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My
Little
Book
of
Literature
5

Ratna Sagar
Education, Our Mission!



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Siddhartha Saves the Swan

Long ago, in the Himalayan kingdom of Kapilavastu, lived a king named Suddhodana and his wife, Queen Maya. They were just and kind rulers.

One day, the queen gave birth to a baby boy. He was named Siddhartha. Many people visited the royal palace to bless the baby.



Among the visitors was an old hermit who had come from his home in the mountains.

Tell me, O seer! What does the future hold for my son?

Your son could become a great king one day or . . .



What he said next shocked the king.

. . . he might choose to leave the kingdom and lead a life devoted to truth and meditation.

He will do no such thing! He is going to be a king, like me!



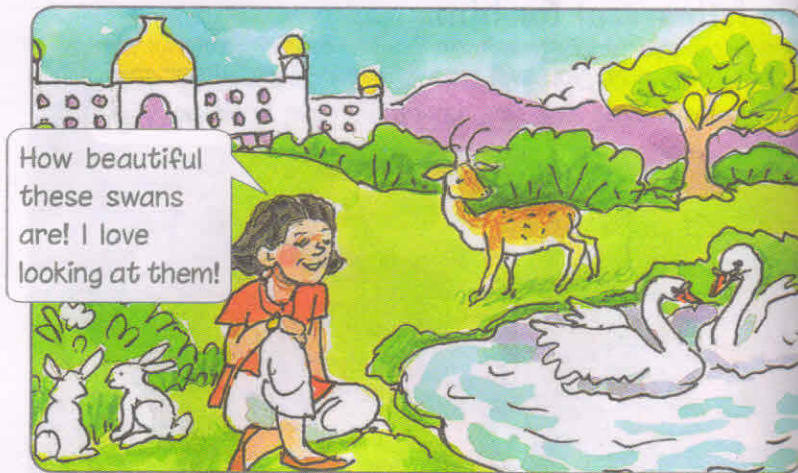
Siddhartha grew up surrounded by riches and luxury. When he was seven years old, his father sent for him.



Siddhartha began his training with his cousin Devadatta.



Every day when his lessons were over, Siddhartha would go and play in the palace grounds.



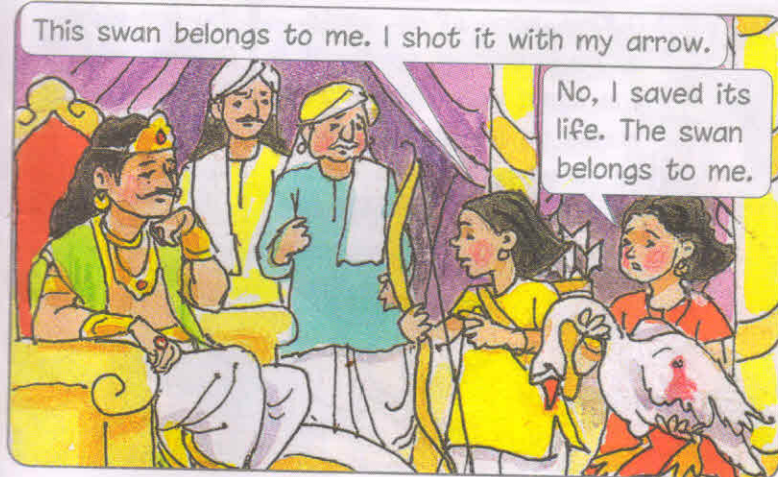
One evening, he saw three wild swans flying overhead. Then, suddenly one fell to the ground.



Siddhartha walked quickly to the wounded swan and stroked it gently. He treated the wound with medicine.



The King listened to the boys patiently.



Just then, a figure clad in an orange robe, appeared in the doorway. It was an old hermit.



Everyone looked at the hermit curiously.



Devadatta stood silently. He remembered how kind his mother had been when he had once fallen and badly injured his leg.



He felt sorry for the swan. He and Siddhartha decided to look after the swan until it was well.



One evening near the palace . . .



At the lake, they heard the sound of wings.



Words to Know

Siddhartha: the name given to Gautama Buddha by his parents

just: here, fair

hermit: a person who lives alone for religious reasons

seer: a very wise person who people think can predict the future

luxury: here, a lot of good things like good food, good clothes, toys and so on

sent for him: asked him to come

Devadatta: Siddhartha's cousin, who later became a Buddhist monk

Let us answer

A Answer these questions.

1. Who were Siddhartha's parents?
2. What did the hermit say the baby would become one day?
3. Why did King Suddhodana want Siddhartha to begin his training?
4. What would Siddhartha do when his lessons were over for the day?
5. What happened one evening, when Siddhartha saw wild swans flying overhead? What did he do?

6. Who settled the problem between Siddhartha and Devadatta? What did he say?

B Read the lines and answer the questions.

"It wants to live, so it should go to whoever gives it life."

1. Who said these words and to whom?
2. Why did the speaker say these words?

C Think and answer.

Which of these would you do if you found an injured bird?

1. let it be
2. inform an adult
3. write an essay about it

Fun with words

D Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the brackets.

1. The swans were flying towards (towards/behind) the mountains.
2. The boys ran _____ (up/into) the hill together.
3. The birds were flying _____ (overhead/underhead) in a V-formation.
4. An island is surrounded _____ (from/by) water on all sides.
5. There is a forest _____ (across/above) the lake.



Heidi Feels Homesick

Heidi is a storybook by Johanna Spyri. Heidi goes to live with her grandfather in the mountains of Switzerland. She loves to wander about with Peter, the goatherd, and to play with Snowflake, a little white goat. She loves Grannie, Peter's grandmother. However, Heidi has to go to Frankfurt to be with a girl called Clara. She has to take lessons from Mr Usher, Clara's tutor. Heidi is made to feel unwelcome by the strict housekeeper, Miss Rottenmeier. She finds a friend in Sebastian, who works in the house.

After dinner, Heidi would sit alone in her room for some time. She had been made to realize that she could not simply run out-of-doors as she had done at home, so she never tried again. Miss Rottenmeier had

forbidden her to talk to Sebastian.

Heidi had plenty of time every day to think of the snow which would have melted on the mountain by now; of how beautiful it would be at home with the sun shining on the grass and on the flowery slopes and over the valley below.

She felt so homesick, she could hardly bear it. Then she remembered that her aunt had said that she could go back if she wanted to. So one afternoon, she wrapped up the rolls in her big red scarf, put on her old straw hat and went downstairs.

She had got only as far as the front door when she ran straight into Miss Rottenmeier. That forbidding person stared at Heidi in amazement and her sharp eyes came to rest on the red bundle.

"And what does this mean?" Miss Rottenmeier demanded. "Why are you dressed up like that? Haven't I forbidden you to run about the streets alone or to go outside without permission?"

"I wasn't going to run about," murmured Heidi, a little frightened. "I only want to go home to see Grandfather and Grannie."

"What's that? You want to go home?" Miss Rottenmeier threw up her hands in horror. "You'd simply run off like that? What would Mr Sesemann say? I can only hope he'll never hear of it. Pray, what's wrong with this house? Have you ever lived in such a fine place before, or had such a soft bed to sleep in or eaten such good food? Answer me that."

"No," said Heidi.

"Here, you have everything you can want."



You're an ungrateful little girl who doesn't know when she's well off."

This was too much for Heidi and she burst out, "I want to go home because while I'm here Snowflake will be crying, and Grannie will be missing me too. And here, I can't see the sun saying goodnight to the mountains. How the eagle would screech if he saw all the people here in Frankfurt!"

"Merciful heavens! The child's out of her mind!" exclaimed Miss Rottenmeier and ran swiftly upstairs, bumping violently into Sebastian who was going down. "Bring that child up here at once," she ordered.

"Very well," said Sebastian.

Heidi hadn't moved. She was trembling all over and her eyes were blazing.

"Well, what have you done this time?" asked Sebastian cheerfully. Still she didn't stir, so he patted her shoulder.

He added sympathetically, "Come now, don't take it so much to heart. Keep smiling.

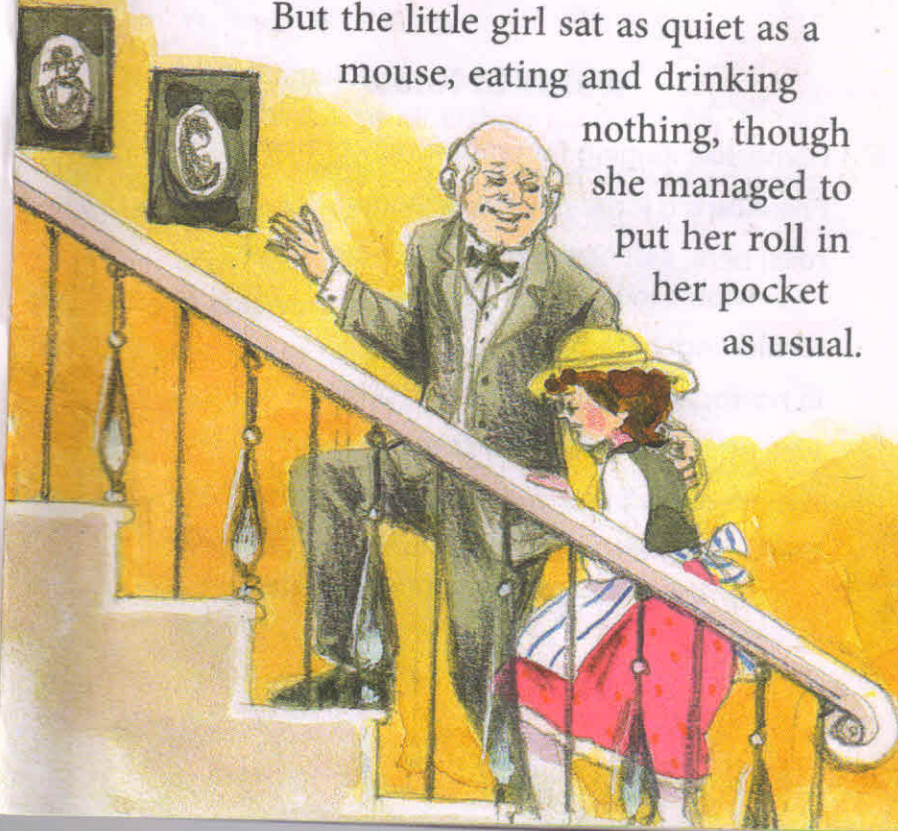
16 That's the best thing to do. Come along.

We've got to do an about-turn and go upstairs again. She said so." Heidi went up slowly with him.

"Cheer up," he said. "Don't be downhearted. I've never seen you cry yet and I know you're a sensible little girl."

At supper, Miss Rottenmeier hardly spoke, but every now and then she glanced sharply at Heidi as though she was expecting her to do something unheard-of at any moment.

But the little girl sat as quiet as a mouse, eating and drinking nothing, though she managed to put her roll in her pocket as usual.



Next morning, when Mr Usher arrived, Miss Rottenmeier mysteriously beckoned him into the dining room and told him she feared that the change of air and the new way of life, with all its unusual experiences, had affected Heidi's mind. She told him how the child had tried to run away and repeated the extraordinary things she had said.

adapted from Heidi by Johanna Spyri

Words to Know

homesick: longing for one's family or home

Frankfurt: a large city in Germany

rolls: here, soft bread rolls that were not available in Heidi's village

forbidding: here, stern

in horror: here, in surprise and anger

well off: here, well taken care of

downhearted: sad

beckoned: here, made a gesture with the hand, arm, or head to ask someone to follow

Let us answer



A Answer these questions.

1. What did Heidi think of every day?
2. What did Heidi do one afternoon?
3. Why did Miss Rottenmeier throw up her hands in horror?
4. What did Miss Rottenmeier ask Sebastian to do?
5. What did Heidi do at supper?
6. What did Miss Rottenmeier tell Mr Usher?

B Write True or False.

1. Miss Rottenmeier had forbidden Heidi to talk to Mr Usher. _____
2. Heidi remembered that her aunt had said that she could go back if she wanted to. _____
3. Miss Rottenmeier's sharp eyes came to rest on the blue cap. _____
4. Heidi told Miss Rottenmeier that she wanted to go home to see Grandfather and Grannie. _____
5. Miss Rottenmeier said that Heidi was grateful for what she had. _____
6. Sebastian asked Heidi not to cry and to behave sensibly. _____

C Read the lines and answer the questions.

"Come now, don't take it so much to heart.
Keep smiling."

1. Name the speaker.
2. Who was the speaker talking to?
3. Why did the speaker say these words?

Fun with words

D Sebastian asked Heidi not to be downhearted.
Match the words in Column A with their
meanings in Column B.

COLUMN A

1. download
2. downpour
3. down to earth

COLUMN B

- a. heavy rainfall
- b. practical
- c. copy or transfer
data using the
Internet

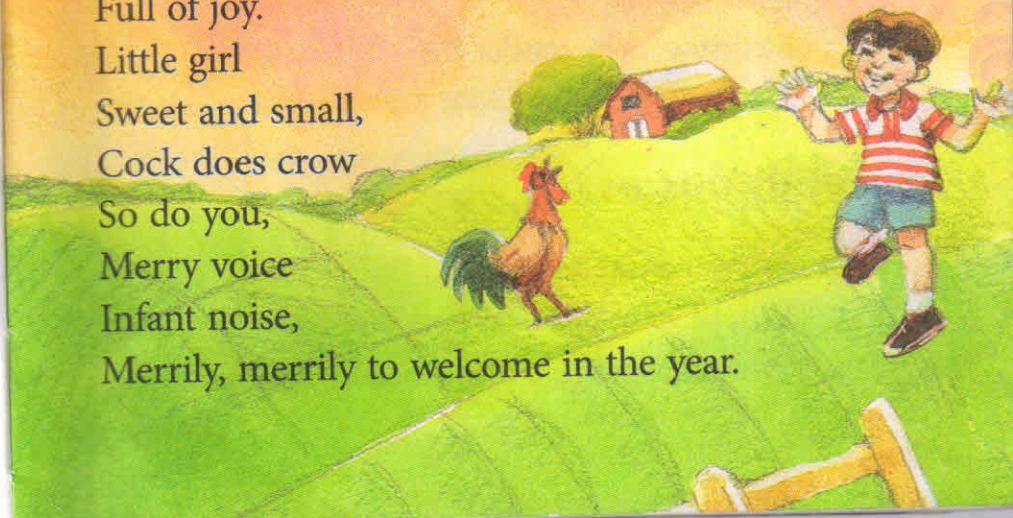


3

Spring

Sound the flute!
Now it's mute.
Birds delight
Day and night,
Nightingale
In the dale,
Lark in sky,
Merrily,
Merrily, merrily to welcome in the year.

Little boy
Full of joy.
Little girl
Sweet and small,
Cock does crow
So do you,
Merry voice
Infant noise,
Merrily, merrily to welcome in the year.



Little lamb
Here I am,
Come and lick
My soft neck.
Let me pull
Your soft wool.
Let me kiss
Your soft face.
Merrily, merrily we welcome in the year.



William Blake

Words to Know

mute: quiet or silent

dale: valley

merrily: joyfully

does crow: here, calls or cries

Let us answer

A Answer these questions.

1. Whose voice does the poet find merry?
2. Which animals are mentioned in the poem?

B Tick (✓) the correct answers.

1. Which of these sounds is not mentioned in the poem?
 - a. a lamb's bleating ☐
 - b. a cock's crowing ☐
 - c. sound of a baby ☐
 - d. music from an instrument ☐
2. What or whom does the poet refer to as 'sweet and small'?
 - a. the lamb ☐
 - b. the boy ☐
 - c. the nightingale ☐
 - d. the girl ☐
3. What does the poet want to do? He wants to
 - a. play with a little boy. ☐
 - b. play the flute. ☐
 - c. look at birds in the sky. ☐
 - d. kiss the lamb's face. ☐
4. How does the poet feel?
 - a. nervous ☐
 - b. happy ☐
 - c. angry ☐
 - d. proud ☐

Fun with words



C Add a rhyming word to each set of the words given below.

- | | | |
|----------------|-------|-------|
| 1. birds | words | _____ |
| 2. delight | night | _____ |
| 3. nightingale | dale | _____ |
| 4. sky | why | _____ |
| 5. boy | joy | _____ |
| 6. sweet | feet | _____ |
| 7. lick | pick | _____ |
| 8. neck | deck | _____ |
| 9. pull | bull | _____ |
| 10. face | lace | _____ |



Alice is Puzzled

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland is a storybook by Lewis Carroll. Alice falls down a rabbit hole to find herself in a low, long hallway lined with locked doors. She comes upon a tiny door that she opens with a golden key she finds on a table. Through this door, she sees a beautiful garden. However, the door is too small for her to even put her head through it. On the table she finds a bottle and drinks from it. It causes her to shrink. She can now go through the door. However, she realizes that she has left the key on the table. She eats a cake marked 'EAT ME' and begins to grow tall rapidly. How does Alice feel?

"Curiouser and curiouser!" cried Alice. She was so surprised that, for the moment, she quite forgot how to speak good English.

"Now I'm opening out like the largest



telescope that ever was! Goodbye, feet!”

When she looked down at her feet, they seemed to be almost out of sight, they were getting so far off.

‘Oh, my poor little feet, I wonder who will put on your shoes and stockings for you now, dears?’ thought Alice. ‘I’m sure I shan’t be able! I shall be a great deal too far off to trouble myself about you. You must manage the best way you can!’

‘However, I must be kind to them. Or, perhaps they won’t walk the way I want to go! Let me see, I’ll give them a new pair of boots every Christmas.’

manage. 'They must go by the carrier,' she thought, 'and how funny it'll seem, sending presents to one's own feet! How odd the directions will look!'

"Oh dear, what nonsense I'm thinking!" Alice cried out loud.

Just then, her head struck against the roof of the hall. In fact, she was now more than nine feet high and she at once picked up the little golden key. She hurried off to the garden door.

Poor Alice! She could only lie on one side and look at the garden with one eye. To get through the door was more hopeless than ever. She sat down and began to cry.

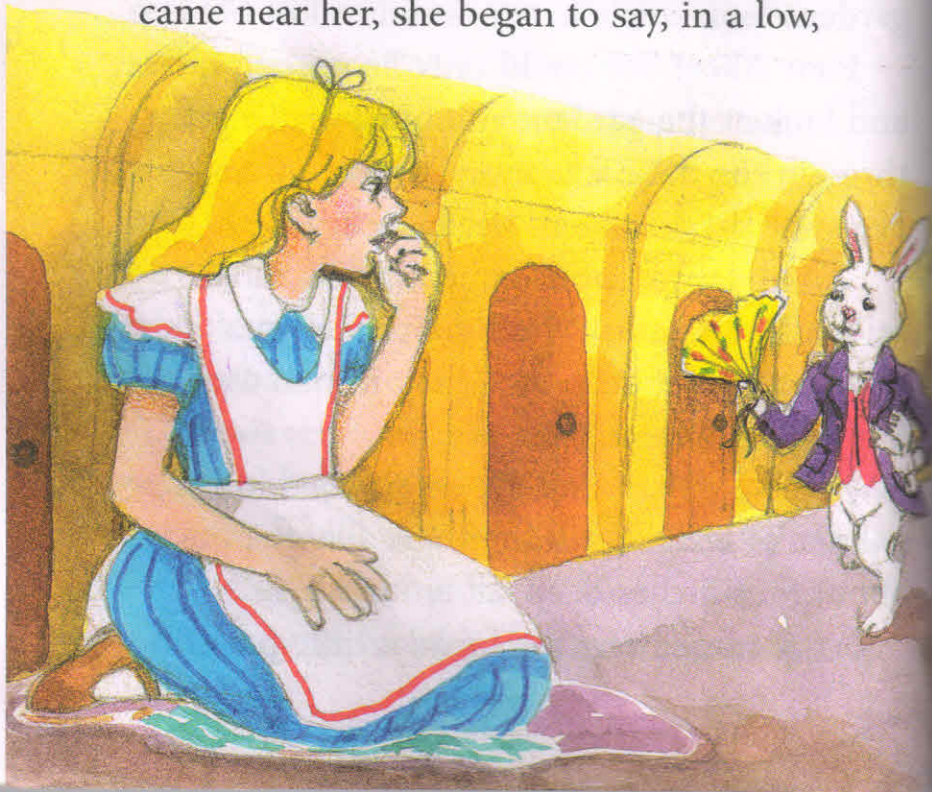
"You ought to be ashamed of yourself," said Alice to herself. "A big girl like you. You should not keep on crying in this way! Stop this moment, I tell you!"

But she went on all the same, shedding gallons of tears, until there was a large pool, about four inches deep, all around her.

After some time, she heard a little pattering

of feet in the distance, and she hastily dried her eyes to see what was coming. It was the White Rabbit returning, splendidly dressed, with a pair of white gloves in one hand and a large fan in the other. He came trotting along in a great hurry, muttering to himself as he came, "Oh! The Duchess! Oh! Won't she be angry if I've kept her waiting?"

Alice felt so desperate that she was ready to ask for help from anyone. When the Rabbit came near her, she began to say, in a low,



timid voice, "If you please, sir."

The Rabbit started violently, dropped the white gloves and the fan, and scurried away into the darkness.

Alice picked up the fan and gloves, and, as the hall was very hot, she started fanning herself. She said to herself, "Dear, dear! How queer everything is today! I wonder if I've been changed in the night. Let me think—was I the same when I got up this morning? I think I can remember feeling a little different. But if I'm not the same, the next question is, who in the world am I? Ah, that's the great puzzle!"

Then she began thinking about all the children she knew, especially those who were of the same age as herself, to see if she could have been changed into any of them.

"I'm sure I'm not Ada," she said, "for her hair goes in such long ringlets, and mine doesn't go in ringlets at all. I'm sure I can't be Mabel, for I know all sorts of things, and she knows so little! Besides, she's she, and I'm I. How puzzling it all is! I wonder if I



know all the things I used to know. Let's try Geography. London is the capital of Paris, and Paris is the capital of Rome, and Rome – no, that's all wrong, I'm certain! I must have been changed into Mabel!"

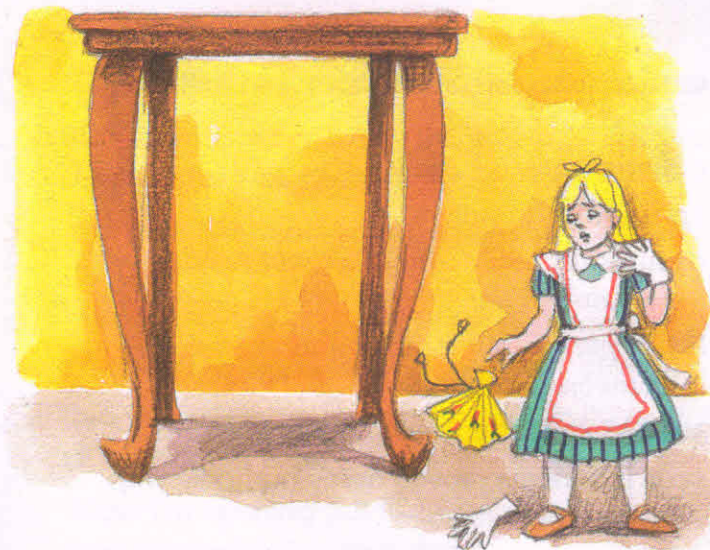
Alice's eyes filled with tears and she said to herself, "I must be Mabel after all. No, I've made up my mind about it; if I'm Mabel, I'll stay down here!"

As she said this she looked down at her hands, and was surprised to see that she had put on one of the White Rabbit's little white gloves while she was talking.

'How could I have done that?' she thought. 'I must be growing small again.'

She got up and went to the table to measure herself by it and found that, as nearly as she could guess, she was now about two feet high, and was going on shrinking rapidly.

She soon found out that the cause of this was the fan she was holding. She dropped it hastily, just in time to avoid shrinking away altogether.



“That was a narrow escape!” said Alice, a good deal frightened at the sudden change, but very glad to find herself still in existence. “Now I must go to the garden!”

She ran with full speed back to the small door.

*adapted from Alice's Adventures in
Wonderland by Lewis Carroll*

Words to Know

curiouser and curiouser: here, (becoming) stranger and stranger

telescope: an instrument to make distant objects appear nearer when one looks through it

carrier: a person or company that delivers goods to people

gallons: here, a large volume

splendidly: grandly

desperate: here, to have a great need or wish for something

If you please, sir: a polite phrase to draw someone's attention

started violently: here, jumped in alarm

scurried away: moved away hurriedly with quick, short steps

ringlets: curls in hair

still in existence: alive

Let us answer



Answer these questions.

1. What did Alice see when she looked down at her feet?
2. What gift did Alice plan to buy for her feet every Christmas?
3. What did the White Rabbit do when Alice tried to talk to him?
4. How did Alice realize that she was growing small again?

B Number these sentences in the correct order.

- She soon found out that the cause of this was the fan she was holding.
- Just then her head struck against the roof of the hall.
- 1 — She was so surprised that, for the moment, she quite forgot how to speak good English.
- “No, I’ve made up my mind about it; if I’m Mabel, I’ll stay down here!”
- “Now I’m opening out like the largest telescope that ever was! Goodbye, feet!”

Fun with words



C Circle the synonyms of the underlined words in these sentences.

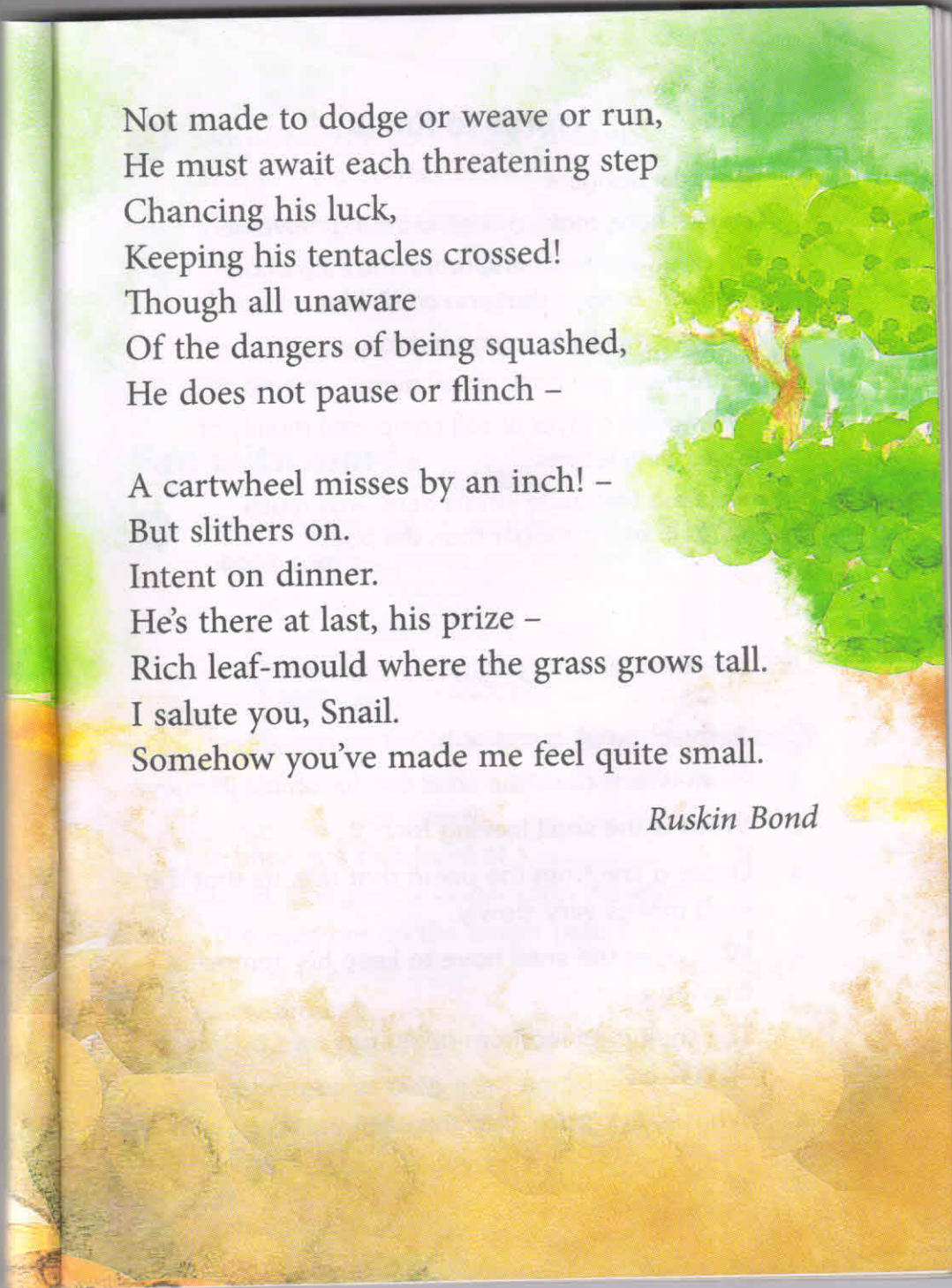
1. Alice heard a little pattering of feet in the distance. (tapping / clanging / whistling)
2. She hastily dried her eyes to see what was coming. (slowly / hurriedly / sleepily)
3. The White Rabbit came trotting along. (walking / dancing / running)
4. He was muttering to himself as he came. (shouting / murmuring / crying)
5. “How queer everything is today!” Alice said. (normal / interesting / strange)

5

The Snail

Leaving the safety of a rocky ledge
The snail sets out
On his long journey
Across a busy path.
The grass is greener on the other side!
For tender leaf or juicy stem
He'll brave the hazards of the road.





Not made to dodge or weave or run,
He must await each threatening step
Chancing his luck,
Keeping his tentacles crossed!
Though all unaware
Of the dangers of being squashed,
He does not pause or flinch –

A cartwheel misses by an inch! –
But slithers on.
Intent on dinner.
He's there at last, his prize –
Rich leaf-mould where the grass grows tall.
I salute you, Snail.
Somehow you've made me feel quite small.

Ruskin Bond

Words to Know

hazards: dangers

weave: here, make a criss-crossing movement

threatening step: here, fearsome step of an animal or man that can crush him

chancing his luck: taking a risk

flinch: here, pull back; draw away

leaf-mould: a layer of soil composed mainly of decaying leaves

made me feel quite small: here, was much braver and stronger than the poet

Let us answer



Answer these questions.

1. From where does the snail set out on his journey?
2. What is the snail looking for?
3. Quote a line from the poem that tells us that the snail moves very slowly.
4. Why does the snail have to keep his 'tentacles crossed'?
5. The snail is saved from being run over by which object?
6. What is the 'prize' that the snail wants to win?

B Why does the poet praise the snail?
Tick (✓) the correct answer.

1. The snail slithers very slowly. ☐
2. The snail faces many difficulties bravely when he sets out to look for food. ☐
3. The snail wants to eat green leaves for dinner. ☐

Fun with words



C Fill in the blanks to complete this paragraph about snails. Choose words from the box.

seas cloudy hard
smelling tentacles disturbed

Snails can be found in gardens, ponds and even in seas. Their soft bodies are protected by a _____ shell.

A snail has two pairs of _____ on its head. One pair is longer than the other pair. The eyes are on the longer pair. The shorter pair is used for _____ and feeling its way around.

When a snail is _____, it simply withdraws or pulls itself back into its shell.

A snail is most active at night and on _____ days.



The White Elephant

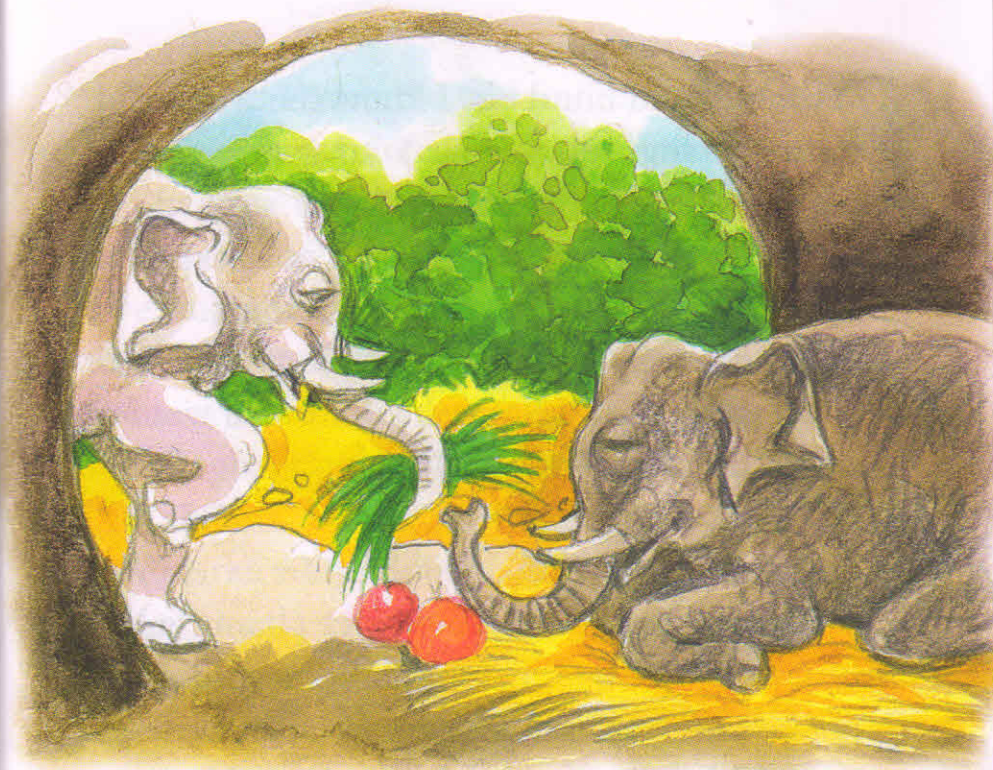
This story by Ruskin Bond is about a rare white elephant that helps a man to find his way back from a forest. How does the man repay this act of kindness?

Read this story and find out.

Long ago, when animals could talk like humans, a great herd of elephants lived in a forest near the Himalayan mountains. The finest elephant in the tribe was a rare, white animal.

Unfortunately, the mother of this elephant was old and blind. Although, her son gathered sweet wild fruits for her every day, he was often angry to find the other elephants had stolen his mother's food.

"Mother," he said, "it would be better if you and I were to go and live alone in a distant cave I have discovered."



The mother elephant agreed and for a time the two of them lived happily in a peaceful spot near a glade of wild fruit trees. Until one evening, they heard loud cries coming from the great forest.

"That is the voice of a man in distress," said the white elephant. "I must go and see if I can help him."

"Do not go, my son," said his mother.

"I am old and blind but I know the ways of human beings towards us. Your goodness will be rewarded with treachery."

But the white elephant could not bear to think of anyone in trouble and he hurried down to the lake in the direction of the cries, where he discovered a man who was a forester.

"Don't fear me, stranger," he said. "Tell me how I can help you."

The forester told the white elephant he had been lost for seven days and nights and could not find his way back to Benares, where he lived.

"Climb onto my back," said the elephant cheerfully, "and I will carry you home."

The elephant carried the man swiftly through the forest until they reached open country; then he left him on the outskirts of the city before returning to his cave.

Now the forester was a greedy and cunning man and he knew that before he left Benares, the king's favourite elephant had died.

the man, 'if I captured this fine animal for him.' He straightaway asked for a royal audience.

The king was delighted with the description of the white elephant. "I would love to possess such a fine creature. Go back to the forest with a band of my most skillful trainers and if they succeed in capturing this rare elephant, you shall be well rewarded."

The forester had cunningly noted landmarks while riding back to Benares and he led the trainers to the lake where the white elephant was gathering bamboo stems for his mother's evening meal. When the elephant saw the forester with the band of trainers, he knew he had been betrayed.

He tried to escape but the trainers followed him and soon succeeded in capturing him. Then, they led him through the forest and entered Benares in triumph.

The poor mother elephant, waiting for her son to return, felt certain that he had been captured.

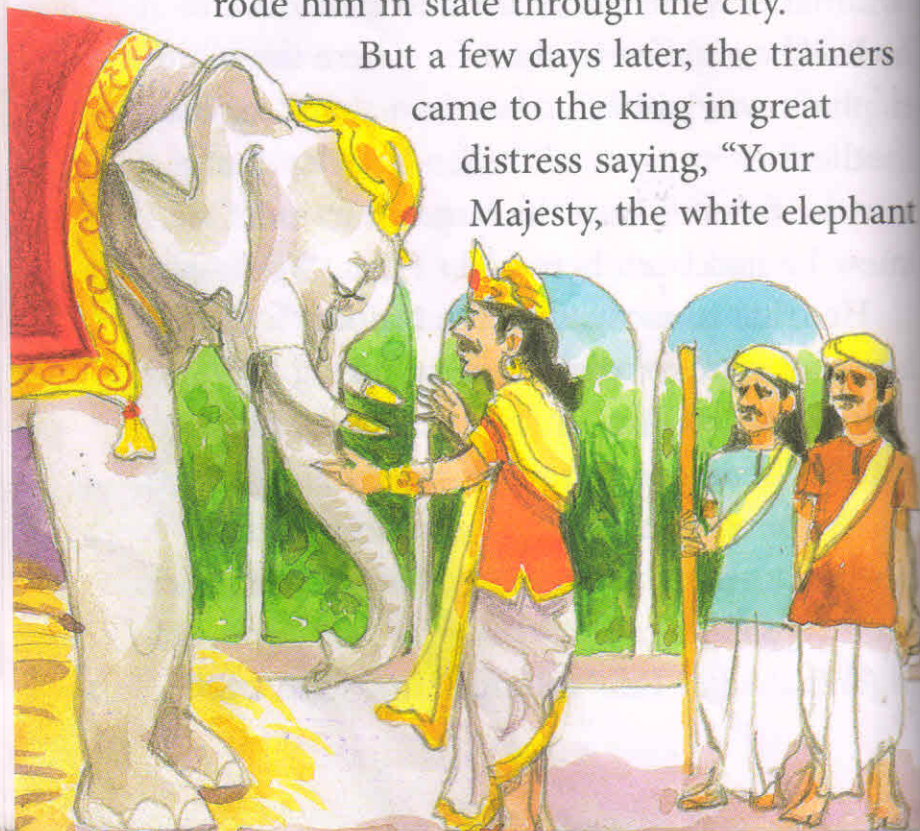
"What shall I do without him?" she cried.

“Who will bring me food and lead me to the lotus lake for water?”

The heart of her son was equally heavy. ‘What will she do without me,’ he thought, ‘if only I had listened to her advice.’

In spite of his unhappy look, the elephant found favour with the king, who declared he would ride no other animal. The elephant’s stable was richly decorated in his honour and the king rode him in state through the city.

But a few days later, the trainers came to the king in great distress saying, “Your Majesty, the white elephant



is very sick and will eat nothing."

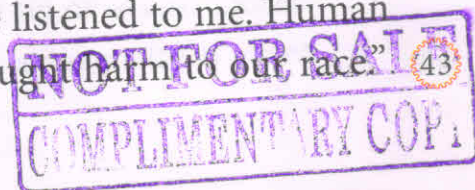
The king hurried to the stable and when he saw the elephant's look of despair, he said, "Good animal, how you have changed! Why do you refuse to eat? Anything you wish will be granted to you."

"Great King," answered the elephant mournfully, "all I desire is to return to my poor blind mother in the forest, for while she is alone and starving, how can I eat?"

Now the king was a good man and although he badly wanted the elephant for himself, he said at once, "Noble animal, your goodness puts mankind to shame. I give you freedom to return to your mother at once."

The elephant thanked the king with loud trumpeting and left the city and went crashing back through the forest. When he reached the cave, he found to his joy that his mother was still alive.

"Ah, my son," she said when he told her his story. "You should have listened to me. Human beings have always brought harm to our race."



“Not all of them, Mother,” he said triumphantly. “The king is noble and generous or I should still be in captivity. Let’s forget the treachery of the forester and think only of the king’s goodness!”

Ruskin Bond

Words to Know

treachery: the act of betraying someone

Benares: an earlier name of Varanasi

royal audience: here, a formal interview with the king

betrayed: here, deceived

rode him in state: rode in a royal way

triumphantly: here, joyously

in captivity: kept as a prisoner

Let us answer



Answer these questions.

1. Why did the white elephant decide to live in a distant cave with his mother?
2. What did the mother warn her son about?

3. How did the white elephant help the forester?
4. How did the king treat the white elephant?
5. Why did the white elephant refuse to eat?
6. Do you think the king was noble?
Give a reason for your answer.

Fun with words



B We use the idiom a white elephant to describe something that costs a lot of money but no longer serves a useful purpose.

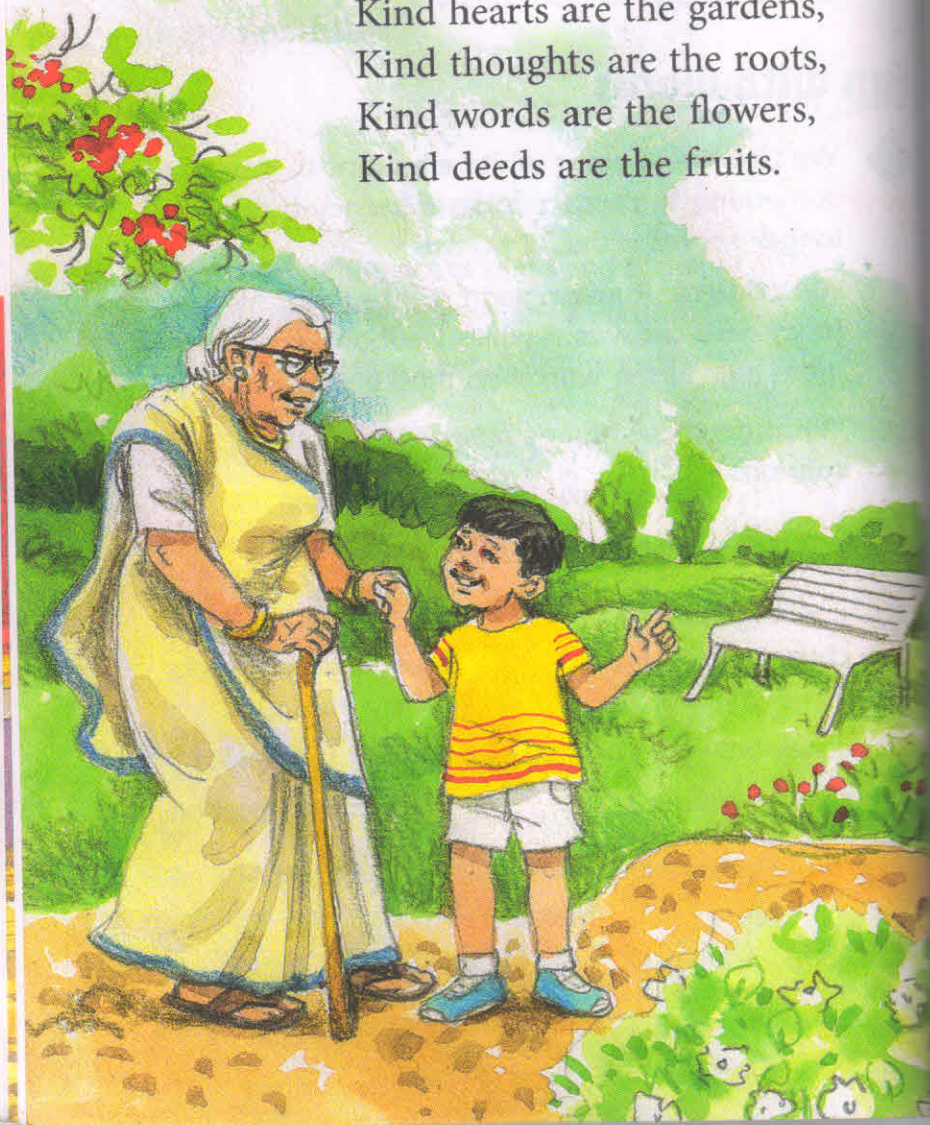
FOR EXAMPLE: Ramesh soon realized that his fancy new car was a white elephant, spending more time in the workshop than on the road.

What do these idioms mean? Match the columns.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. the lion's share | a. a foolish or hopeless search |
| 2. a wild goose chase | b. a very enthusiastic person who works very hard |
| 3. eager beaver | c. easily frightened |
| 4. chicken-hearted | d. the largest portion |

Kind Words

Kind hearts are the gardens,
Kind thoughts are the roots,
Kind words are the flowers,
Kind deeds are the fruits.



Take care of your garden,
And keep out the weeds,
Fill it with sunshine,
Kind words and kind deeds.

Henry W Longfellow

Words to Know

deeds: here, actions

weeds: wild plants that grow where they are
not wanted and harm other plants

Let us answer

A Fill in the blanks.

The poet compares a _____ heart to
a _____. The roots of the plants are
like _____ and the fruits and flowers
like _____ and words. To take care of
our heart, we must fill it with the sunshine of
_____ and _____

B What does the poet mean when he says the following? Tick (✓) the correct answers.

1. 'And keep out the weeds, ...'
 - a. Do not say unkind or hurtful words to others.
 - b. Always keep gardens clear of wild plants.
2. 'Fill it with sunshine, ...'
 - a. The garden should always be full of bright sunshine.
 - b. Make sure that you say kind words to people.

Fun with words

C Which of these words have a meaning similar to the word kind? Circle them.

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. nasty | 5. warm | 9. thoughtful |
| 2. mean | 6. cold | 10. cruel |
| 3. gentle | 7. friendly | 11. caring |
| 4. loving | 8. rude | 12. harsh |



8 Caught in a Storm!

The Swiss Family Robinson is a storybook by Johann David Wyss. The ship that the Robinson family is sailing in gets caught in a terrible storm. The Robinson family, comprising a father, mother and four sons, must rely on their intelligence, courage and love for each other to survive the shipwreck. What happens to them? Read this passage to find out.

The storm had raged for six days and on the seventh day, it seemed to increase. Our ship was tossed about in the storm. We were terribly off course. Our mast was split and the ship began to leak in many places. Water rushed in, rising quickly. Our crew gave up all hope and feared the worst. All seemed lost. I gathered my family on the deck and we prayed on our knees in the rain. Suddenly, we

heard a crew member shout, "Land! Land!"

Our prayers had been answered!

At that moment, however, the ship struck something hard! We heard a loud cracking noise. The vessel was jammed between two high rocks. It began to break into pieces as water poured in from all sides.

"Lower the boats! We are lost!" yelled the captain. Our ship had begun to come apart.

I ran to my boys and wife and cried, "We are still above water and land is near! We can still make it!"

However, as I turned, I saw that the crew had jumped into the lifeboats. I cried out to them not to leave us behind but my voice was lost in the roar of the storm. Neither could the sailors have returned as the waves were as high as mountains.

I was consoled by observing that water had not entered the ship above a certain height. I saw, in the distance, towards the south, traces of land which was wild and barren.



stay on board, we can make it to shore after the storm!”

My boys were relieved but my wife saw that I was still worried as the broken ship was swaying and rolling on the waves. As the night wore on, the waves and rain kept battering our ship, but we managed to stay in our cabin, above water.

“We need to find food,” I yelled. “We have to stay strong for what is ahead.”

We searched in what was left of the ship and found some food. My wife put together a meal for the family.



Finally, Fritz, my eldest son, said, "I have been thinking about how we could save ourselves. If we only had some cork jackets for Mamma and my brothers! You and I don't need them. We could then swim to land."

It was a great idea! We found empty flasks and cans that we tied together to make life jackets of sorts. My wife and younger sons put them on willingly. We also found matches, knives, rope, and other useful things to carry so that we could reach the shore without being totally helpless.

52 Fritz, Ernest, Jack and Franz could now

go to sleep on the broken ship, while my wife and I, too anxious to rest, stayed up all night, watching the storm.

Finally, when day came, we saw that the sky had begun to clear and the wind was not blowing as strongly as before. We woke up the boys.

"We could swim to shore now!" Fritz said excitedly.

"Would it not be better to build a raft that would get us to land safely?" asked Ernest.

"Let's search the rest of the ship to see what we can find," I answered. "Let's all meet back here with whatever we think will be useful."

My youngest son, Franz, who was only seven, went with my wife to feed and comfort the animals on the ship. The rest of us set out to find what we could. Fritz went to find weapons, Ernest went to look for tools, I looked for fresh water and Jack went to the captain's cabin.

Jack opened the door to the captain's cabin, only to be knocked over by two leaping dogs who were thrilled to have been rescued.

They licked him all over. Jack climbed on the back of the biggest dog and proudly rode him to where I was.

We joined the others and went through all that we had found.

Fritz had found guns, gunpowder and bullets. Ernest had nails, a saw, an axe, a hammer and other tools in all of his pockets. Little Franz proudly showed us a box of fishing hooks, which I told him were the most important find. My wife told us that there was a donkey, two cows, two goats,



six sheep, a ram, a flock of chickens, a rooster and two pigs on board.

Jack hit upon the idea of looking for some barrels. They could be used to build a makeshift raft for all of us. Once we had found the barrels, I sawed each barrel in half until soon we had eight tubs, each of the same height. We placed the half-barrels on a large plank. We nailed them to the large plank and then to each other. Two planks were nailed to either side and brought to a point at each end. When they were nailed together, they formed a narrow boat.

We tied the boat to our broken ship and then loaded it with all our tools, food, water and everything else we had found. Then we found some oars that we could row with. After a busy day of preparing the raft, it was nightfall once again, and we waited in the dark, hoping that another storm would not come. In the morning, we prepared to row to shore.

*adapted from The Swiss Family Robinson by
Johann David Wyss*

Words to Know

raged: here, blew with great fury

off course: not moving in the right direction

mast: a tall, upright post that carries a sail in boats or ships

deck: the floor of a ship, especially the upper, open level extending for the full length of the vessel

We are lost!: We are in trouble!

come apart: here, break into pieces

consoled: here, comforted

wore on: passed slowly

cork: a light material made from cork oak that floats easily on water, commonly used to make bottle stoppers

of sorts: here, of a kind

rooster: a cock

makeshift: temporary

Let us answer



Answer these questions.

1. What happened to the ship when it got jammed between two high rocks?
2. What did the crew of the ship do?

3. What happened as night wore on?
4. What did the Robinson family use to make life jackets?
5. What did Ernest go to look for?
6. What happened when Jack opened the door to the captain's cabin?

B Fill in the blanks.

1. The storm had raged for six days and on the _____ day, it seemed to increase.
2. "Lower the boats! We are lost!" yelled the _____
3. My wife put together a _____ for the family.
4. Jack hit upon the idea of finding some _____ to float in to reach the shore.
5. Then we found some _____ that we could row with.
6. In the morning, we prepared to _____ to shore.

C Read the lines and answer the questions.

"I have been thinking about how we could save ourselves."

1. Who said these words and to whom?
2. When did the speaker say these words?
3. What was the speaker's idea?

Fun with words



Write a paragraph describing a stormy day.
You may use these words.

windy banging flapping swaying
pouring bent swirling flooded gloomy

9

The Green Cornfield

The earth was green, the sky was blue:
I saw and heard one sunny morn
A skylark hang between the two,
A singing speck above the corn.



A stage below, in gay accord,
White butterflies danced on the wing,
And still the singing skylark soared
And silent sank, and soared to sing.

The cornfield stretched a tender green
To right and left beside my walks;
I knew he had a nest unseen
Somewhere among the million stalks.



And as I paused to hear his song
While swift the sunny moments slid,
Perhaps his mate sat listening long,
And listened longer than I did.

Christina Rossetti

Words to Know

speck: a tiny spot

skylark: a bird which is known for its sweet song, found in farmlands and open spaces

in gay accord: here, happily alongside

tender green: soft light green

sunny moments slid: the sun started going down

Let us answer



Answer these questions.

1. When did the poet hear the skylark?
2. Where was the skylark singing?
3. What were the white butterflies doing?
4. Where do you think the poet was – in the countryside or in a city? Write two lines from the poem that tell us where she was.

Fun with words

B In this wordsearch, circle the names of six birds known for their sweet voices.

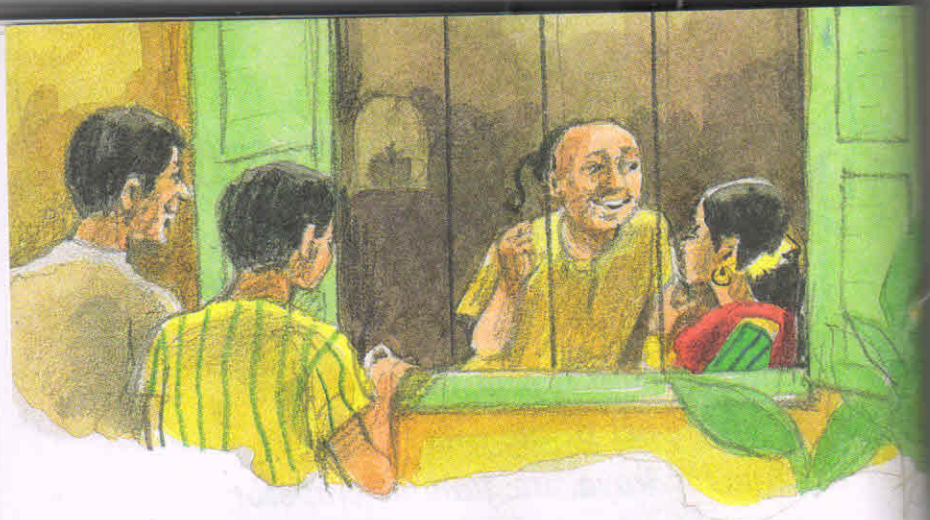
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S	B	U	L	B	U	L	C	H
M	B	V	A	R	X	C	F	R
Y	L	B	V	I	M	U	P	U
C	A	N	A	R	Y	C	B	S
A	R	X	L	Y	N	K	H	H
C	K	N	A	F	A	O	V	N
G	W	L	C	X	H	O	I	P



Tenali Raman and the Two Thieves

Tenali Raman is said to have been a witty poet in the court of Raja Krishnadevaraya, the famous emperor of the Vijayanagar kingdom, in the 16th century CE. The Vijayanagar kingdom was situated in present-day Karnataka. Tenali Raman was known for his intelligence. Raja Krishnadevaraya rewarded him many a time. Read on to find out what happened when two thieves came to Tenali Raman's house while he was sleeping.

One night, Tenali Raman was woken up by a sudden noise. He could hear the rustling of leaves. But the night was still! Looking out of the window he saw two men coming stealthily towards his house. Tenali Raman



acted quickly. He thought of a plan. He woke his wife up and told her that there were thieves outside their house. They had to do something at once to protect themselves. He asked his wife to loudly agree with whatever he said. His wife nodded. Tenali Raman stood by an open window and waited for the thieves to come closer to the house.

Then he said loudly, "I am relieved that all the gold coins the emperor gave us are safe in a trunk that we have placed at the bottom of the well in the garden. No one in this world will be able to guess where we have hidden our treasure. Now we can sleep peacefully."

64 His wife said, "Yes, you came up with a

brilliant idea! Our treasure is indeed safe in our well!"

The two men heard Tenali and went to the well. They thought that the well would not be very deep. They decided that they could take out all the water from the well by morning and carry the treasure away.

The men found a long rope beside the well. They started drawing out water from the well with a bucket tied to the long rope. All the buckets of water were emptied on the ground.

The night passed and the sun came up. Yet, the men had not found any treasure.



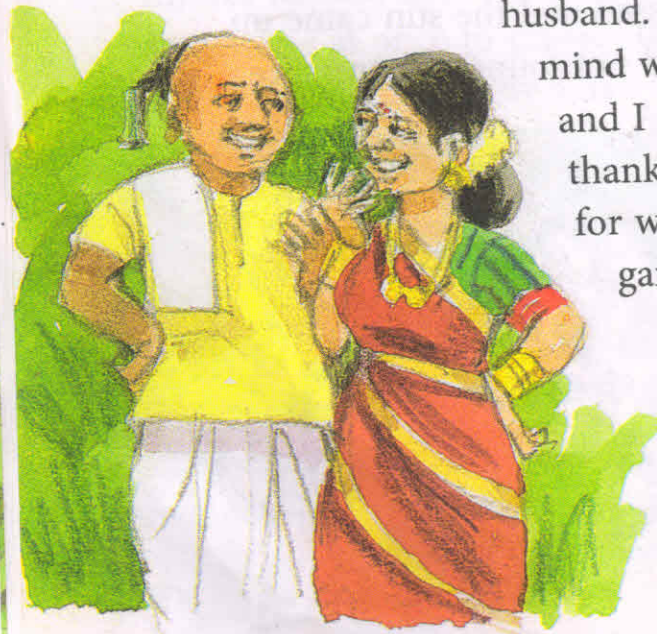
By now, Tenali Raman's neighbours had been awakened by the noise. They caught the two men!

Tenali Raman came out of his house and said to the two men, "Thank you, friends, for watering my plants. I must pay you for your labour."

The men understood that Tenali Raman had outsmarted them. They fell at Tenali Raman's feet and asked for forgiveness.

Tenali Raman's wife felt proud of her husband. She said, "Your mind works really fast and I should really thank these men for watering our garden."

Tenali Raman and his wife smiled lovingly at each other.



Words to Know

rustling: here, making a soft crackling sound

stealthily: quietly, so as not to be seen or heard

outsmarted: got the better of someone by being clever or cunning

Let us answer

A Write True or False.

1. One night, Tenali Raman was suddenly awakened by some noises. _____
2. Tenali Raman had heard a door being opened in his house. _____
3. Tenali Raman asked his wife not to agree with whatever he said. _____
4. The men decided that they would take out all the water from the well. _____
5. The men started drawing out water with an earthen pot. _____
6. The men asked for Tenali Raman's forgiveness. _____
7. Tenali Raman's wife was happy that the thieves had watered her garden. _____

B Circle the correct words to complete the sentences.

1. Tenali Raman stood by an open (window / door) and waited for the men to move closer to the house.
2. Tenali Raman said that all his (silver coins / gold coins) were safe in a trunk.
3. Tenali Raman's (cousins / neighbours) were awakened by the noise made by the thieves.
4. The thieves understood that Tenali Raman had (outsmarted / forgotten) them.

Fun with words



C Which of these words are similar in meaning to the word outsmart? Circle them.

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. outdo | 3. annoy | 5. trick | 7. expect |
| 2. develop | 4. defeat | 6. praise | 8. beat |



On a Saturday Morning

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer is a storybook by Mark Twain. Tom is a mischievous boy. He always tries to outwit Aunt Polly when he is asked to do some work. Read about what happens one Saturday morning, when Aunt Polly asks Tom to paint a fence.

TOM: What a lovely day! I think I'll lie here for some time. I don't have to hurry to school for it is a Saturday.

AUNT POLLY: Tom! Tom! Where are you? I have some work for you.

TOM: Oh no! I'll have to work. If I just lie here quietly, perhaps Aunt Polly will forget about me. Then I can sleep all morning.



AUNT POLLY: *(standing at the door with her hands on her waist)*

So there you are, lazy as usual.
Get up! I have some work for you.

TOM: Oh! Did you call me, Aunt Polly?
What is it you want me to do?

AUNT POLLY: I want you to paint the fence.
Here is a can of paint and a
brush. You have the whole day,
so make sure you paint it well
(Aunt Polly goes away.)

TOM: *(sighing)* I'll never, never finish.

What a waste of a holiday!

(Tom gets up and goes out with the paint and brush. He dips the brush into the paint and starts to paint the fence. Then he gets a clever idea . . .)

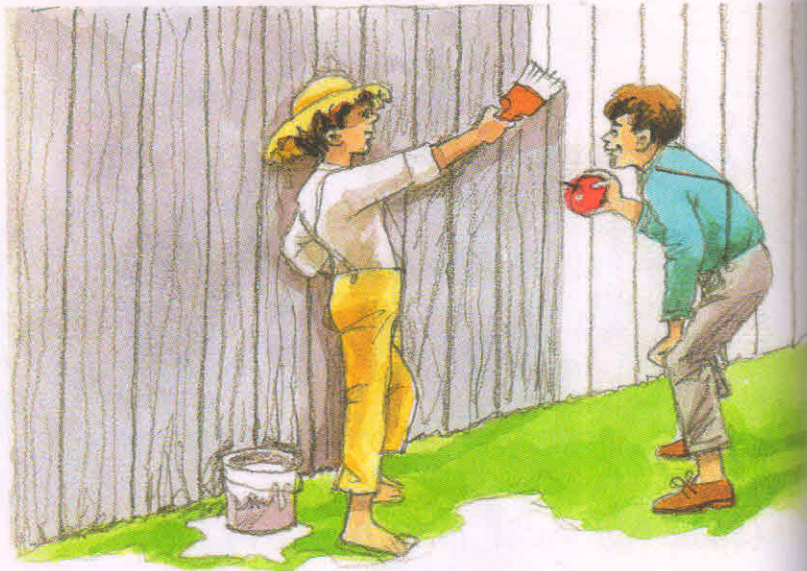
TOM: I know what, I'll get all the boys to help me! And then, I can go and play.

(Soon Ben walks up to Tom. Ben is eating an apple. Ben laughs at Tom for having to work. Tom continues painting and whistling merrily.)

BEN: Tom, wouldn't you like to come and play? Why do you want to work on a holiday?

TOM: Work? This is not work. This is a game requiring very special skill. Only a few people can do it well. Aunt Polly knows that I can do it best.

BEN: Really, Tom? Please let me also try.



TOM: No way. I can't let you even touch it. How can I? You need special skill! You will only spoil it. And Aunt Polly will be angry with me. Sorry.

BEN: (*pleading with Tom*) Come on, Tom, please let me try. Look, I will give you this apple if you let me paint.

(*Tom takes the apple.*)

TOM: Well, I suppose you could try. Here, take the brush. Now, mind you, do it carefully.

(Tom sits on the grass munching the apple while Ben works. Soon Billy comes along.)

BILLY: Why are you working on a holiday, Ben?

BEN: *(proudly)* I am not working. This is a test of skill.

BILLY: Of course not. It's easy.

BEN: Oh no! Not everybody can do it. But Tom thinks that I can do it well.

BILLY: Please, Tom, would you let me try? Do give me a chance.

TOM: *(thoughtfully)* Aunt Polly trusts me to paint the fence well. Ben has done it quite well . . .

I am not sure about you, Billy.

BILLY: I'll give you a kite, Tom, if you let me paint.

TOM: All right.



Ben, give Billy the brush.

*(A little later Johnny comes along.
Tom is playing with the kite, while
Billy is painting.)*

JOHNNY: Why are you working on a
holiday, Billy?

BILLY: This isn't work. It is a test of
skill. If you think that you can
do it well, then Tom will let
you paint.

JOHNNY: Tom, please, let me paint too.
I'll do it well, you'll see.
Here, you can take my new ball.

TOM: *(very satisfied)* Billy, you can
give the brush to Johnny.
Let him paint the fence now.

*(Soon the fence is painted white.
Tom runs inside to tell Aunt Polly and
then goes out to play!)*

*a dramatized adaptation of The Adventures
of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain*

Words to Know

pleading with: ask in an emotional way

munching: eating noisily, specially something crisp

Let us answer

A

Answer these questions.

1. What was the thought that made Tom happy?
2. How was the day spoilt for Tom?
3. How did Tom make Ben and Billy work for him?
4. What did Johnny tell Tom?
5. What did Tom get in exchange for letting Ben, Billy and Johnny paint the fence?

B

Read the lines and answer the questions.

1. "What is it you want me to do?"
 - a. Name the speaker.
 - b. Who was the speaker talking to?
 - c. What had to be done?
2. "I am not working. This is a test of skill."
 - a. Name the speaker.
 - b. Who was the speaker talking to?
 - c. Why did the speaker call it 'a test of skill'?

Fun with words



- C** What do you think Tom told Aunt Polly when the fence was painted? What do you think Aunt Polly replied?

Use your imagination and complete the dialogue. You may use these words.

completed satisfied obedient happy

TOM:

AUNT POLLY:

- D** Imagine that you are Tom. Write a diary entry describing how you made sure that Aunt Polly did not spoil your Saturday. The words in the box are there to help you.

woke up morning smile
suddenly work idea

You may begin like this:

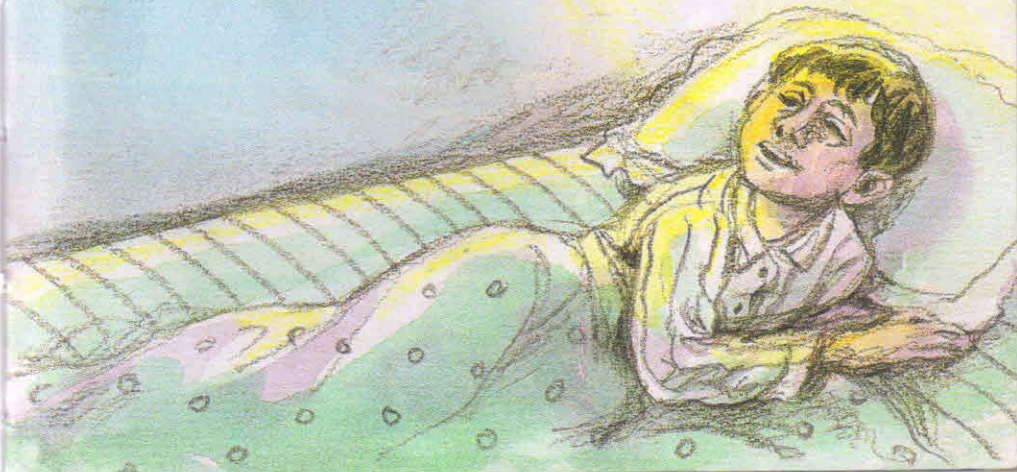
Date:

Dear Diary,

I woke up in the morning with a smile on my face.
It was Saturday! I did not have to go to school.

One night as Dick lay half asleep,
Into his drowsy eyes
A great still light began to creep
From out the silent skies.

It was the lovely moon's, for when
He raised his dreamy head,
Her surge of silver filled the pane
And streamed across his bed.



So, for a while, each gazed at each –
Dick and the solemn moon –
Till, climbing slowly on her way,
She vanished, and was gone.

Walter de la Mare



Words to Know

drowsy: here, sleepy

still: here, calm

dreamy: here, relaxed and peaceful

surge: here, a sudden increase in light

pane: the glass in a window

streamed: here, flowed

Let us answer

A Tick (✓) the correct answers.

1. What caused the 'great still light'?

a. the sun ☐

b. a light bulb ☐

c. the moon ☐

2. What kind of a night was it?

a. a stormy night ☐

b. a quiet night ☐

c. a wintry night ☐

3. The word 'solemn' means

a. sleepy. ☐

b. serious. ☐

c. scared. ☐

B Read the lines and answer the questions.

'It was the lovely moon's, for when
He raised his dreamy head,
Her surge of silver filled the pane
And streamed across his bed.'

1. Who is 'he' here?
2. What is the colour of the moonlight?
3. Explain the last two lines of the stanza in your own words.

Fun with words

C Work in pairs. Complete this poem about the moon by writing another stanza. Read it out in class.

I followed the moon
Or did it follow me?
When I turned a corner
It was still there, you see!



