

GEM'S SUPPLEMENTARY READERS

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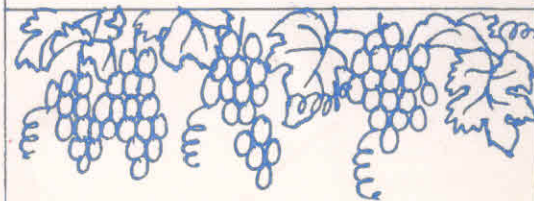
FAMOUS FABLES

Selections from Aesop



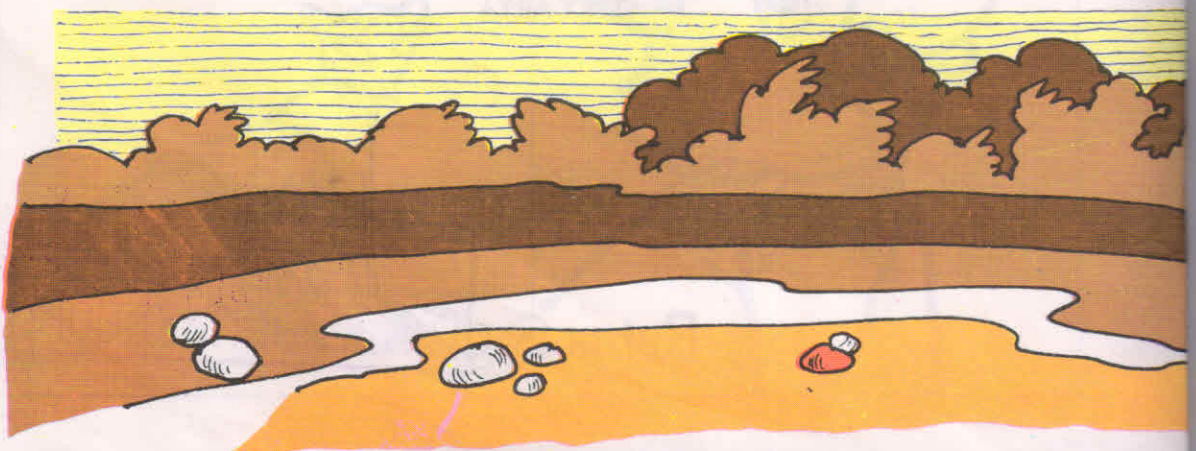
Ratna Sagar

THE FOX AND THE SOUR GRAPES



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THE THIRSTY CROW



Once upon a time there was a crow. One day he was thirsty. He looked for water. He did not find any water.

He was more thirsty now. He went to a pond. The pond was dry. He went to a lake. The lake was dry.




SALE
COMPLIMENTARY COPY



Suddenly the crow saw a big jar. There was some water in the jar! He tried to drink it but could not. His beak did not reach the water.

The crow did not give up. He was a clever crow. He thought and thought. He got an idea! He picked up a pebble and dropped it in the jar. Then he picked up another pebble and dropped it in the jar. Then


PEBBLE:
small stone

another. The water began to come up. He worked hard.

The water rose to the top. The thirsty crow drank the water. He was not thirsty any more. He flew away happily.

EXERCISES

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Write T for TRUE or F for FALSE.

1. One hot day a crow wanted water. ☐

2. The pond was full of water. ☐

3. There was milk in the jar. ☐

4. The crow threw toys in the jar. ☐

5. The crow flew away happily. ☐

ACTION TIME

Colour this picture of the clever crow.



THE LION'S FRIEND



A long time ago there was a lion. He was the king of the jungle.

One day the lion was sleeping in his den. A tiny mouse entered his den. It was dark. The mouse ran up the lion's nose. The lion woke up. He roared! Then he caught the mouse.

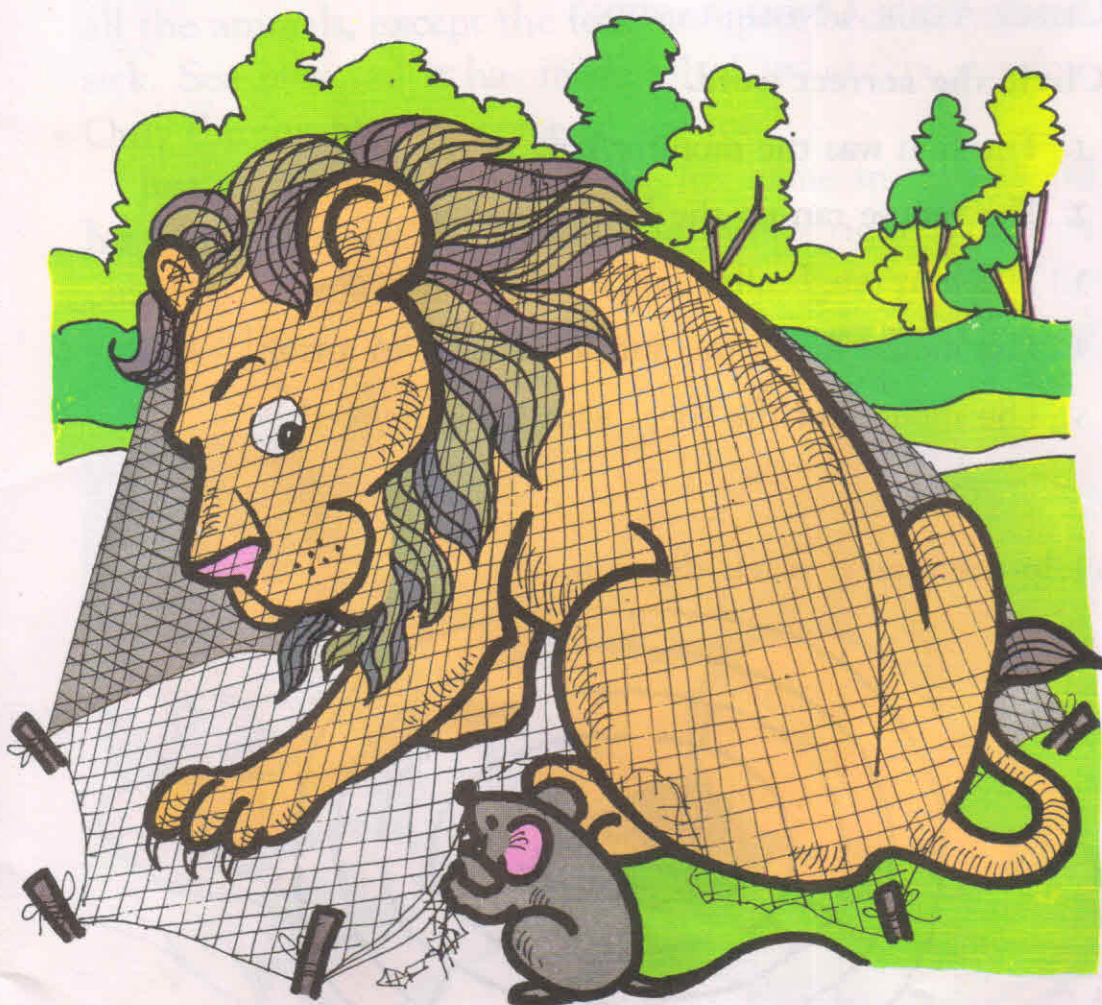


The mouse was scared. He was very scared. But he was a brave little mouse. So he said, "O King! Please spare me. I am too small to be a meal for you. May be someday I will help you."



The lion smiled and let the mouse go.

After some days the lion was hunting in the jungle. He got caught in a trap. He roared in anger. The little mouse



heard him. 'My friend is in danger,' he thought. 'I must help him!'

The mouse found the lion. The lion was caught in a trap. "Don't worry, friend," he said. "You'll soon be free."

With his sharp little teeth the tiny mouse cut the ropes of the trap. The lion was free. The two friends ran away.

EXERCISES

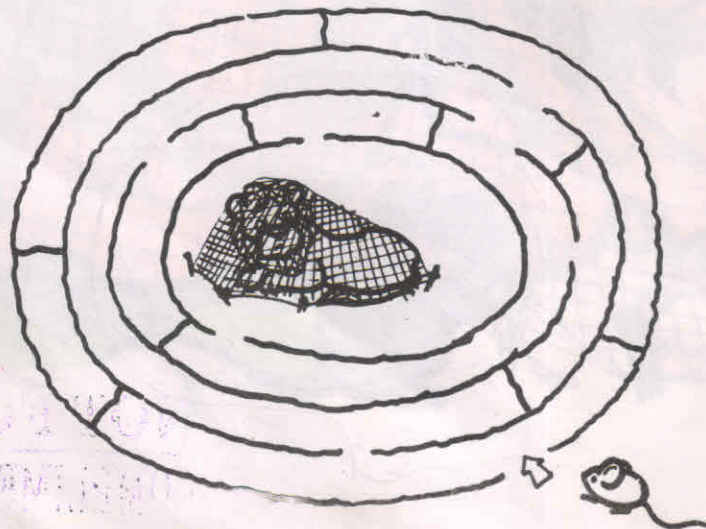
CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Circle the correct word.

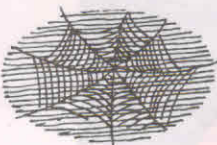
1. The lion was the monitor/king of the jungle.
2. The mouse ran up the lion's nose/tail.
3. The lion sang/smiled and let the mouse go.
4. The mouse found the ant/lion caught in a trap.
5. The mouse cut the ropes with his knife/teeth.

ACTION TIME

Help the mouse reach the lion.



THE TRAP



Once the lion, the king of the forest, fell sick. He felt weak. His roar came out like a cat's meow! All the animals, except the fox, came to visit him.

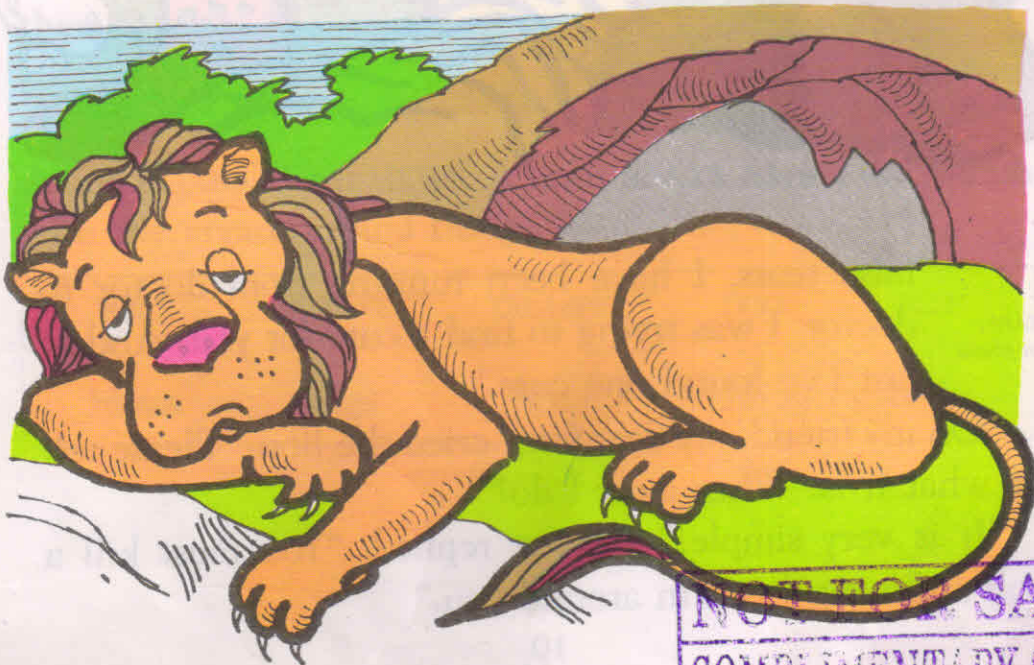
The wolf had a fight with the fox. 'What a good time to get back at her!' he thought.



GET BACK AT:
take revenge

The wolf said to the lion in a low voice, "O King, all the animals, except the fox, are upset because you are sick. See how sad it has made all of us, except the fox. Only the fox has not come to see you."

Just as the wolf said this, the fox came in. She heard his words. She said, "O King, the wolf is right. I did not come to see you. But which animal has done as much for you as I have? While all of them are sitting here, crying



NOT FOR SALE
COMPLIMENTARY COPY



FALSE TEARS:
crying for show

false tears, I have been running from doctor to doctor. I was trying to find a cure for you. And at last I've found one cure."

"Oh my friend, my dear fox," cried the lion. "Please tell me what it is. What must I do?"

"It is very simple!" the fox replied. "You must kill a wolf and wrap his skin around you."

At this the wolf ran as fast as he could! He decided never to be mean again.

EXERCISES

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Match Column A with Column B to make complete sentences.

COLUMN A

1. The wolf had a fight
2. Only the fox has not
3. I was trying to find
4. He decided never

COLUMN B

- come to see you.
to be mean again.
with the fox.
a cure for you.

ACTION TIME

Think of three ways to cheer up an ill person. Talk about them in class.

FUN WITH LANGUAGE

A lion ROARS. A cat MEWS. A heart BEATS. Match the sounds with the creatures and things.

BIRD

JACKAL

TRUMPET

DOG

BELL

blows

rings

howls

chirps

barks



THE FOX AND THE CRANE



Long ago there was a wicked fox. He invited a crane for dinner. When the sun set, the crane went to the fox's house.

"Please sit down," said the fox. "I'll get the food."

The fox went in. Soon he came out with a bowl. It smelled good! "Here's the food, my dear. Fill up your plate," he said sweetly.

The crane looked at the bowl. It had soup! The poor crane took a spoonful. He tried to eat it, but could not. His long bill was not made to have soup.

The fox lapped up the soup with his tongue. He smiled slyly. "You haven't eaten!" he said. "Didn't you like it?"



BILL:
beak

The crane smiled. "It was super," he said. "Now you must have dinner with me tomorrow."



The fox happily agreed. The next evening he brushed his coat. Then he went to the crane's house.

"Welcome," said the crane, smiling. "The meal is ready."

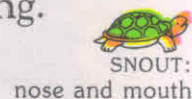
The fox sat down. The crane brought out a big jar. It had a long, thin neck. The fox licked his lips.

"It smells good!" he said. "May I have a plate?"

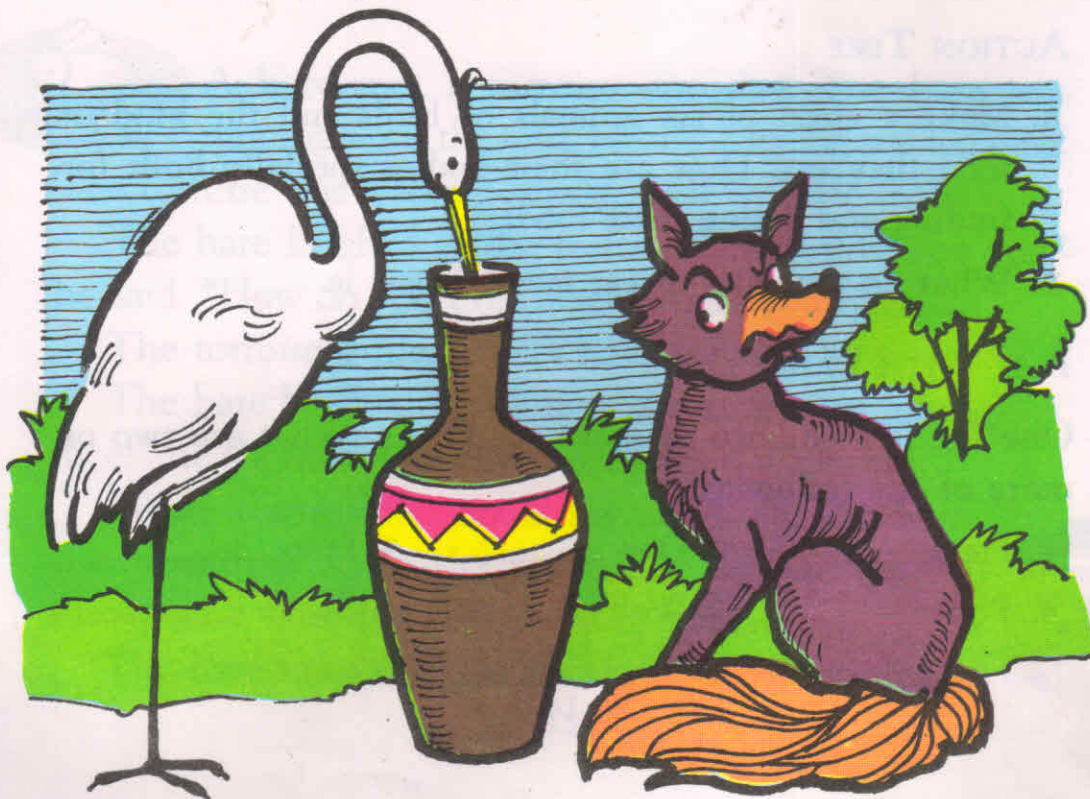
"I'm sorry," the crane replied, "but I don't have plates. We will have to eat out of the jar."

He dipped his bill into the jar and started eating.

The fox tried to push his snout into the jar. He could not. Snouts are not made to go into long-necked jars.



When the crane had finished eating, he patted his stomach. "I hope you enjoyed your meal here as much as



I did at your house?" he asked.

The fox glared but could say nothing.

The crane looked at his face and laughed. "You, Mr Fox, played a dirty trick and enjoyed it. But you don't like being paid back."

EXERCISES

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Fill in the blanks.

1. The fox invited a _____ for dinner.
2. Soon the fox came out with a _____
3. The _____ brought out a jar.
4. The fox _____ but could say nothing.

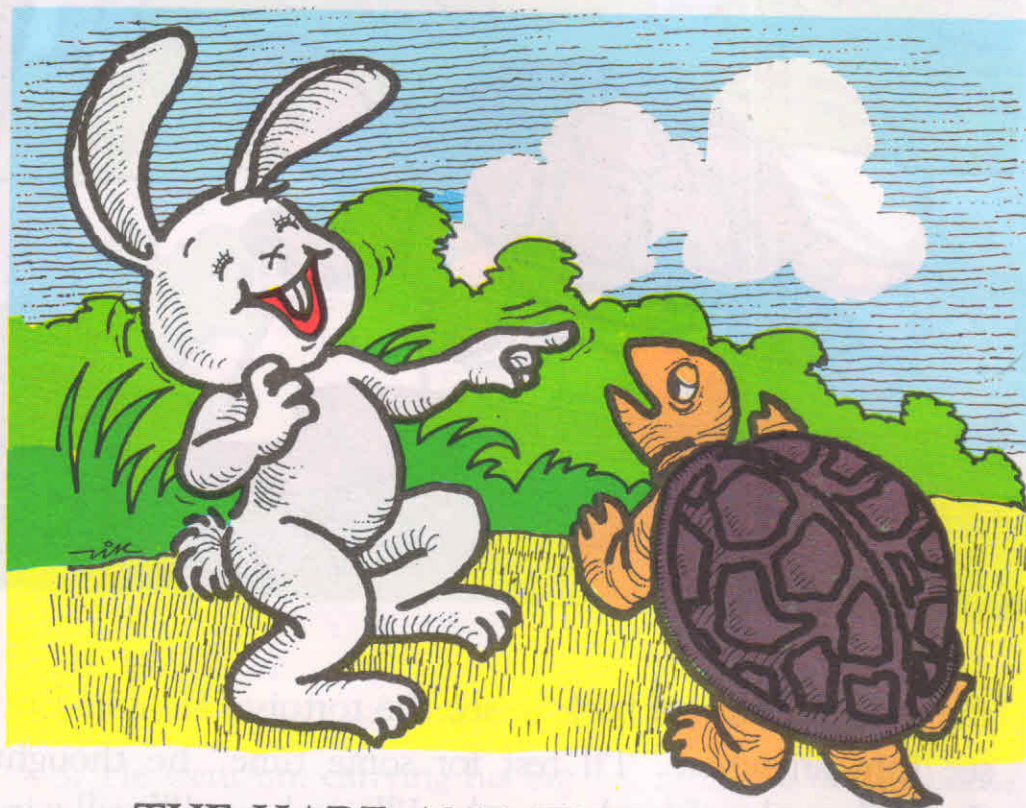
ACTION TIME

- A. Make a chart of six animals or birds and the kind of food they eat. How are their bodies specially built for finding and eating their food?
- B. What do you like to eat most? Draw it.

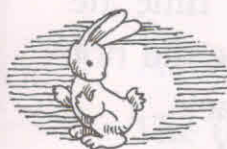
FUN WITH LANGUAGE

One fox is Fox. Two or more are Foxes. What are two or more of the following?

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Hen _____ | 2. Dog _____ | 3. Lion _____ |
| 4. Pony _____ | 5. Wolf _____ | 6. Sheep _____ |



THE HARE AND THE TORTOISE



A hare met a tortoise one day. The hare was running along the road. He was skipping and jumping. The tortoise was walking slowly, inch by little inch.

The hare laughed at the tortoise. "How slow you are!" he said. "How do you ever reach where you have to?"

The tortoise smiled. "Let's have a race," he said.

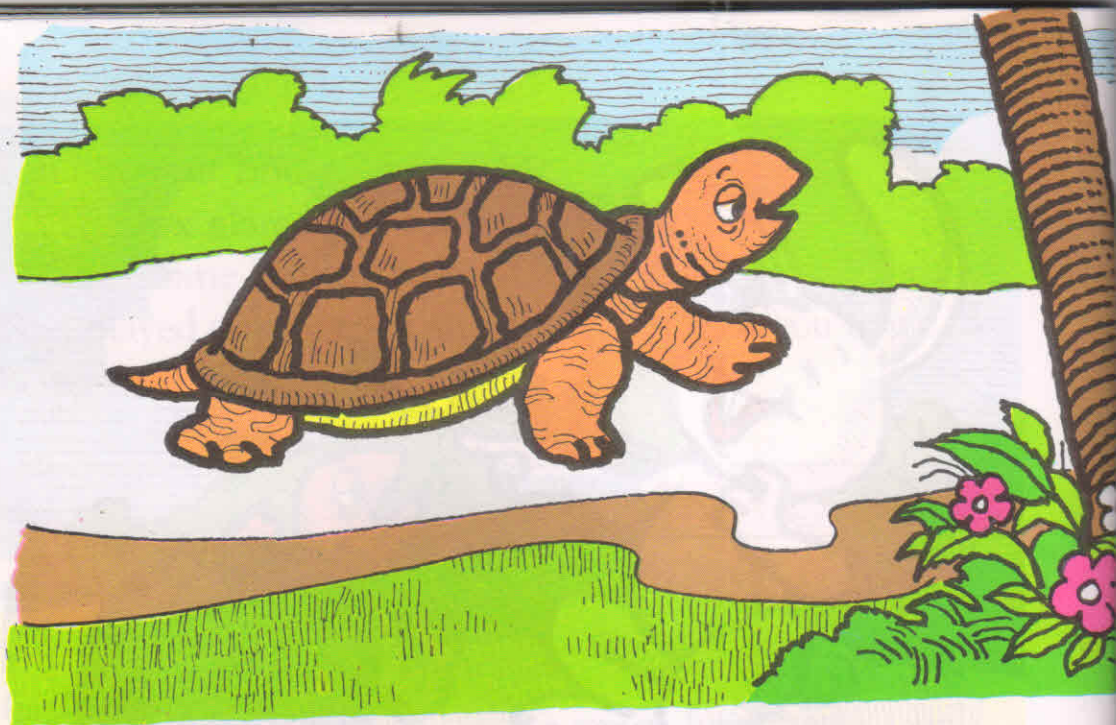
The hare laughed, thinking the tortoise was joking. "A race!" he shouted, clapping his hands. "Why not!"

Before the tortoise could say anything, the hare was bounding down the road. The tortoise set off slowly after him. He kept walking slowly.

The hare ran very fast. He was sure that he would win



BOUNDING:
running and
leaping



the race. He turned back to see the tortoise. He could not see him anywhere. 'I'll rest for some time,' he thought. 'Even if my slow friend passes by, I'll catch up. I'll still win.'

The tortoise walked on. After a long, long time he reached the place where the hare was sleeping. He did not stop. He went on, carrying his big shell on his back.

When the hare awoke it was evening. He leapt up, and ran as fast as he could. At last he came to the



WINNING POST:
end point of a
race

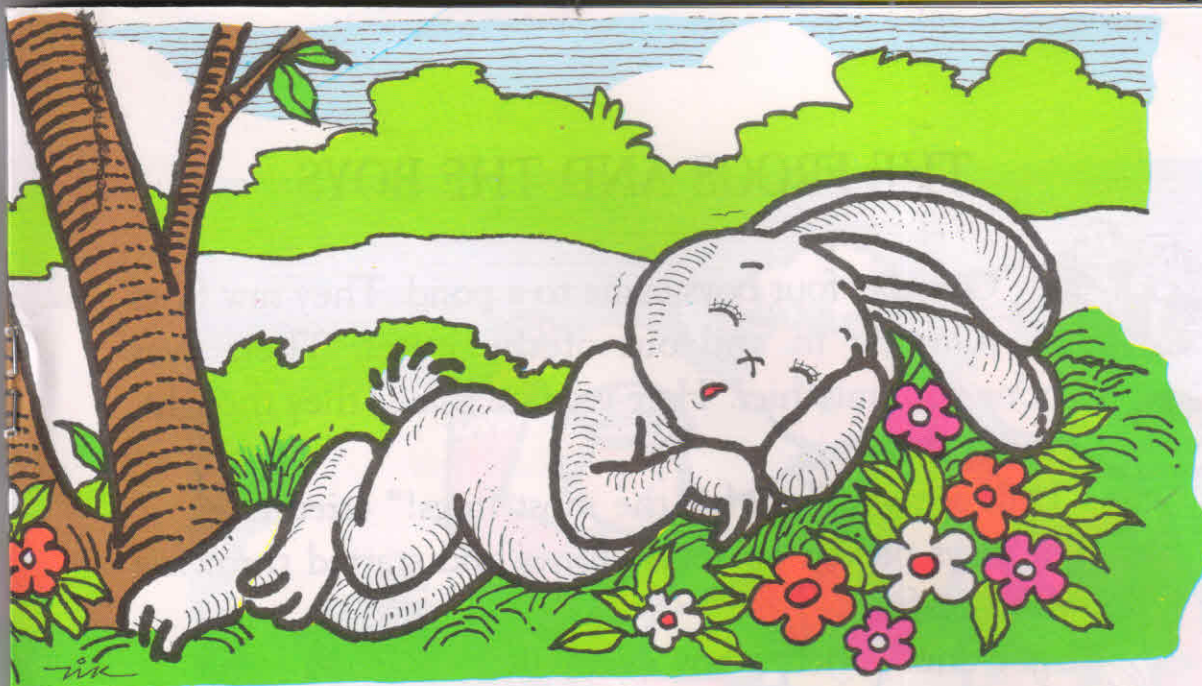
winning post. But the tortoise was already there!
The tortoise had won the race.

EXERCISES

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Fill in the blanks.

1. A hare met a _____ one day.



2. The _____ laughed at the tortoise.
3. He went on, carrying his big _____ on his back.
4. The tortoise was already there! He had _____ the race.

ACTION TIME

The tortoise lives in his shell. Who lives in these places?

- | | | | |
|---------|--------|-----------|---------|
| 1. NEST | 2. DEN | 3. BURROW | 4. HOLE |
|---------|--------|-----------|---------|

FUN WITH LANGUAGE

The tortoise had won the race. If the tortoise had to say this, he would say, 'I have won the race.' Rewrite the following in the same way.

1. The clown stood on his head.
2. Mr Frog was going home.
3. The butterfly came out of a pupa.

THE FROGS AND THE BOYS



EYEING:
looking at

One day four boys came to a pond. They saw frogs jumping in and out of the water. Their eyes shone with mischief. 'Here is a fine game,' they thought, eyeing the frogs.

"Let's see who can hit the most frogs!" cried one.

The boys picked up some stones and started throwing them at the frogs.

"I got one!" cried a boy excitedly.

"Mine is almost dead," cried another.



PRODDING:
poking and
pushing

The boys crowded around the hurt frog, prodding it with their fingers. Then the game started again. There were cheers and merry shouts.

An old frog poked his head out of the water. "Boys," he said, "please stop throwing stones at us. What is fun for you means pain and death for us."

The boys were surprised to hear a frog speak. They forgot to throw the stones. Before they could say anything, the old frog spoke again. "Would you like it if somebody threw stones at you? Think about it."

The boys felt ashamed and sorry. They threw away their stones and quietly went away.

*For one there is excitement,
For the other only fear,
What is fine sport to the hunter
Is death to the hunted deer.*



EXERCISES

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Answer these questions.

1. Why did the boys' eyes shine with mischief?
2. What did the boys do?
3. What did the old frog tell the boys?
4. What did the boys do then?

ACTION TIME

- A. Make a list of five things that you like doing but which might hurt someone else. Be honest! Can you change your habits?
- B. There are some sports in which animals are treated very cruelly. Bull-fighting is one of them. Can you name some more?

FUN WITH LANGUAGE

Look at these phrases.

- a. A fine sport. b. A big fine. c. A fine nib. d. I am fine.

What does 'fine' mean in each of these phrases?

Can you think of other words which have more than one meaning?

THE WOLF AND THE DOG



One day a wolf was walking down a road. He met a dog. The wolf was thin and dirty. He stared at the dog's healthy body and shining coat.

"You are well looked after, my friend," he said to the dog. "What a glossy coat! And your ribs don't stick out like mine. Why is it so?"



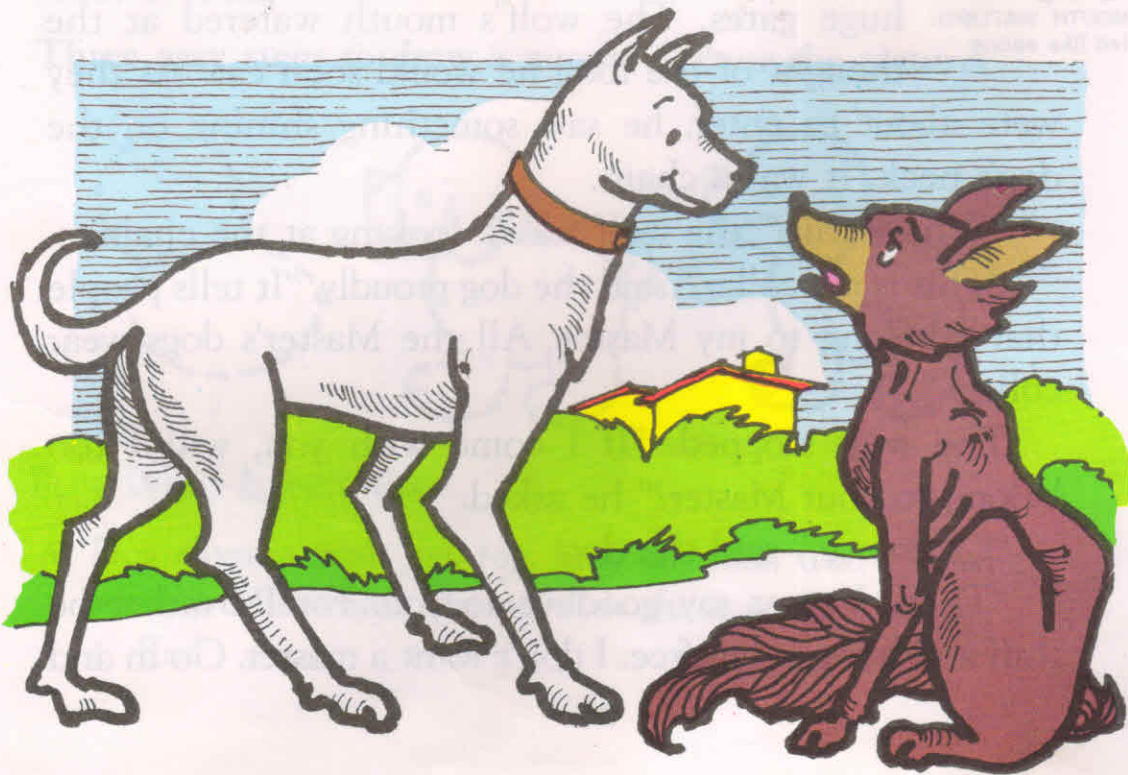
GLOSSY:
shining

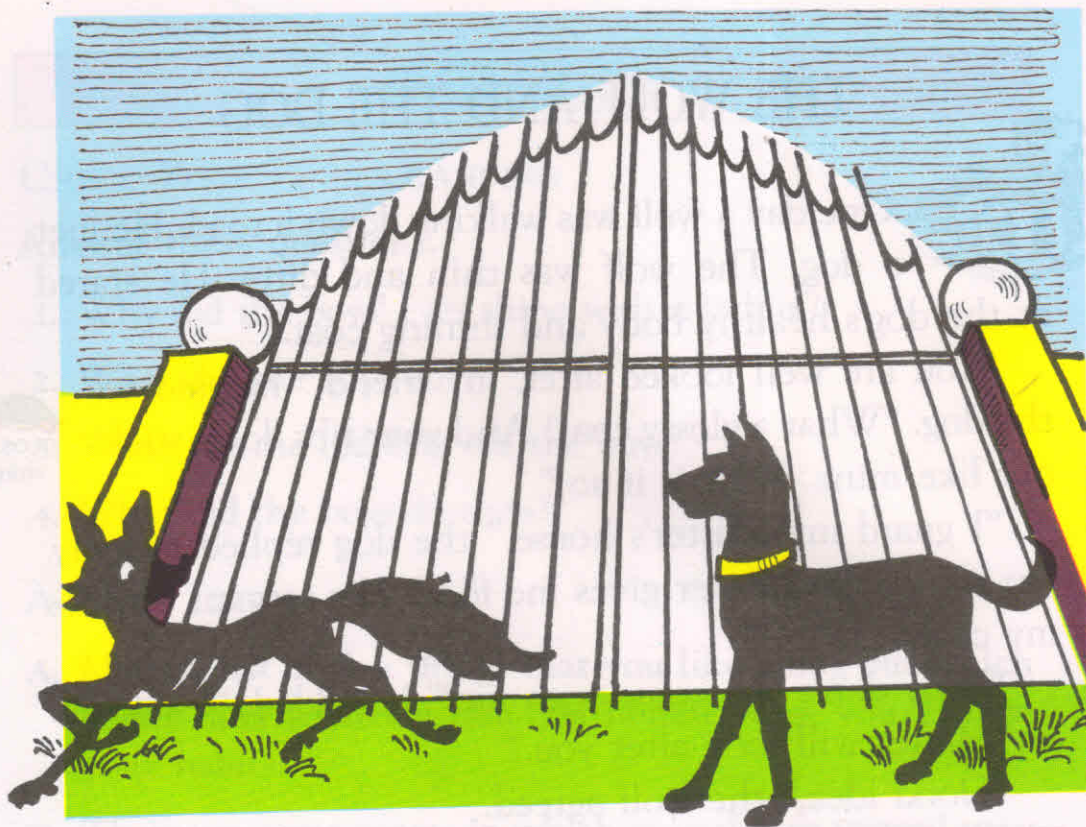
"I guard my Master's house," the dog replied proudly. "In return my Master gives me food. His servant brushes my coat."

"Why don't you come with me?" he added. "I am sure my Master will look after you."

"Good idea," the wolf agreed.

They walked over a hill and came to a big house. It had





MOUTH WATERED:
felt like eating

huge gates. The wolf's mouth watered at the thought of the food he would soon eat. As they were about to enter, he saw something shining on the dog's neck. It was a chain.

"What's this?" the wolf asked, looking at the chain.

"This is my collar," said the dog proudly. "It tells people that I belong to my Master. All the Master's dogs wear collars."

The wolf stopped. "If I come with you, will I too belong to your Master?" he asked.

"Of course," said the dog.

"Then, I must say goodbye to you. For I'd rather be thin and hungry, but free. I don't want a master. Go in and

enjoy your dinner.”

The wolf turned and trotted back over the hill, whistling away. He loved his freedom.



TROTTERED:
walked smartly

EXERCISES

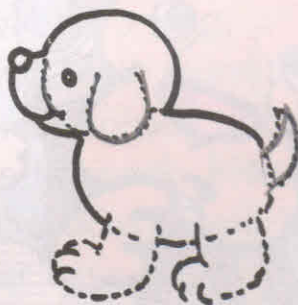
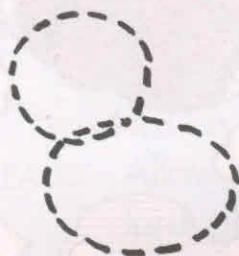
CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Answer these questions.

1. Why was the dog well looked after?
2. What did the wolf see that made him change his mind?
3. Why did the wolf choose to go hungry?
4. Write three words each to describe the wolf and the dog in this story.

ACTION TIME

Three easy steps to draw a puppy! Colour the picture.



FUN WITH LANGUAGE

A. Dog rhymes with log, fog, hog, bog, etc. Can you write some words which rhyme with these words?

1. Red
2. Pen
3. Rat

THE LION CUB'S EDUCATION

CHARACTERS

LION, CUB, EAGLE, OWL, NARRATOR (any animal), FOX, MOLE AND PANTHER (optional for mime).

(An opening in the jungle, outside Lion's den. Lion is seated on a rock, surrounded by animals.)

NARRATOR: Hear, hear! All tailed, pawed and hairy creatures. The prince cub is one today. His Majesty is looking for a teacher for him, the very best.





OWL: The fox, Your Majesty, is very clever.

LION: But tells the truth, never.

OWL: Well, what about the mole,
Ever tidy and neat?

LION: But he is blind,
Unsteady on his feet.

OWL: The panther, Sir, is brave and fights very well.

LION: My cub will be a king,
He needs to know more of everything.
Alas, is there no one good enough?

EAGLE: Allow me to speak, friend. You are king here, I am
lord of the skies. I will teach your son, and make
strong our ties.

(The cub goes away with the eagle.)

(Three years later, the same setting.)

NARRATOR: Three years have passed. Today the prince cub
becomes king.

LION: *(proudly)* Son, tell your subjects what you have learned.



CUB: From the eagle to the sparrow,
The ways of birds,
Their eggs and nests,
Where the juiciest berries grow -
I can tell you,
I know them best.

LION: Oh no! What good is all this to the king of beasts?
(Lion holds his head in sorrow. The other animals agree.)

OWL: Let birds be birds, Let cubs be kings,
Each one was made, For a special thing.
Try not to change, Their natural ways,
Each to his own, The wise owl says.

adapted from the story by

RITU SINGH

EXERCISES

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Answer these questions.

1. The lion did not choose the mole as his son's teacher. Why?
2. Why was the lion happy to have the eagle as his son's teacher?
3. What did the cub plan to teach the animals of his kingdom?
4. He realized his mistake. What was his mistake?

ACTION TIME

- A. Find pictures of animals and birds in this story. Where do they live? What do they eat?
- B. Write five lines on 'My Favourite Teacher'.

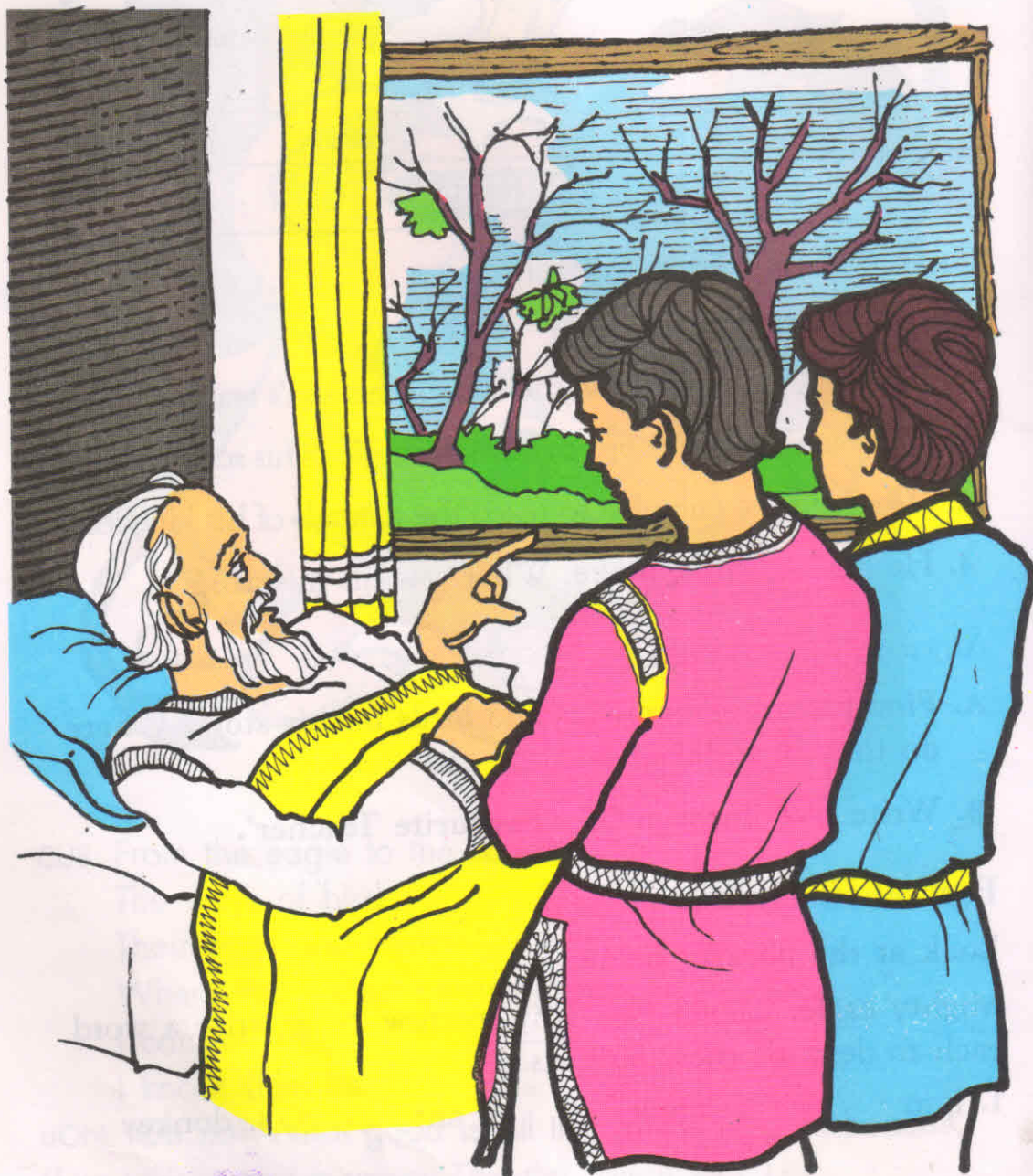
FUN WITH LANGUAGE

Look at the phrases below.

Mighty eagle, Clever fox, Tiny sparrow. Now write a word each to describe these animals.

1. lion
2. crow
3. ant
4. donkey

THE TREASURE IN THE ORCHARD





Many years ago there lived an old gardener. When he was dying, he sent for his two sons.

They found him looking out of the window. He was looking at his orchard. The trees had only a few leaves. The earth was hard and dry. He said, "Do you see my orchard?"



ORCHARD:
fruit garden

"Yes, Father," said the young men in one voice.



IN ONE VOICE:
all together

"It has always given us its best oranges, apricots and cherries, red as rubies," said the gardener.

"Yes, it is a good orchard," they agreed. The old man turned and looked at his sons. They wore suits of silk. Their hands were soft and pale.

"My sons," he said, "I have hidden a treasure in my orchard. If you want it you will have to dig deep. You will have to turn over every bit of soil. The gems lie scattered between the trees. You must dig not too near, yet not too far from the trunks. The treasure will be yours only if you dig properly."

The old man died. His lazy sons rolled up their sleeves and picked up their spades. They did not want to work but they did want the treasure. They dug and dug. They dug deep. They turned over every bit of the soil. Yet they found only bits of stone which they threw away. Their soft hands became hard and brown.

Winter passed and spring came. The trees were full of flowers, pink and white. Bees buzzed about. The young men saw nothing. They kept digging, looking for treasure.

In autumn, the fruit was ripe. It was red and gold. The





young men kept looking for treasure. They looked at the red cherries and the golden oranges. 'We might as well sell the fruit,' they thought. They sent for the fruit merchant.



AMAZED:
very surprised

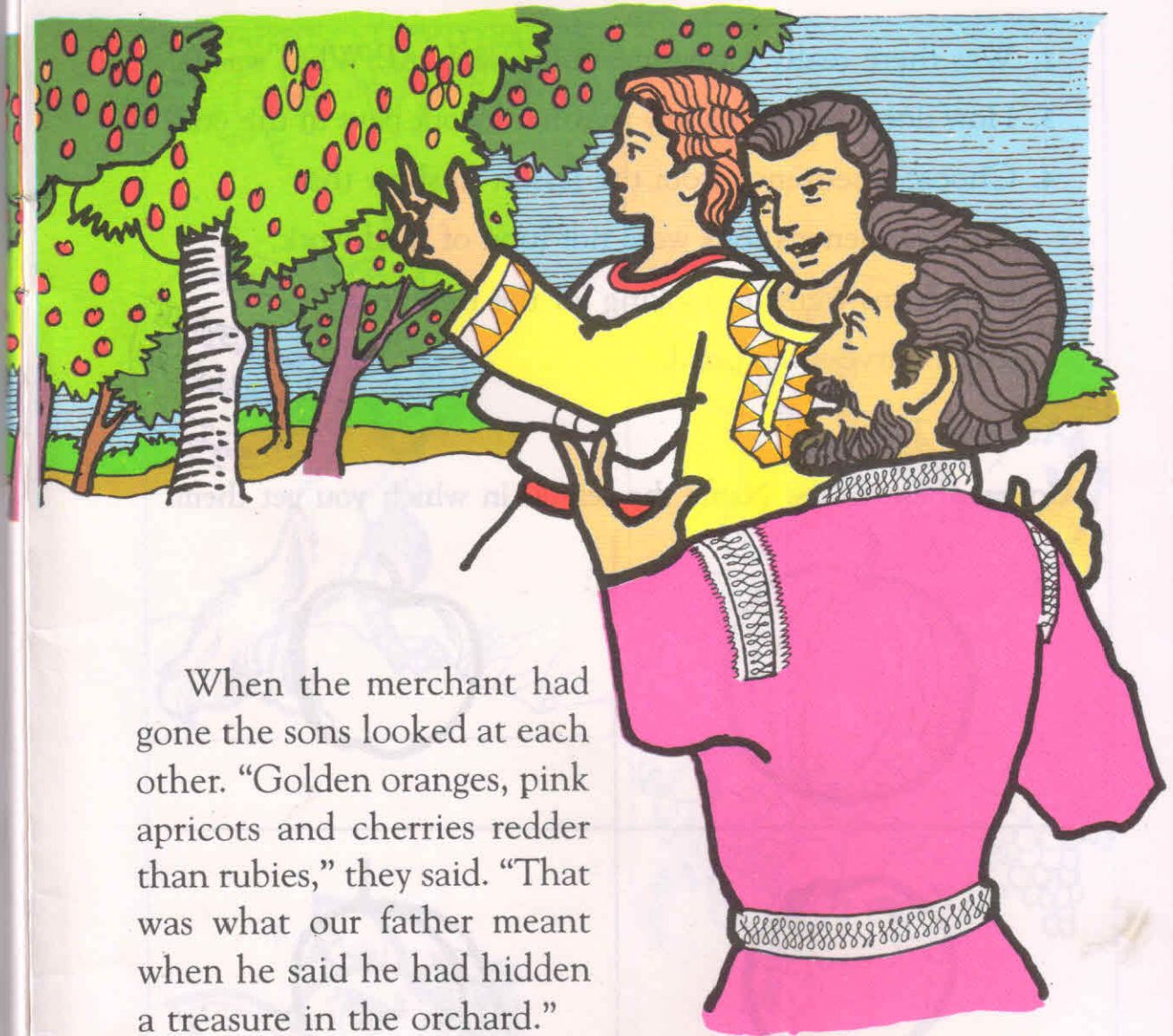
The merchant was amazed. "I have never seen a crop as fine as this," he said. "I will give you twenty bags with a hundred gold coins in each for the whole lot."

The young men looked at each other with joy. They had never seen so much money. They quickly agreed.



WEEDED:
taken out the
weeds

As the merchant handed them the money he said, "You two must have dug deep. You must have weeded and turned over the soil. No wonder you got such a treasure. Give me fruit like this and I will come back every year."



When the merchant had gone the sons looked at each other. "Golden oranges, pink apricots and cherries redder than rubies," they said. "That was what our father meant when he said he had hidden a treasure in the orchard."

EXERCISES

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Answer these questions.

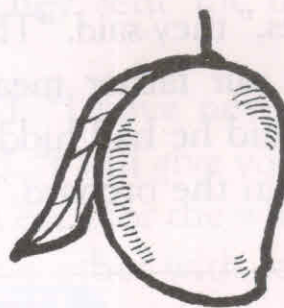
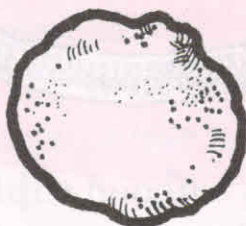
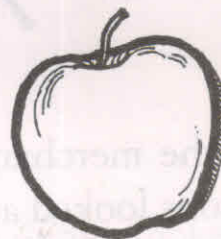
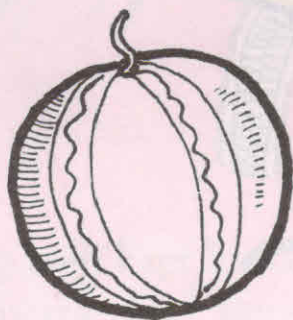
1. Why did the gardener tell his sons that he had hidden a treasure in the orchard?

2. Was there really a treasure in the orchard? What was it?
3. How does the story show that hard work pays in the end?
4. Choose a sentence from the lesson to show that
 - a. the gardener's sons were not fond of hard work.
 - b. the sons went on looking for the treasure.
 - c. the harvest was good.



ACTION TIME

Colour these fruits. Name the season in which you get them.



FUN WITH LANGUAGE

Look carefully at the word AUTUMN. We can make many words from its letters, e.g. MAT, MAN, NUT, TAN, ANT, etc. Isn't it fun? Try and make as many words as you can from the word MERCHANT.

