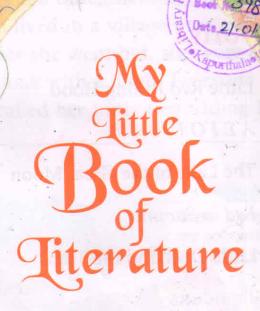


My Little Book of Literature engages the child in a way that encourages learning, while retaining the pleasure that comes from reading for its own sake. This is what will make children good readers for life.



3

Illustrations: Neeta Gangopadhyay





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Little Red Riding Hood

Once upon a time, there was a little girl who lived in a village near a forest. Whenever she went out, she wore a red riding cloak with a hood. Everyone in the village called her Little Red Riding Hood.



One morning . . .







As Little Red Riding Hood walked through the forest, she saw some lovely flowers growing around. She forgot what her mother had said.



A wolf saw Red Riding Hood as she was picking the flowers.



The wolf thought of a plan.



The wolf ran through the forest and reached Granny's house before Red Riding Hood. He knocked softly at the door.

As soon as Granny answered the door, the wolf got in and locked her up in the cupboard. He then dressed himself in Granny's clothes and jumped into the bed. He pulled the covers over his body. A few minutes later, Little Red Riding Hood arrived.





A woodcutter was passing by. He heard Red Riding Hood's screams and ran in.

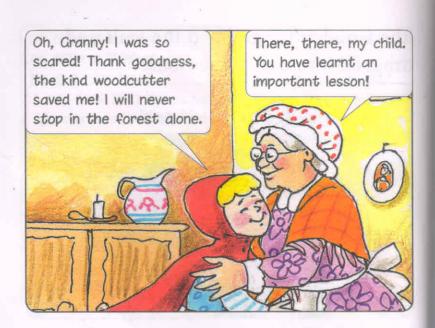


The woodcutter grabbed the wolf and dragged him out of the house.



Red Riding Hood thanked the woodcutter and let Granny out of the cupboard.





adapted from Grimms' Fairy Tales

Words to Know

riding cloak: a type of coat without sleeves, worn over the shoulders when going outdoors

hood: a covering for the head and neck with an opening for the face

answered the door: opened the door

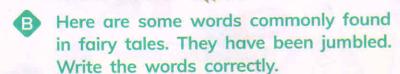
Let us answer



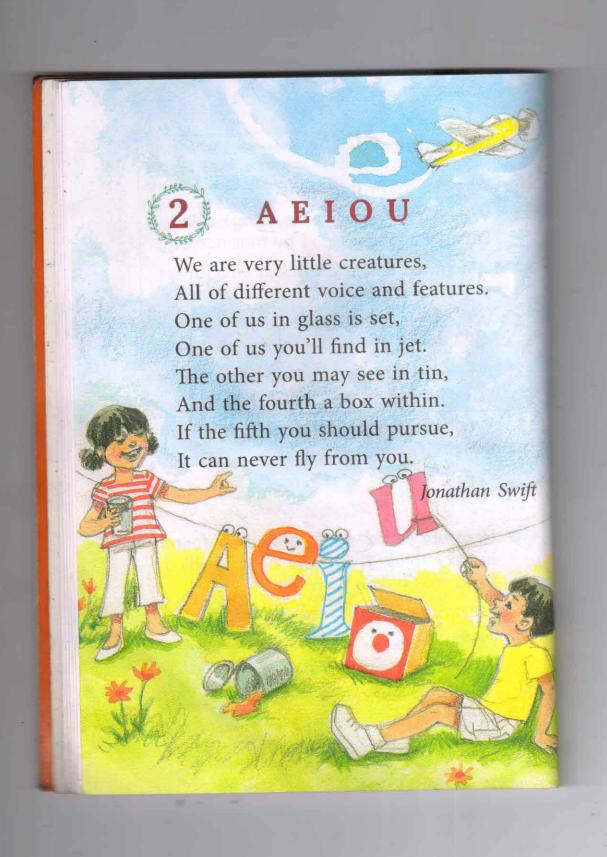
Answer these questions.

- Why did everyone in the village call Little Red Riding Hood by that name?
- 2. Whom did Little Red Riding Hood meet in the forest?
- 3. Why did the wolf dress up in Granny's clothes?
- 4. Who heard Little Red Riding Hood's screams?
- 5. What did Little Red Riding Hood promise Granny?

Fun with words



1.	esrspnic	princess
2.	tlecas	c
3.	tchwi	W
4.	fel	e
5.	icamg	m



1600	Words to Know —	
g fec	atures: main qualities of something	
	: an aeroplane	
ွို့ pu	rsue: to follow someone or something	
K		
Let	us answer	
A	Tick (✓) the correct answers.	
1.	The poem is about	
	a. creatures b. vowels	
	c. consonants	
2.	Which vowel do you find in 'glass'?	
	a. e b. u c. a	
3.	Which word contains the fourth vowel?	
	a. tin b. bag c. box	
4.	Which vowel can never fly from you?	
	a. e b. i c. u	
₿	Write a rhyming word from the poem for each of these words.	
1.	creatures	provide .
2.	set	13

-

-	201	
2	- +	LIV
-	- 1	и

4. pursue

Fun with words

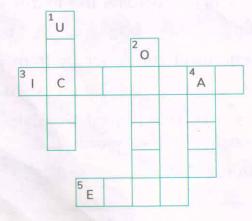
Complete this crossword puzzle with words beginning with vowels.

ACROSS

- 3 We love to have this in summers.
- 5 We see the world with them.

DOWN

- 1 He is your father's or mother's brother.
- 2 It is both a fruit and a colour.
- 4 She is your mother's or father's sister.





3

The Lake of the Great Moon

A herd of elephants lived in a dense jungle. Their king was a kind and wise elephant.

One summer, it did not rain at all.

There was no water in the jungle. All
the animals were thirsty. The elephant
king sent some of his soldiers to look for
water. They found a large lake far away
from the jungle.

The elephants rushed towards the lake. On the way, there was a colony of rabbits. In their hurry, the elephants did not see the rabbits. Many rabbits were hurt or killed.

The rabbit king called a meeting.

"A herd of elephants has killed many
of our brothers and sisters. We must stop
them from killing more," he said.

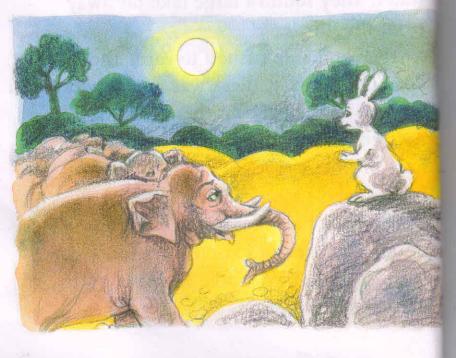
One small rabbit stood up. "Your Majesty," he said, "I have a plan. Please let me go and talk to the elephant king."

The rabbit king agreed. The small rabbit ran fast. The elephants were returning from the lake. The rabbit chose a high rock and climbed to the top.

"O Elephant King!" he said in his loudest voice. "Please listen to me."

"Who are you?" asked the elephant king.

"I am the moon's messenger. I have



come with an important message for you," replied the rabbit.

"The mighty moon has said, 'This is my lake. No one may drink water from it. The king of the elephants is very cruel. He has killed many rabbits. The rabbits are under my care and their king lives with me. The elephants must not kill any more rabbits. If they do, I will punish them.'

The elephant king was very sorry.
"I want to ask for the moon's forgiveness.
Where can I meet him?"

The rabbit jumped off the rock.
"I will take you to the moon," he said.

The elephant king followed the rabbit to the lake. They looked in the water and saw the reflection of the moon.

"Let me ask for forgiveness," said the elephant king and dipped his trunk into the water.

The reflection of the moon moved to and fro.



"The moon is very angry," whispered the rabbit. "You have disturbed the holy waters of the lake."

"I'll never drink water from this lake again. My herd will also be careful and will not kill any more rabbits," the king promised.

That very night, the herd of elephants went in search of another lake. On their journey, they were very careful not to kill

any small animal. They did not want to make the moon angry, you see!

Words to Know

herd: a large group of animals living together

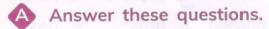
dense: thick

colony: a group of people, animals

or birds living together

reflection: the image of an object formed in water or in a mirror

Let us answer "



- 1. Why were all the animals of the jungle thirsty?
- 2. Where was the lake?
- 3. Why were many rabbits hurt or killed?
- 4. Why were the elephants careful not to kill any small animal when they went in search of another lake?

- B Write T for True and F for False.
- The elephant king sent some foxes to look for water.
- 2. The small rabbit chose a high tree and climbed to the top.
- The rabbit said that he was the moon's messenger.
- The elephant king saw the reflection of the moon in the lake.

Fun with words

- Underline the words that go with the words in capitals.
- 1. LARGE a. sound b. weather c. herd
- 2. RAINY a. balloon b. grass c. day
- 3. SOFT a. pillow b. sun c. ocean
- 4. JUICY a. apple b. lake c. fan



Bed in Summer

In winter I get up at night
And dress by yellow candle-light.
In summer, quite the other way,
I have to go to bed by day.

I have to go to bed and see
The birds still hopping on the tree,
Or hear the grown-up people's feet
Still going past me in the street.

And does it not seem hard to you, When all the sky is clear and blue, And I should like so much to play, To have to go to bed by day?

Robert Louis Stevenson

Let us answer Answer these questions. By what does the child dress during winter? Tick (/) the correct answer. a. the golden rays of the sun b. the silver rays of the moon c. yellow candle-light 2. What does the child see when he goes to bed in summer? 3. What does the child hear when he goes to bed in summer? Why does the child find it hard to go to bed in summer? Fun with words Write three pairs of rhyming words from the poem.

2.



Little Deer and the Trap

"Ooo-oooo," whimpered Little Deer, as he woke up one morning.

His head ached, something that had never happened before.

"Mother, dear mother," cried Little Deer, "my head aches as if it's bursting! Whatever can it be?"

Mother Deer looked at her little one's head and laughed. "That looks like a little bump to me," she said. "You'll soon be getting a pair of antlers."

"Antlers!" Little Deer cried excitedly. "Will I get antlers like Great Uncle

Stag?" he asked.

"Not quite like Great Uncle Stag," his mother replied. "Not all deer get them quite as fine as he does. Come, I will take you to your Great Uncle Stag and he (23)



will give you some of his wisdom. Then, maybe one day, you too will have a pair of antlers just like him."

And so, Little Deer went to Great Uncle Stag's school and soon learnt all the tricks of the herd.

He learnt to roam through the jungle, facing the wind. The wind would carry to him the scent of his enemies, but not his scent to them.

Little Deer learnt how to prick up his

ears to hear the slightest sound. He learnt how to keep perfectly still. He learnt many more tricks.

Little Deer learnt to stay close to the herd and not to stray too far off on his own. But every once in a while, he did do so, just to see what would happen.

And one day, something did happen!
While Little Deer was roaming
through the jungle on his own, he went
further in than he had ever before.
There he saw some tender plants.

'Surely they are greener and juicier than anything I've had before,' thought Little Deer. He nibbled at the leaves of a bush. They were tasty! Little Deer went closer to get at the tender leaves when suddenly he was caught by something cold and hard. He was caught in a hunter's trap and it was exactly the way Great Uncle Stag had said it would be!

'How I wish I had listened to Great Uncle (25)

Stag,' Little Deer thought to himself.

He thought hard. 'What was it that Great Uncle Stag taught me about traps?' 'Oh yes! He taught me to play dead!' it suddenly struck him.

And Little Deer kept absolutely still and quiet, pretending to be dead for one whole day. The flies didn't bother him because they thought he was dead.

And then came the hunter and he too thought that Little Deer was dead.

'I will tie up the deer and take him home,' the hunter thought. He opened the trap and went to fetch some ropes.

Little Deer waited till the hunter was a little distance away. Then, he leapt high in the air and ran away.

"Hey! Hey!" the hunter shouted.

Little Deer didn't stop, of course!

He ran facing the wind, through the dense jungle and past little pools. He ran

as fast as his little legs would carry him.



He stopped only once to have water. He bent down at the edge of a pool and as he did so he saw his reflection. Then he saw that he had started growing a fine pair of antlers!

Little Deer was so happy!
He ran straight back to his herd.

Words to Know

whimpered: here, cried softly antlers: branched horns that grow on the head of a male deer tricks of the herd: here, clever ways of protecting oneself in the jungle prick up his ears: raise his ears to listen with more attention tender: here, young and soft

Let us answer

- Number these sentences in the correct order.
- He ran as fast as his legs would carry him.
- ____ Mother Deer took him to Great Uncle Stag's school.
- Little Deer kept still and pretended to be dead for one whole day.
- ___ Little Deer went further into the jungle than he had ever done before.
- 1 One morning, Little Deer complained to his mother that his head ached.
- ___ Little Deer was caught in a hunter's trap.

- B Answer these questions.
- State two tricks that Little Deer learnt at Great Uncle Stag's school.
- What did Little Deer do to escape the hunter's trap?
- 3. What did Little Deer see when he looked at his reflection in the pool?

Fun with words

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Fill in the blanks with words from the box.

carefully excitedly perfectly quietly sleepily

- Little Deer lay . in the trap.
- These new shoes fit me _
- "Grandma is visiting us tomorrow," said Pinky _
- "I have had a long day," said Mother
- 5. "The road is slippery. You should walk ," said Grandfather.



Tapodutta

CHARACTERS

TAPODUTTA

LORD INDRA

INDRA'S WIFE

TAPODUTTA'S FRIENDS

NARRATOR

Scene 1

(A village by the river Ganga)

NARRATOR: Tapodutta was a lazy boy

Who never opened a book

But sat by the river, dreaming,

In his eyes a faraway look.

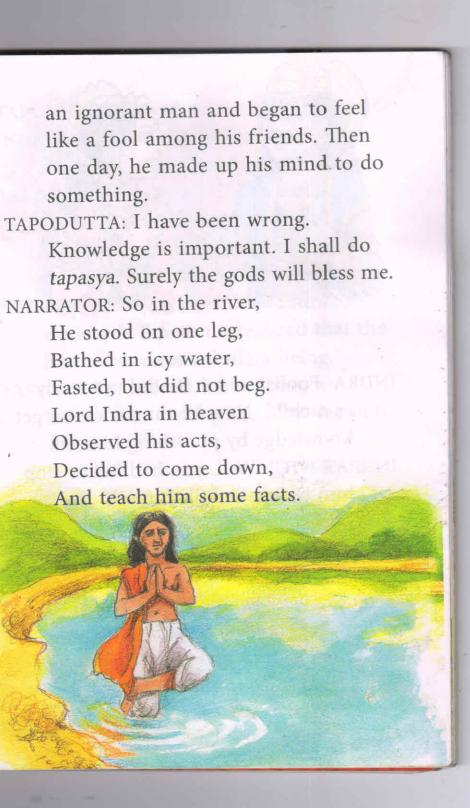
(Enter Tapodutta with friends.)

TAPODUTTA: What is the use of studying?

Books tell you nothing about life.

NARRATOR: His friends tried to reason

with him but he did not listen. As
the years flew by, he grew up to be





SCENE 2

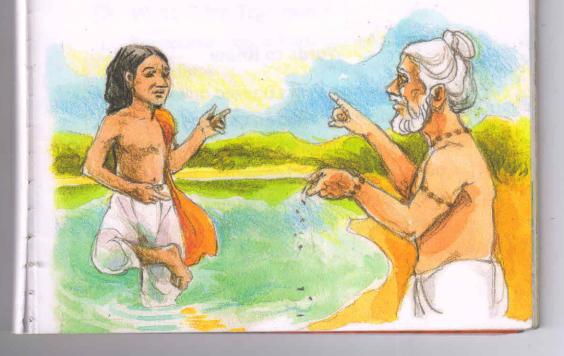
(In heaven)

INDRA: Foolish man! He did not study as a child. Now he thinks he can get knowledge by punishing himself.

INDRA'S WIFE: Well, you had better stop him before he kills himself.

Scene 3

(Lord Indra, dressed as a hermit, stands on the banks of the Ganga and starts throwing grains of sand into the water, one by one. Tapodutta stands on one leg in the hot sun.) TAPODUTTA: Sir, why are you doing this?
INDRA: I will build a bridge across the river with these grains of sand.
TAPODUTTA: Impossible! You cannot!
INDRA: Why not? If you can gain knowledge by standing on one leg, surely I can build a bridge with sand.
NARRATOR: Saying this, Lord Indra vanished. Tapodutta realized that the hermit was not a human being.
TAPODUTTA: Indeed, I have been a foolish man, taking the easy way out.



Learning needs time and study. We cannot gain anything without hard work.

NARRATOR: Realizing this, Tapodutta began to study and soon became one of the most learned men in the village. People wondered at the sudden change and asked him how it had come about. But Tapodutta did not tell anyone about the 'hermit's' visit. That will remain a secret between you and me.

Words to Know

years flew by: years passed quickly ignorant: not having knowledge

tapasya: meditation

observed: watched carefully

vanished: disappeared from sight

come about: here, happened

Let us answer

- Answer these questions.
 - 1. Who was Tapodutta?
- 2. Why did he not study? What did he do instead?
- 3. What made Tapodutta realize that knowledge was important? What did he do about it?
- 4. Why did Lord Indra call Tapodutta a foolish man?
- 5. How did Lord Indra teach Tapodutta a lesson? What was the lesson?
- B Write T for True and F for False.
- Tapodutta was a hard-working boy. _____
- Tapodutta stood on one leg in the river.
- Lord Vishnu came to teach
 Tapodutta a lesson.
- 4. Lord Indra said he would build a bridge with grains of sand.
- Tapodutta told everyone that a hermit had visited him.

Fun with words

Tapodutta made up his mind to do something.

Complete these sentences using the correct phrases from the box.

keep up came up turned up look up dressed up

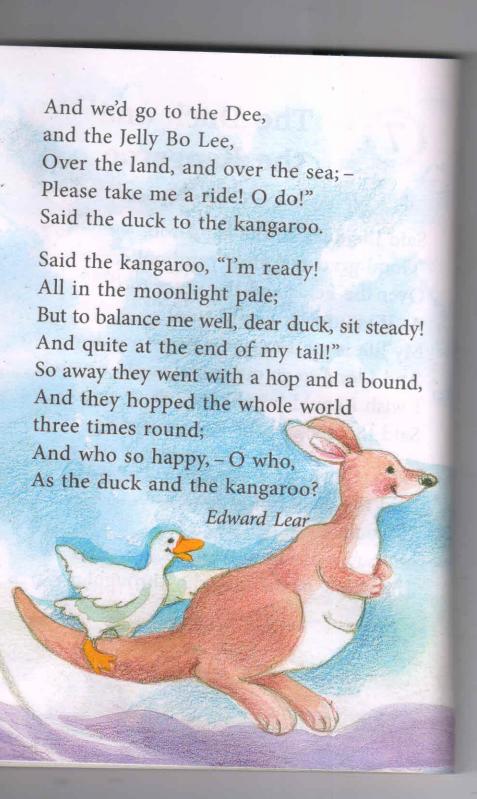
- 1. Tanu _____ with a great idea.
- 2. Many children ______ for the music class.
- 3. Neha _____ as a tiger for the Earth Day play in her school.
- 4. "____ these words in the dictionary," said the teacher.
- 5. "_____ the good work," Grandma encouraged Anu.



The Duck and the Kangaroo

Said the duck to the kangaroo,
"Good gracious! How you hop!
Over the fields and the water too,
As if you never would stop!
My life is a bore in this nasty pond,
And I long to go out in the world beyond!
I wish I could hop like you!"
Said the duck to the kangaroo.

"Please give me a ride on your back!"
Said the duck to the kangaroo.
"I would sit quite still,
and say nothing but 'Quack,'
The whole of the long day through!



Words to Know

Good gracious!: an exclamation of surprise

My life is a bore: my life is dull or uninteresting

nasty: here, horrible

Dee: the river Dee that flows through England

Jelly Bo Lee: an imaginary place

bound: a quick, long jump

Let us answer



Answer these questions.

- 1. Which line in the poem tells you that the duck did not like his life in the pond?
- 2. What did the duck long to do?
- 3. What request did the duck make and to whom?
- 4. Where did the duck wish to go with the kangaroo?
- 5. How many times did the duck and the kangaroo go around the whole world?

₿	Add a rhyming	word to	each of	these
	pairs of words	from the	poem.	

 1. kangaroo
 too

 2. hop
 stop

 3. sea
 Lee

 4. bound
 round

Fun with words

- The word 'moonlight' is formed by joining two words: 'moon' and 'light'. Match the columns to form more such words.
- 1. grass a. mother
- 2. sun b. noon
- 3. basket c. room
- 4. bath d. ball
- 5. grand e. hopper
- 6. after f. flower

8 Akbar Meets Birbal

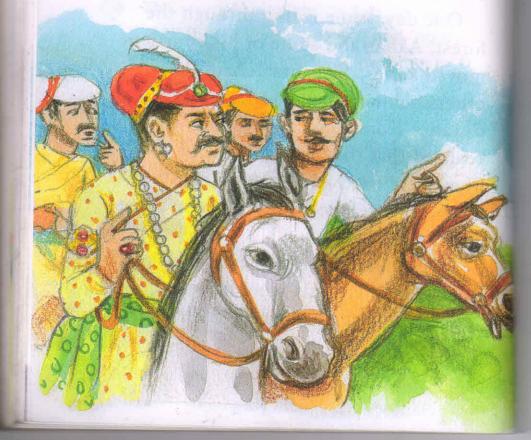
Emperor Akbar loved to go riding. Even as a child, he would run away from his lessons and go riding on his favourite horse. When he grew up, he was a more skillful rider than any of his courtiers.

One day, while riding through the forest, Akbar and some of his courtiers moved so fast that they left all the others behind. They had travelled a long distance from Agra. By evening, they realized that they had got lost. They were tired and went on slowly. Soon, they reached a place where three roads met.

"Ah! At last!" the Emperor exclaimed. Then, turning to his men, he asked, "Which way shall we go? Which road goes to Agra?" The roads all looked the same. It was hard to tell which road led to Agra.

The men looked at each other. Just then, a man came walking down one of the roads.

The Emperor's men called out to him and ordered him to come forward. He did so, looking up at the richly-dressed riders with bright eyes.



"Tell us, young man," said Emperor Akbar, "which road goes to Agra?"

The man smiled.

"Huzoor, everybody knows that roads cannot move. How can this or that road go to Agra or anywhere else?" he said.

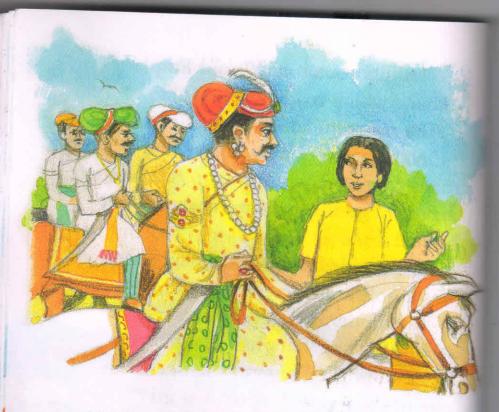
He chuckled at his own joke. There was absolute silence.

The Emperor stared down at the youth. His courtiers held their breath. They knew the Emperor's temper. Not one of them dared to say a word.

The man said, "People travel, not the roads, do they?"

"No, they don't!" the Emperor replied and began to laugh. Nervously, his courtiers began to laugh too. The youth ignored them and continued to look up at the Emperor with twinkling eyes.

"What's your name?" Emperor Akbar asked him.



"Mahesh Das," he replied. "And what is your name, huzoor?"

The Emperor took off an enormous emerald ring from his hand. Leaning down, he gave it to Mahesh Das.

"You are speaking to Akbar, Emperor of Hindustan," he said. "We need fearless young men such as you at our court,

Mahesh Das. Bring this ring with you

when you come and I shall recognize you immediately. And now, show us the road we must take in order to go to Agra."

Mahesh Das bowed low and pointed towards the capital. The Emperor turned his horse and galloped away, followed by his courtiers.

Mahesh Das later became Emperor Akbar's favourite courtier and was called Raja Birbal by the Emperor.

Words to Know

courtiers: people who are companions or advisers to a king or queen

huzoor: an Urdu word used to address a respected person

chuckled: laughed quietly

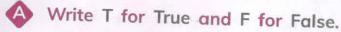
held their breath: here, almost stopped

breathing out of fear

temper: anger

twinkling: sparkling

Let us answer



- Emperor Akbar and his courtiers had travelled a long distance from Delhi.
- All three roads looked the same. It was hard to tell which road led to Agra.
- The young man told the Emperor that roads cannot move.
- 4. The Emperor stared down at the man.
- The Emperor gave Mahesh a ring made of rubies.
- Mahesh Das showed the Emperor the way to the capital.

B Read the lines and answer the questions.

- "Which way shall we go? Which road goes to Agra?"
 - a. Who said these words and to whom?
 - b. Why did the speaker wish to go to Agra?

- 2. "People travel, not the roads, do they?"
 - a. Who said these words and to whom?
 - b. What had the speaker said just before this?
 - c. How did the listener respond?

Fun with words



held my breath hold of hold your tongue hold on

- Please _____ and complete your work before the bell rings.
- 2. _____ a minute. I need to check my diary.
- 3. Get _____ Raju and ask him if he is coming for the music class.
- 4. I _____ and waited for the match to begin.



The King's Gift

Long ago, there was a kingdom called Shirva. The people of this kingdom were very lazy. They wanted the king to do everything for them. This made the king unhappy.

Shirva had a busy marketplace. People would come to buy and sell goods. It was also a meeting place for many.

One day, the people found a large rock lying in the centre of the marketplace.

A merchant on a coach tried to pass by the rock. A man who was travelling with the merchant said, "Please stop. Ask your coachman to get down and move that rock."

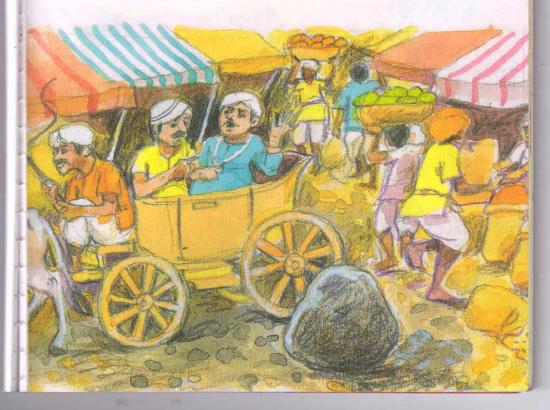
"Why should I?" replied the merchant. "It is the duty of the king and his ministers."

After some time, a policeman rushed

by and hurt his foot against the rock. He blamed the king and went on his way.

Then came a young man riding on a horse. He looked at the rock and said, "I will ride around it!" and galloped away.

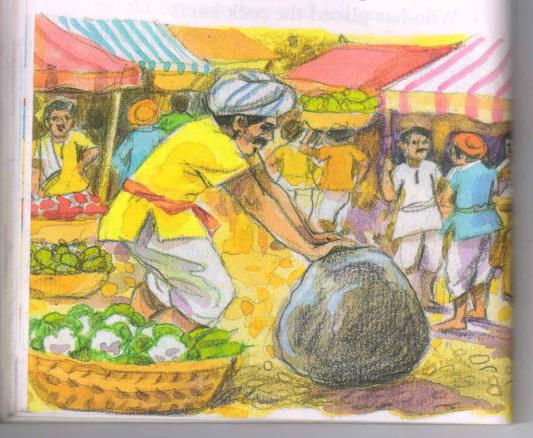
After a while, came a farmer, carrying a heavy basket of vegetables on his head. He stopped and looked at the rock. 'Who has placed the rock here?



It might cause an accident, thought the farmer. So he decided to shift the rock.

Using all his strength, he managed to move the rock and roll it to one corner of the marketplace. He turned back and looked at the spot where the rock had been placed.

The farmer found a bag where the rock was. He opened the bag and found



many silver coins inside it. It also had a slip of paper. On it was written:

A GIFT FROM THE KING TO THE GOOD CITIZEN WHO REMOVED THIS ROCK

Words to Know

coachman: a person who drives a horse-drawn carriage citizen: here, an ordinary person

Let us answer

- Answer these questions.
- Why was the king of Shirva unhappy?
- 2. Why did the merchant not bother to shift the rock?
- 3. Who removed the rock? What reward did he get?
- What do you learn from the story?
 Tick (✓) the line you agree with.

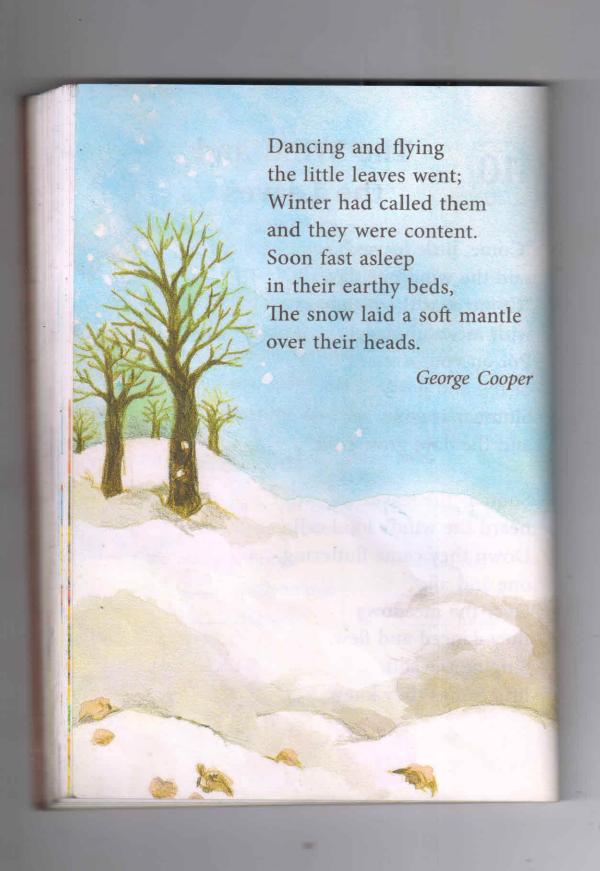
	a. Farmers are better than merchants.				
	b. Merchants are la	zy.			
	c. It is good to help others and not expect someone else to take care of everything.				
₿	Read the lines and answer the questions.				
	"Why should I? It is the duty of the king and his ministers."				
1.	Who said these words and to whom?				
2.	When did the speaker say these words?				
Fur	with words				
0	Add dis or un before these words to make their opposites.				
1.	happy	4.	tidy		
2.	advantage	5.	agree		
3.	appear	6.	lucky		



The Wind and the Leaves

"Come, little leaves,"
said the wind one day,
"Come over the meadows
with me, and play;
Put on your dresses
of red and gold;
Summer is gone,
and the days grow cold."

Soon as the leaves
heard the wind's loud call,
Down they came fluttering,
one and all;
Over the meadows
they danced and flew,
Singing the soft,
little songs they knew.

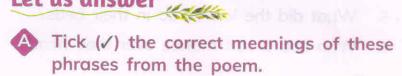


Words to Know

meadow: an open field with grass and flowers

fluttering: moving lightly and quickly earthy: made of earth or soil mantle: here, a layer or cover

Let us answer



- 1. dresses of red and gold
 - a. the special dresses of the leaves ____
 - b. the colours of the leaves in autumn ____
- 2. the soft, little songs they knew
 - a. the sounds of leaves rustling and blowing in the wind ____
 - b. songs that they learned from the tree ____
- 3. in their earthy beds
 - a. beds that the wind had made for them _____

b. the meadow where the leaves landed							
Answer these questions.							
What did the wind ask the leaves to do?							
What colour were the dresses of the leaves?							
What did the leaves do when they heard the wind's loud call?							
What kind of songs did the leaves sing?							
What did the leaves do in their beds?							
Who laid a soft mantle over their heads?							
with words							
Add 'y' to these nouns to form							
adjectives. You may have to change							
the spellings of some of the nouns.							
noise noisy	6.	rock					
earth	7.	fog					
cream	8.	mist					
ice	9.	rain					
cloud See Losson 4	10.	dust					

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3.

4.

5.