back towards their camp.

“We have defeated the birds!” Elephant said proudly.

“Yes we did! Did you see them flying away in fear?” said Bat loudly.

All the animals stopped and looked at Bat. “What are you doing with us?” shouted Camel in surprise. “You’ve got wings. You should be on the birds’ side.”

“True!” **growled** Tiger. “So I’m going to eat you up right away!”

“Hey! Look at me carefully,” said Bat, pointing into his mouth. “I have teeth in my mouth! Birds don’t have teeth! So, of course, I belong to your side. I’ll fight from your side!”

“Very well,” said Tiger.

Another battle was planned for the next day. Bat sided with the animals. “Let’s defeat the birds!” he shouted eagerly.

growled: an angry low sound

talons: claws of a bird of prey

victorious: having achieved success or victory

pretend: act

But this time, the birds flew together as a huge group. They fought so bravely and boldly with their **talons** and beaks that their enemies ran off from the battlefield. When bat saw that the birds were winning, he ran away again, and hid behind a bush.

When it was time for the **victorious** birds to return home, Bat joined them quietly.

“What a good victory we won today,” said Eagle.

“Yes! We really taught the animals a lesson today!” Bat said.

“But weren’t you fighting from their side?” asked Crow in surprise.

“Nonsense! I have wings just like you! I’m one of you.” Bat said, flapping his wings.

When Bat saw that the side he was on was going to lose, he pretended to be on the other side.

At last, the birds and animals got tired of fighting each other. They decided to make peace. Then, it became very difficult for Bat to **pretend** that he belonged to both sides.



All the animals and birds knew what he had done. “Friends should always help each other and not run away at time of difficulty,” they said.

The chiefs of the birds and animals sat down to decide how to punish the dishonest Bat. Finally, they said, “Bat has wings, but he is not a bird. He has teeth, but he is not an animal. From now on, Bat will only fly at night when other birds are asleep, and the animals are hunting.”

All the birds and animals agreed to this.

“You will always be alone, Bat. You will never have a friend among the creatures that fly or from those that walk!”

And that’s why Bat always flies at night, and doesn’t have any friends.

—A North American Folk Tale

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

A. Tick (✓) the right answers.

1. In the first battle, Bat was on the side of the

(a) birds.

(b) animals.

(c) insects.

☐
☐
☐

2. The great battle was fought between

(a) birds and insects.

(b) birds and animals.

(c) man and animals.

☐
☐
☐

3. Bat showed his _____ to the Tiger.

(a) teeth

☐

(b) claws

☐

(c) tongue

☐

B. Fill in the blanks by choosing the right words from the box.

peace battle chiefs talons

1. Long ago, a great _____ was fought between animals and birds.
2. The birds attacked animals with their _____.
3. At last, the birds and animals got tired of fighting, and decided to make _____.
4. The _____ of birds and animals sat down to punish the dishonest Bat.

C. Answer these questions.

1. Where did Bat hide?
2. What happened in the second battle?
3. Why did it become difficult for Bat to pretend that he belonged to both sides?
4. What punishment was given to Bat?

LANGUAGE SKILLS

D. Match the words with their opposites.

Words	Opposites
1. great	(a) dishonest
2. win	(b) enemy
3. honest	(c) lose
4. friend	(d) small
5. war	(e) coward
6. brave	(f) peace

WRITING SKILLS

E. Look at the picture and write about the parrot. You can take help from the box.

beak legs bird



1. A parrot is a _____
2. It has two _____
3. It has a red _____

F. Bat was a friend neither of animals nor of birds. He was very selfish.

Do you think one should be selfish when one's services are needed? What should one do in this kind of situation? Write your own opinion.

G. Do you think that peace is more important than war? Why?

3 At the Zoo

We should be kind to animals. Animals cannot speak but they too feel happy, angry and sad like us.

Be careful what you say or do
When you visit the animals at the zoo.

Don't make fun of the camel's hump –
He's very proud of his noble bump.

Don't laugh too much at the chimpanzee –
He thinks he's as wise as you or me.



And the penguins **strutting** round
the lake
Can understand remarks you make.

Treat them as well as they do you
And you will always be welcome at
the zoo.

—Eileen Mathias

NEW WORDS

strutting: an act of walking in a proud and confident manner

UNDERSTANDING THE POEM

A. Tick (✓) the right answers.

- [illegible]

B. Answer these questions.

- 12

LANGUAGE SKILLS

C. Encircle five names of animals and birds given in the grid.

C	X	Z	R	A	B	B	I	T	A	L
A	S	P	A	R	R	O	T	F	H	I
M	D	B	M	Z	P	A	R	R	P	O
E	X	R	T	H	Q	M	O	B	C	N
L	C	H	I	M	P	A	N	Z	E	E

ACTIVITY

- D.** Make a list of five domestic and five wild animals.
- E.** Prepare a list of Dos and Don'ts for the visitors to a zoo.
- F.** Which animal do you like the most? Draw its picture and colour it.

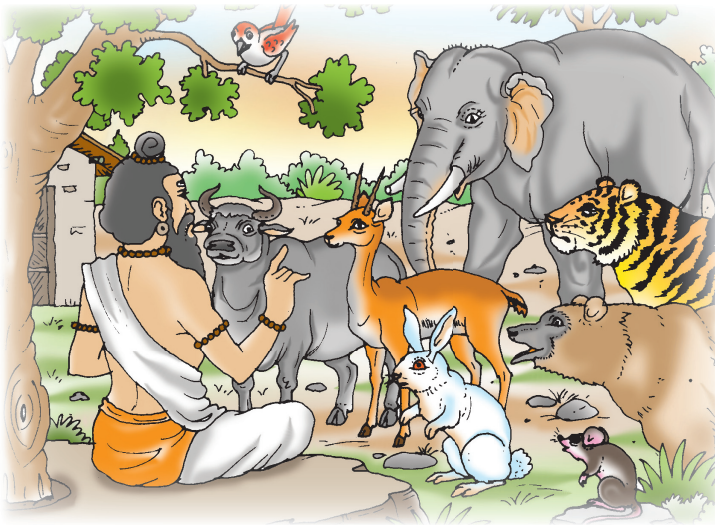
4 The Sage and the Mouse

We should be grateful to those who help us. One who is ungrateful has to learn a bitter lesson as was learnt by the mouse in the following story.

Many years ago, in a dense forest, lived a holy sage. Many animals in the forest used to come to him every afternoon to listen to his holy words.

Among the animals was a small mouse, who was deeply moved by the words of the holy sage. The mouse used to collect fruits for the sage. One day, while he was collecting berries in the forest for the sage, a cat attacked him. The mouse, somehow, escaped and ran for his life to the hut of the sage. There, he begged the sage to save his life. The cat too followed the mouse and reached the hut. The cat requested the sage to free the mouse, because she wanted to eat him. The sage did not know what to do. He thought for a second and then took some holy

sprinkled: to shake drops of water on something
roamed: moved



water and **sprinkled** on the mouse. Soon, the mouse became a big cat. Seeing a big cat before him, the first cat ran away.

The mouse in his new form as a cat was very happy and carefree. He **roamed** in the forest freely and meowed

loudly to frighten other animals. He killed many cats who were his **rivals**.

The mouse-turned cat had hardly enjoyed a few carefree days of his life, when, one day, a fox attacked him. The mouse had never thought of such danger. He ran to the holy sage for shelter. The fox too followed him. The sage took pity and transformed the mouse turned cat into a big fox. Seeing a bigger fox before him, the first fox ran for safety.

The mouse-turned fox was carefree again. He roamed in the forest freely. But, hardly had he enjoyed a few days when a lion attacked him. As before, the fox and the lion reached the sage. The sage took pity and turned the mouse-turned fox into a big lion. Seeing a bigger lion, the first lion ran away.

After having been changed into a lion, the mouse-turned lion had become all-powerful. He behaved like a king. He killed many animals unnecessarily. But one thing always kept him worried—the divine power of the sage. “What, if, one day for some reason or the other, the sage becomes angry with me and brings me back to my original state?” he thought. One day, he came to the sage and said, “I’m hungry. I want to eat you, so that you cannot change me into a mouse.” Saying so, he tried to **pounce** upon the holy sage.



rivals: competitors
pounce: to jump

Hearing these words, the sage became very angry. He immediately changed the lion into a mouse. Thus, the mouse again became a mouse.

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

A. Tick (✓) the right answers.

1. The sage lived in a

(a) village.

(b) town.

(c) forest.

☐
☐
☐

2. Who used to collect berries for the sage?

(a) a mouse.

(b) a fox.

(c) a lion.

☐
☐
☐

3. The fox was afraid of the/a

(a) sage.

☐

(b) lion.

☐

(c) cat.

☐

4. Who behaved like the king of the forest?

(a) the lion.

☐

(b) the sage.

☐

(c) the cat.

☐

5. Whom did the lion try to kill?

(a) a cat.

☐

(b) a fox.

☐

(c) the sage.

☐

B. Put the following sentences in order as the incidents happened in the story. Put number in the boxes given on the right. The first one has been done for you.

1. A lion attacked the fox.

☐

2. The sage changed the cat into a fox.

☐

3. The sage changed the lion into a mouse.

☐

4. The sage changed a mouse into a cat.

☐

1

5. The lion attacked the sage.

☐

6. A fox attacked the cat.
7. The sage changed the fox into a lion.



C. Answer these questions.

1. Why did the animals gather near the sage every evening?
2. Why did the sage change the mouse into a cat?
3. Why did the mouse-turned lion attack the sage?
4. Why did the sage change the mouse-turned lion into a mouse again?

LANGUAGE SKILLS

D. Write the feminine gender of the following words.

- | | | | |
|----------|-------|--------|-------|
| 1. horse | _____ | 2. fox | _____ |
| 3. lion | _____ | 4. ox | _____ |

E. Write the plural form of the following nouns.

- | | | | |
|---------|-------|-----------|-------|
| 1. sage | _____ | 2. fox | _____ |
| 3. lion | _____ | 4. mouse | _____ |
| 5. box | _____ | 6. forest | _____ |

F. Find the names of animals in the word search.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

F	L	T	O	T	C
O	C	K	N	I	A
X	D	Z	Y	G	T
M	O	U	S	E	W
A	G	P	C	R	D
I	B	E	A	R	L

WRITING SKILLS

G. Write the moral of the story in brief.

H. What would have happened if the mouse-turned lion were good and noble? Write your own opinion.

5

Who will Remove the Stone?

A good king was very sad because people of his kingdom had become very lazy. The king wanted to teach them a lesson. He put a big stone at the crossing of a road. Everybody blamed the king but nobody bothered to remove it. Only a young boy took initiative and removed the stone. Read the story.

Long ago, there lived a king named Vikramjeet. He was a kind and noble ruler. But he was not happy with the people of his kingdom as most of them were lazy. They depended on others to do their work. The king wanted them to be hard-working.



To bring about a change in them, the king thought of a plan. He asked his soldiers to place a heavy stone in the middle of the main road. Then he hid himself to see whether someone removes it or not.



First came a merchant. He was sitting in a bullock-cart. On seeing the stone, the cart-driver stopped the cart. The merchant asked him the reason for stopping the cart. The cart-driver told about the big stone lying in the middle of the road. When the merchant heard the reason, he was very angry.

He blamed the king and the staff. He then asked the cart driver to take a different route. The king was now feeling very **disappointed**.

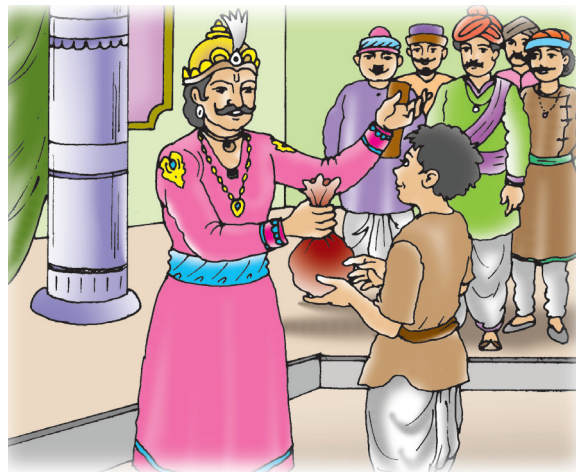


Next came a person whose name was Ramlal. He was a farmer. He was walking fast and stumbled against the stone. He was in great pain and loudly blamed the king and his staff for not removing the stone!

After some time, a boy came. When he saw the stone, he straightway went to remove it.

The stone was quite heavy but the boy did not lose heart. He kept on trying and managed to remove the stone. What did he find under the stone? He found a purse of gold coins. Meanwhile, the king came out of his hiding. He told him that the gold coins were reward for him for removing the stone. Next day, the king called the boy to his court and **praised** him before the people. The people now realised that they should not blame others for any problem. They promised to be hard-working in the future.

disappointed: sad
praised: appreciated



UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

A. Tick (✓) the right answers.

1. Most of the people of the kingdom were

(a) lazy.

☐

(b) hard-working.

☐

(c) self-reliant.

☐

2. A big stone was kept in the middle of the

- (a) park.
- (b) palace.
- (c) main road.



3. Ramlal was a

- (a) merchant.
- (b) farmer.
- (c) barber.



B. Fill in the blanks by choosing the right words from the box.

purse noble soldiers kind praised blame merchant

1. Vikramjeet was a _____ and _____ ruler.
2. He asked his _____ to place a heavy stone in the middle of the main road.
3. The _____ was sitting in a bullock-cart.
4. The boy found a _____ of gold coins under the stone.
5. The king called the boy and _____ him before the people.
6. The people now realised that they should not _____ others for any problem.

C. Answer these questions.

1. Why was the king not happy with the people of his kingdom?
2. What was king's plan?
3. What did the merchant ask the cart-driver to do?
4. When the boy saw the stone what did he do?
5. Why did the king reward the boy?
6. What did the people promise?



LANGUAGE SKILLS

D. Match the following. One has been done for you.

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1. One who grows food for us | (a) doctor |
| 2. One who teaches us | (b) carpenter |
| 3. One who treats the sick people | (c) teacher |
| 4. One who makes furniture | (d) cobbler |
| 5. One who repairs taps, water pipes, etc. | (e) farmer |
| 6. One who repairs shoes | (f) plumber |

WRITING SKILLS

E. Do you do your work on your own or ask others to do it? Make a list of works that you do on your own.

6 Betty at the Party

This humorous poem tells us that we often laugh at when others are in trouble but are quite serious when something happens to us.

“When I was at the party,”
Said Betty, aged four,
“A little girl fell off her chair
Right down upon the floor;
And all the other little girls
Began to laugh, but me—
I didn’t laugh a single bit,”
Said Betty **seriously**.

“Why not?” her mother asked her,
Full of **delight** to find
That Betty—bless her little heart!—
Had been so sweetly kind.
“Why didn’t you laugh, my darling?
Or don’t you like to tell?”
“I didn’t laugh,” said Betty,
“Cause it was me that fell.”

—Anonymous

NEW WORDS

seriously: without smiling or laughing

delight: happiness or joy



UNDERSTANDING THE POEM

A. Tick (✓) the right answers.

1. Who fell off from the chair?

(a) a little girl.

(b) a little boy.

(c) a little toy.

☐
☐
☐

2. Betty was

(a) five years old.

(b) six years old.

(c) four years old.

☐
☐
☐

3. Did Betty laugh?

(a) yes.

(b) no.

☐
☐

B. Write true or false.

1. Betty had gone to the party.

2. The little boy fell on the floor.

3. All the little girls began to cry.

4. It was Betty who had fallen on the floor.

5. Betty's mother was angry with her.

C. Answer these questions.

1. Whom did Betty tell about the incident at the party?

2. Why did Betty's mother think that Betty had been kind and sweet?

3. Why didn't Betty laugh?

LANGUAGE SKILLS

D. Match the words with their opposites.

Words	Opposites
1. little	(a) empty
2. laugh	(b) bitter
3. sweet	(c) big
4. full	(d) cry

E. Tick (✓) the right spellings.

1. seriously	☐	seriously	☐	2. delight	☐	delite	☐
3. laugh	☐	laf	☐	4. floor	☐	flore	☐
5. should	☐	shuld	☐	6. chare	☐	chair	☐
7. party	☐	parti	☐	8. mothre	☐	mother	☐

WRITING SKILLS

- F.** Recite this poem in your class with actions.
- G.** What should we do if we see someone gets hurt? Would you help him/her or laugh at him/her? Write your opinion.

7 Riding Backwards

Mulla Nasruddin had a great sense of humour. He, sometimes, used to do opposite of what common people would do. And his methods were always strange but very effective. Read this story to find out how funny he was.



One day, Mulla Nasruddin, was given the task of leading a group of children to school. Mulla Nasruddin wanted to do his job well, so he did this by sitting backwards on his donkey. The children followed him. It was indeed a **strange** sight and all the people who watched this scene were laughing. One man who was

new to the town, could not hold his curiosity. He asked Mulla, "Sir! Pray tell me, what are you doing?"

strange: odd

"I have been asked to lead the children to school by their parents," replied the Mulla.

"Why then are you riding your donkey facing backwards?" asked the person.

"If I ride normally, I would not be able to keep an eye on them!" replied Mulla. The man was quite puzzled.

"Then, why don't you make the children walk first, and follow them, riding the usual way?" he asked.

Laughing loudly, Mulla replied, "What you are suggesting is foolish. How can I lead these children if they are walking ahead of me?"

The man had no further question to ask. He just promised himself that he would mind his own business in future.



UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

A. Tick (✓) the right answers.

1. Mulla Nasruddin was riding a
 - (a) horse.
 - (b) donkey.
 - (c) camel.
2. The people who watched the scene were
 - (a) laughing.
 - (b) crying.
 - (c) weeping.
3. Who asked Mulla Nasruddin to lead the children?
 - (a) principal.
 - (b) teacher.
 - (c) parents.

☐
☐
☐☐
☐
☐☐
☐
☐

B. Write true or false.

1. Mulla Nasruddin was leading a group of old people. _____
2. Mulla was riding the donkey facing backwards. _____

3. The man was new to the town. _____

4. Mulla Nasruddin could not answer the man. _____

C. Answer these questions.

1. Why were the people laughing?
2. Why was Mulla Nasruddin riding the donkey backwards?
3. What did the man promise himself?



LANGUAGE SKILLS

D. Match the words with their opposites.

Words	Opposites
1. east	(a) left
2. north	(b) down
3. up	(c) west
4. front	(d) south
5. right	(e) back



WRITING SKILLS

- E.** There are some stories which narrate funny but intelligent things. Such stories make us laugh. Birbal and Tenali Raman were two famous characters to whom many stories are attributed. Collect any story of Tenali Raman and rewrite it.

8

The Littlest Rabbit

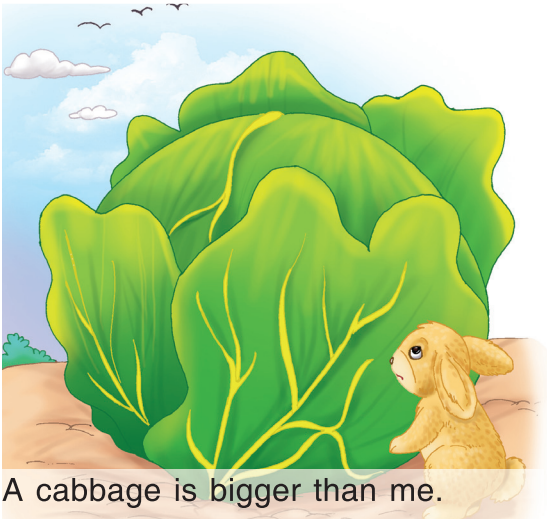
Every child wants to grow up big. The reason being, a small child feels weak and helpless. Often at schools, big boys bully small children. This is really very bad.

In the story you are going to read you will find how a small rabbit grows up to become a big rabbit and begins to help other small rabbits.

Now, let us read the story 'The Littlest Rabbit'.



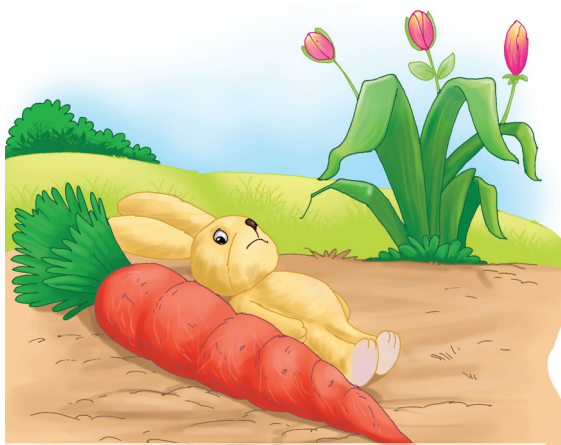
Everyone is bigger than me. My mother and father are bigger than me.



A cabbage is bigger than me.



So is a tree.



But I'm almost as big as a carrot.



I eat,



And sleep,



And play.



But when I measure myself each day,
I'm still only almost as big as a carrot.



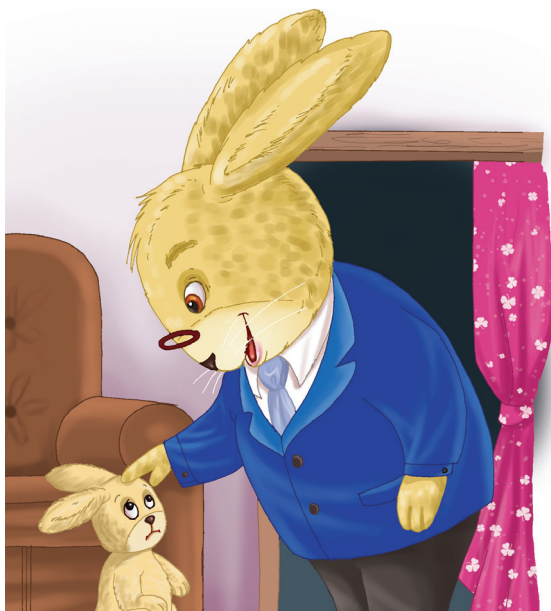
Other rabbits in the neighbourhood
tease me.



"Nya, nya, littlest rabbit," they say.
What can I say? I am the littlest rabbit.



My mother
hugs me. "I
love my little
rabbit," she
says. And she
gives me a big
kiss.



My father says, "How is my big fellow today?" But I know I'm not a big fellow.



Every night, when I say my prayers, I ask to grow bigger, (Or at least to have the big rabbits become smaller!)

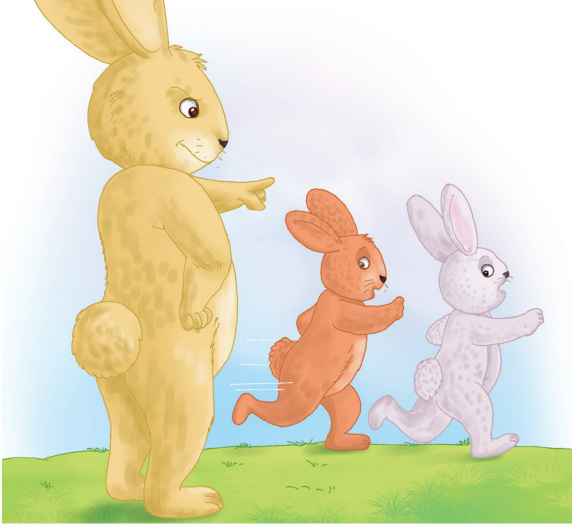


One day, my prayers are answered. I am bigger than the carrot.



I keep saying my prayers every night, and soon I'm bigger than a cabbage. I'm growing! I'm growing!

The two rabbits come to tease me. I say, "Nya, nya, I'm as big as you are. I will beat you if you tease me." They run home crying to their mothers. All **bullies** are **cowards**.



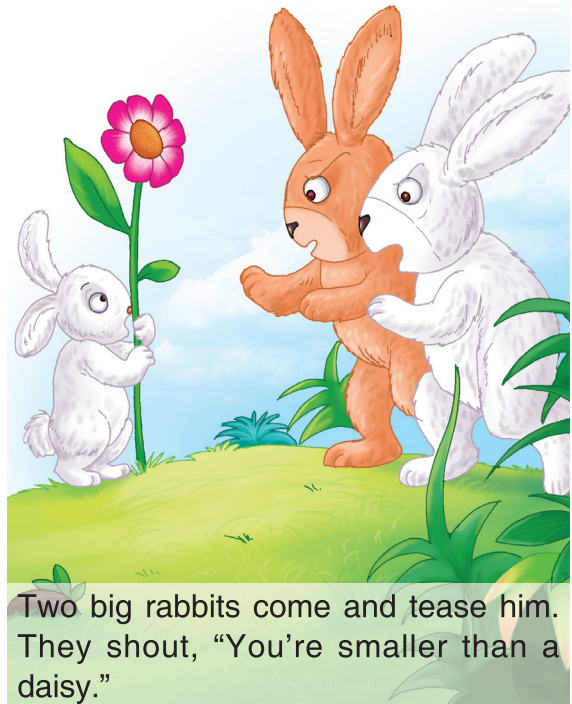
I come home. I tell my father about my victory. "I'm very proud of my big fellow," he says, shaking my hand. This time he's right. I am a big fellow.



I am so happy. The sun never shone so brightly. The birds never sang so sweetly. The grass never looked so green. The world is a beautiful place!



As I wander through the fields, I **notice** many rabbits who are smaller than I am. In fact, they are smaller than I ever was.



“Thank you, big rabbit,” says the little rabbit, drying his eyes with a flower **petal**.



—Adapted from Richard Kraus’ Story, ‘The Littlest Rabbit’

NEW WORDS

bullies: persons who tease others who are weak

cowards: weak persons

notice: see

petal: green part of a flower

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

A. Tick (✓) the right answers.

1. The Littlest Rabbit prayed that he should grow

(a) bigger

☐

(b) richer

☐

(c) thinner

☐

2. All bullies are

(a) brave

☐

(b) cowards

☐

(c) strong

☐

B. Write true or false.

1. Other rabbits in the neighbourhood teased 'Littlest Rabbit'. _____
2. Littlest Rabbit was sad when he grew up bigger. _____
3. Littlest Rabbit teased other small rabbits when grew up. _____
4. Littlest Rabbit was a good rabbit. _____

C. Answer these questions.

1. Why was Littlest Rabbit sad?
2. What did Littlest Rabbit's father say about his victory?
3. What did the Littlest Rabbit notice when he wandered through the fields?

LANGUAGE SKILLS

D. Match the words with their opposites.

Words	Opposites
1. Big	(a) Finish
2. Up	(b) Yes
3. Start	(c) Small
4. No	(d) Down

WRITING SKILLS

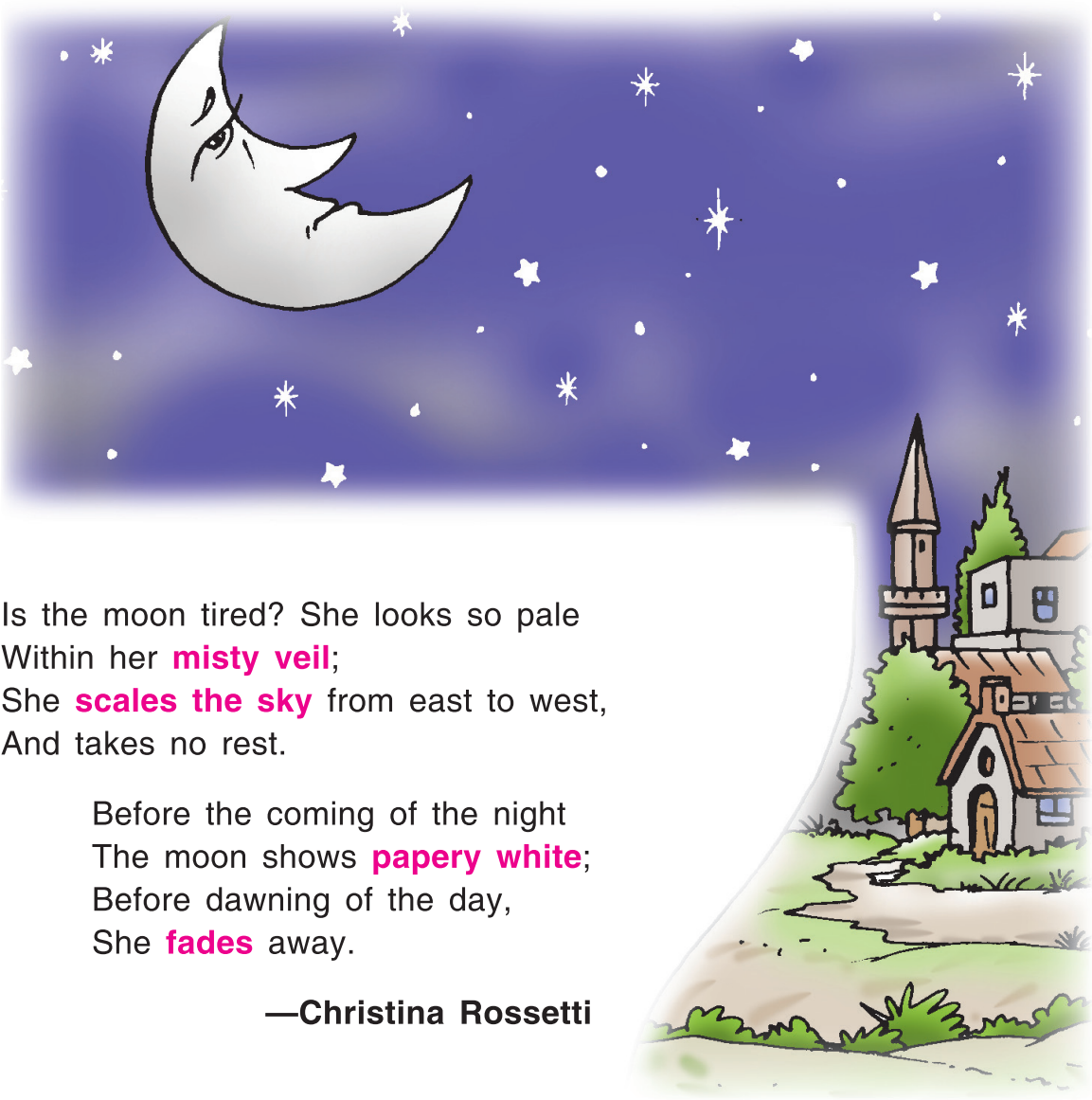
E. Make sentences with the following words.

1. Grow _____
2. Little _____
3. Cry _____
4. Happy _____

9

Is the Moon Tired?

A child looks at the moon that changes its colour with the passage of time. The child wonders why it happens so.



Is the moon tired? She looks so pale
Within her **misty veil**;
She **scales the sky** from east to west,
And takes no rest.

Before the coming of the night
The moon shows **papery white**;
Before dawning of the day,
She **fades** away.

—Christina Rossetti

NEW WORDS

misty veil: a portion of the moon hidden by clouds

scales the sky: climbs the sky

papery white: pale white

fades: becomes less bright

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

A. Tick (✓) the right answers.

1. Why does the moon look tired?
 - (a) because it looks pale.
 - (b) because it looks red.
 - (c) because it looks golden.
2. The moon scales the sky from
 - (a) east to west.
 - (b) west to east.
 - (c) north to south.
3. Does the moon take rest?
 - (a) Yes.
 - (b) No.
 - (c) don't know.

B. Answer these questions.

1. When does the moon look papery white?
2. What fades away before the dawn of the day?
3. Name the poet of this poem.

 LANGUAGE SKILLS**C. Match the words which rhyme.**

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. moon | (a) light |
| 2. pale | (b) ray |
| 3. rest | (c) tale |
| 4. white | (d) best |
| 5. day | (e) spoon |

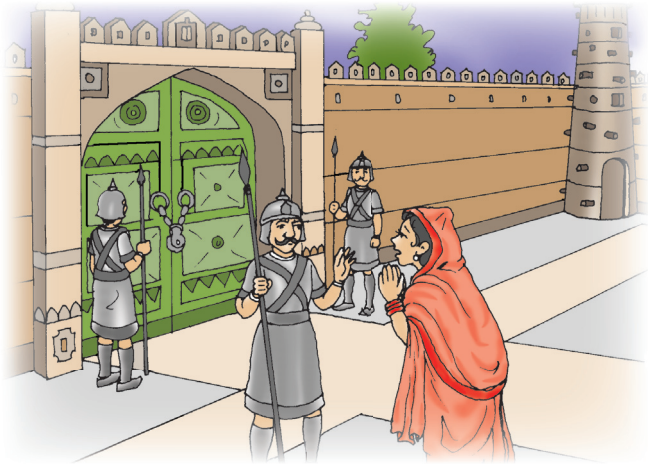
 ACTIVITY

- D.** Recite this poem in the class.
- E.** How does the moon appear to you? Is it bright or dull? Write three-four lines on it.

10 The Power of a Mother's Love

Mother's love for her children is supreme. She can sacrifice even her life for her children. The story you are going to read is about a woman who took a great risk for her baby.

Shivaji was a great Maratha King. He built many grand forts. The one that he built at his capital Raigarh was one of his greatest forts. The fort stood on a mountain range. It was surrounded by deep, rocky valleys. The gates of the fort were open every day from **dawn** till **dusk**.



Hirabai, a young woman from a nearby village, sold milk inside the fort every day. One day, she finished her work late. By the time she reached the gates of the fort, they had already been locked.

dawn: early morning
dusk: evening

“Please open the gates just a little so that I can go out,” Hirabai begged the guards at the gate. “I have a two-month-old baby at home, and I must get back to feed him. There is no one at home with him except my old mother-in-law.”

The guards felt sorry for Hirabai, but refused to open the gates.

The guards said, “The king has ordered us that we should not open the gates once they have been locked, till dawn.”

Hirabai began to weep, but the guards did not change their minds.

Hirabai turned away from the gate very sadly. Then, as she looked around the fort, she noticed that there were a few stones coming out of the **external** wall of the tall tower. Hirabai decided that she would try to climb down from the fort by using these as supports. They could help her reach her baby that night.



Though she **trembled** with fear, Hirabai climbed over the wall of the fort. She began her dangerous climb down to the valley below. She was quite afraid, as the tower was tall and steep. Every time Hirabai felt that she would slip and fall, she thought of her baby and kept going. After some time, Hirabai was able to jump off the tower safely and go home.

The next morning, the guards at the fort were shocked to see Hirabai at the gates.

external: outer surface
trembled: shook with fear

“How did you manage to get out of the fort?” they asked. Hirabai explained how she got out of the fort. The guards reported the matter to the king. Shivaji called Hirabai and asked her “Is it true that you got down from a tower of this fort alone, in the dark, without any ropes and ladders?” “Yes,” replied Hirabai nervously.

“Then show me how you did it,” commanded the king. “I want to see it for myself!”

“I cannot do it,” said Hirabai, “for I am very afraid ...”

“But you did it last night,” the king replied immediately. “Were you not afraid then?”

“I was,” replied Hirabai, “but yesterday my baby was waiting at home for me. My love for him gave me the strength and courage to try the impossible. Today that is not so, and that is why I am afraid.”

Shivaji was very **pleased** with Hirabai’s courage and honesty. He rewarded her and renamed the tower of his fort ‘Hira Burj’.

The tower reminds us of the great strength and power of a mother’s love. **pleased:** happy

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

A. Tick (✓) the right answers.

1. Who sold milk inside the fort every day?

- (a) Mirabai.
- (b) Hirabai.
- (c) Sheelabai.

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2. Hirabai climbed down the fort

- (a) with the help of ropes.
- (b) with the help of ladders.
- (c) without any help.

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3. Shivaji was

- (a) angry with Hirabai.
- (b) pleased with Hirabai.
- (c) sad because of Hirabai.

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B. Write true or false.

1. Hirabai’s son was ten years old.

2. Hirabai was afraid while coming down the fort.

3. The tower of the Raigarh Fort is named ‘Hira Burj’.

C. Answer these questions.

1. Who built the Raigarh Fort?
2. Why did Hirabai want to go home?
3. What enabled Hirabai to climb down the fort?
4. How did Shivaji reward her?

LANGUAGE SKILLS

D. Make sentences using the following words.

1. love _____
2. grand _____
3. afraid _____
4. pleased _____
5. dawn _____

WRITING SKILLS

- E.** Write five lines describing your mother.
- F.** Draw a card for the Mother's Day to be given to your mother.

11 George Washington and the Cherry Tree

We tell a lie out of fear or to gain something. But a truthful person always speaks the truth whatever the cost is. Here read a true incident that took place when George Washington was just a boy.

When George Washington was a little boy, he lived on a farm. The farm had apple trees, peach trees, pear trees, plum trees, and cherry trees. One day, George's father brought a cherry tree from another country. He told everyone on the farm to look after it carefully.

It grew well. Mr Washington was pleased to think he would soon have cherries from the little tree.

Just about this time, George was given a shiny new **hatchet**. George took it and went about cutting whatever he could find. At last he came to the edge of the orchard, and thinking only of how well his hatchet could cut, he **chopped** into the little cherry tree. The bark was soft, and it cut so easily that George chopped the tree right down, and then went on with his play.



That evening Mr Washington went to look at his cherry tree. He stood in amazement when he saw it. Who would have dared do such a thing? He asked everyone, but no one could tell him anything about it.

Just then George passed by.

hatchet: small axe
chopped: cut

"George," his father called in an angry voice, "do you know who cut my cherry tree?"

"I cannot tell a lie, father," he said. "I did it with my hatchet."

Mr Washington looked at George. The boy's face was white, but he looked straight into his father's eyes.



"Go into the house, son," said Mr Washington **sternly**. **sternly:** strictly

George went into the library and waited for his father. He was very unhappy and very much ashamed. He knew he had been foolish and thoughtless and that his father was right to be displeased.

Soon, Mr Washington came into the room. "Come here, my boy," he said.

George went to his father.

"Tell me, son, why did you cut the tree?"

"I was playing and I did not think ..." George said.

"And now the tree will die. We shall never have any cherries from it. But worse than that, you have failed to take care of the tree when I asked you to do so."

George's head was bent and his cheeks were red from shame.

"I am sorry, father," he said.

Mr Washington put his hand on the boy's shoulder. "Look at me," he said. "I am sorry to have lost my cherry tree, but I am glad that you were brave enough to tell me the truth. I would rather have you truthful and brave than to have a whole orchard full of the finest cherry trees. Never forget that, my son."

George Washington never forgot this lesson. To the end of his life he was just as brave and honourable as he was that day as a little boy.

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

A. Tick (✓) the right answers.

1. George Washington lived

(a) in a palace.

(b) on a farm.

(c) in a hut.

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2. George Washington cut the cherry tree with his

(a) knife.

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(b) scissors.

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(c) hatchet.

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3. Did George Washington lie to his father?

(a) yes.

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(b) no.

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(c) don't know.

☐

B. Fill in the blanks by choosing the right words from the box.

truth brave cherry honourable

1. George Washington planted the _____ tree on the edge of the orchard.

2. George Washington told the _____ to his father.

3. To the end of his life, he was _____ and _____.

C. Answer these questions.

1. Name the types of trees that were there in Mr Washington's orchard.

2. What did George do with his new hatchet?

3. Why was Mr Washington angry?

4. What did George Washington tell his father?

5. Why was George Washington's father glad?

LANGUAGE SKILLS

D. Rearrange the jumbled words to make meaningful sentences.

1. always the spoke George Washington truth

2. an tree apple there's my in garden

3. fruit favourite mango my is

4. axe is a useful an tool

5. lie a never tell

6. Mahatma Gandhi lied never

7. play never sharp with things

WRITING SKILLS

- E.** What would you do if you were in place of George Washington? Write your own views.
- F.** An axe is not the right thing to play with. Make a list of five such things that you should not play with.

12 The Song of the Engine

The poem, 'The Song of the Engine' tells us that during our journey, we should not be afraid of seeing a hilly road that needs extra pulling. We just need confidence and faith. With confidence and faith, any challenge in life can be met.

When you travel on the railway,
And the line goes up the hill,
Just listen to the engine
As it pulls you with a will.
Though it goes very slowly
It sings this little song,
"I think I can, I think I can,
And so it goes along."

But later on the journey,
When you're going down a hill,
The train requires no pulling,
And the engine's singing still.
If you listen very quietly,
You will hear this little song,
"I thought I could, I thought I could!"
And so it speeds along.

—Christine Weatherley



UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

A. Tick (✓) the right answers.

1. The little engine thinks
 - (a) I can.
 - (b) I can't.
 - (c) I won't.
2. While going up the hill, the engine
 - (a) goes fast.
 - (b) goes slowly.
 - (c) stops.

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B. Answer these questions.

1. What does the engine sing when it goes up the hill?
2. What does the engine sing when it goes down the hill?
3. What is the meaning of the song that the engine sings while it goes up the hill?

LANGUAGE SKILLS

C. Write three rhyming words from the poem.

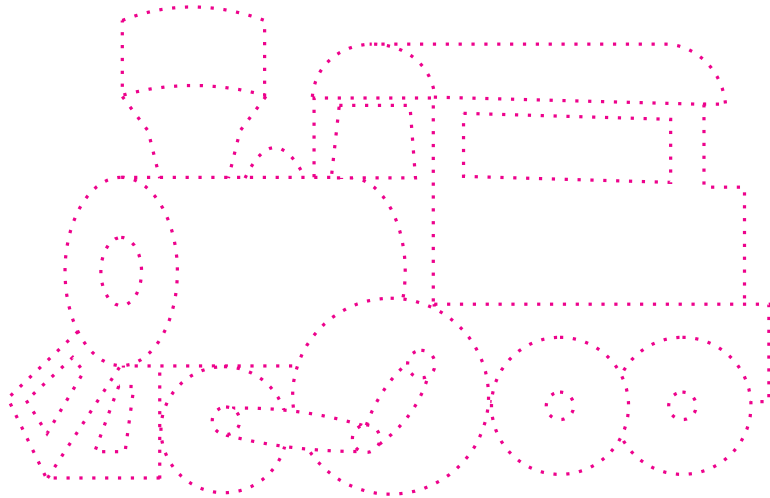
1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

D. Unjumble these words.

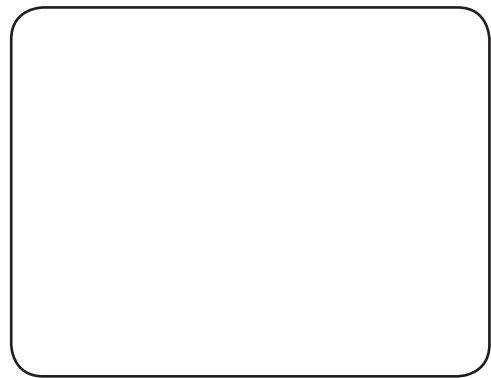
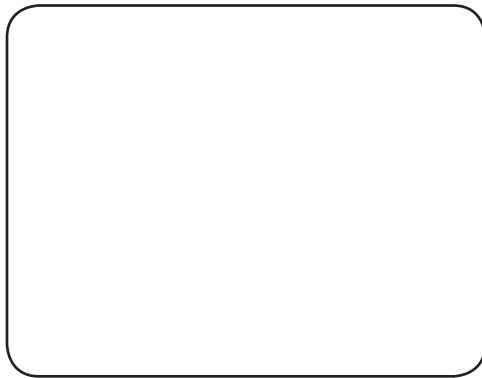
- | | | | |
|-----------|-------|------------|-------|
| 1. NEGNIE | _____ | 2. LAIRYAW | _____ |
| 3. LOWSLY | _____ | 4. UOJRNEY | _____ |

ACTIVITY

E. Join the dots and complete the picture. Also, colour it.



F. Collect two pictures of different trains of different countries and paste them here. Write the name of the countries.



13 Androcles and the Lion

Kindness and love are things which make even animals gentle. We can win anyone with kindness and love. The story, 'Androcles and the Lion' is an example of it.

In Italy, there was a slave whose name was Androcles. His master was a cruel man. He used to beat Androcles without any reason. One day, Androcles ran away from his master's house.

He took shelter in a cave in a forest. As he was tired, he was soon asleep. After a while, a great noise woke him up. A lion stood in front of the cave. It was crying in pain. Androcles was very much afraid. He thought that the lion would kill him. Soon, he saw that the lion could not walk properly. It seemed as though his foot hurt him.



Androcles went near the lion. The lion showed its paw to Androcles. Androcles saw that it had a long, sharp thorn. Androcles pulled out the thorn carefully. Now, the lion was free of pain.

He also put a bandage on the wound with some medicinal herbs. Soon, the lion was able to walk. It licked Androcles. They became

good friends.

Meanwhile, the master was searching for Androcles. He and his men were able to find out Androcles. He was arrested. The master announced that Androcles will be thrown before a hungry lion. A date

was fixed. On the said date, people of the town gathered in the **arena** to see the fight between Androcles and the lion. Both of them were freed from their cages.

The hungry lion roared loudly on seeing a man before him. Suddenly, it stopped in front of Androcles and started licking his hands. The master and the people were surprised. They had never seen such a strange scene. The master asked Androcles the cause of it. He told the whole story. Moved by his love and kindness, the master freed both of them.

arena: a place with a flat open area in the middle and seats around it where people can watch sports.

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

A. Tick (✓) the right answers.

1. Androcles was a

(a) slave. ☐

(b) king. ☐

(c) master. ☐

2. Androcles found a _____ in front of the cave.

(a) bear ☐

(b) lion ☐

(c) cat ☐

3. Androcles was thrown before a

(a) hungry cat. ☐

(b) hungry bear. ☐

(c) hungry lion. ☐

4. The Lion

(a) did not kill Androcles. ☐

(b) killed Androcles. ☐

(c) was killed by Androcles. ☐

B. Write true or false.

1. The master used to beat Androcles without any reason. _____

2. The lion attacked Androcles in the cave. _____

3. Androcles and the lion became good friends. _____
4. The lion killed Androcles. _____
5. The master freed only Androcles. _____

C. Answer these questions.

1. Why did Androcles run away to the forest?
2. Why was the lion crying in pain?
3. How did Androcles help the lion?
4. Why did the lion not kill Androcles?
5. Why did the master free both of them?



LANGUAGE SKILLS

D. Fill in the blanks. One has been done for you.

1. A group of lions is called a pride.
2. A group of monkeys is called a _____.
3. A group of wolves is called a _____.
4. A group of elephants is called a _____.
5. A group of fish is called a _____.
6. A group of ants is called a _____.
7. A group of bees is called a _____.



WRITING SKILLS

- E.** The lion did not attack and kill Androcles while it was very hungry? Do you think, the lion was kind? Who are the kind characters in the story? Write about their kindness.