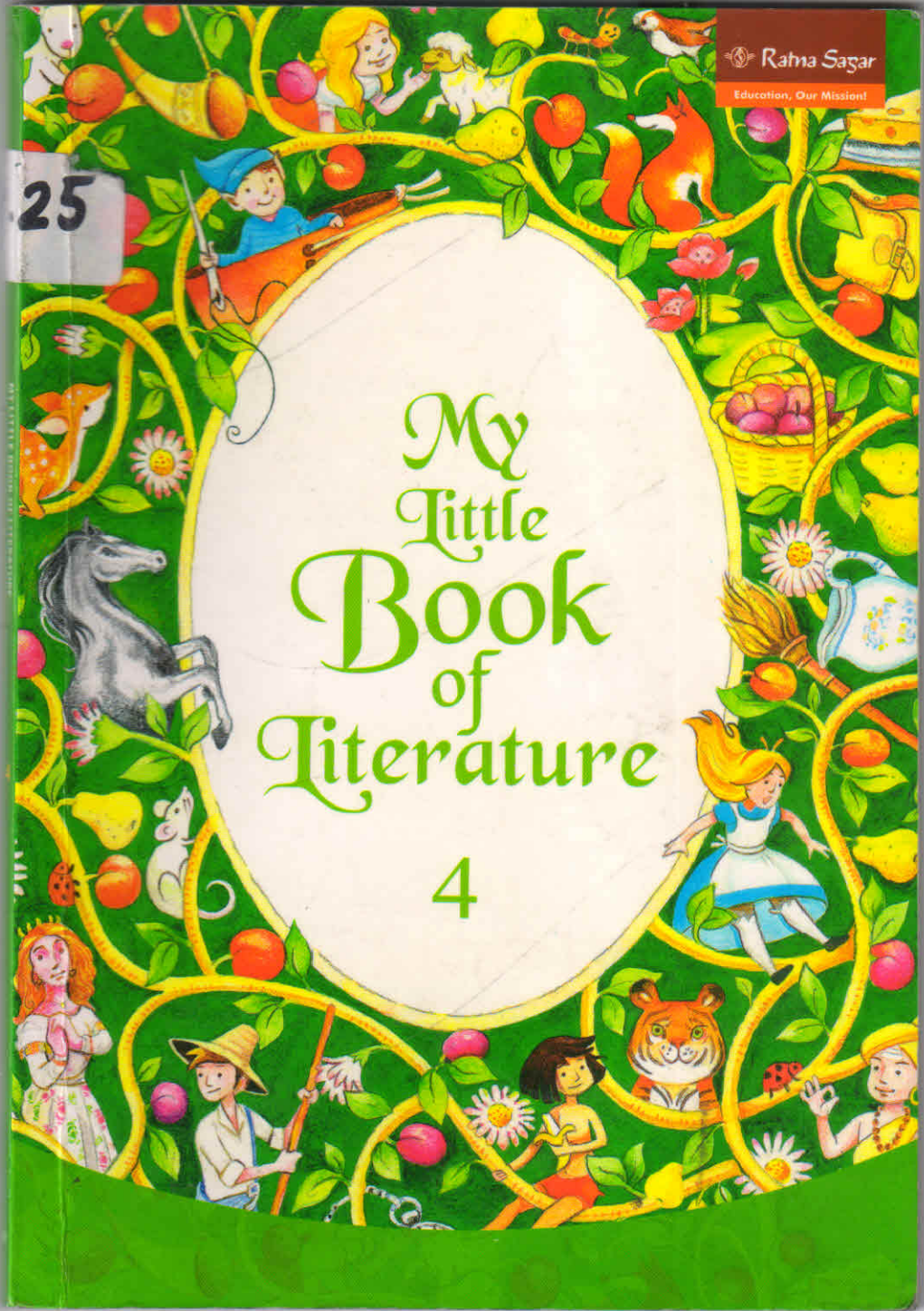


25

Rama Sagar
Education, Our Mission!

My Little Book of Literature

4

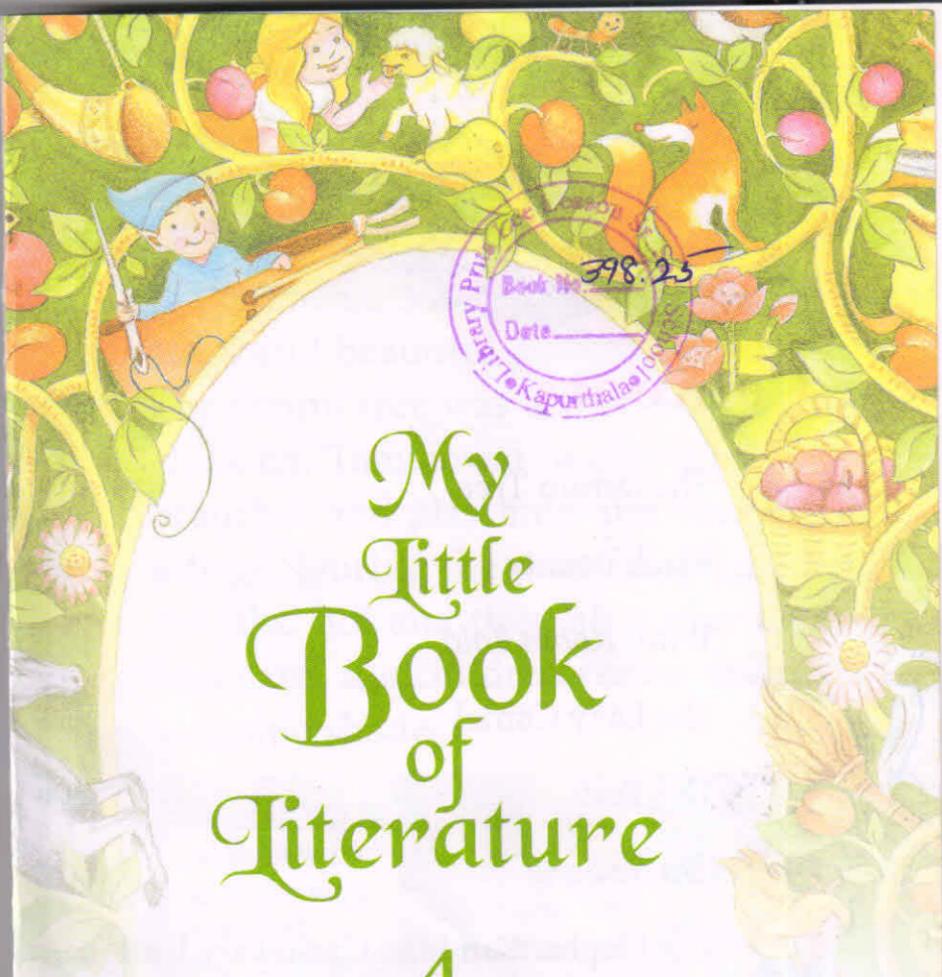


My Little Book of Literature engages the child in a way that encourages learning, while retaining the pleasure that comes from reading for its own sake. This is what will make children good readers for life.

ISBN 978-91



9 789352



My
Little
Book
of
Literature

4

Illustrations: Neeta Gangopadhyay



Ratna Sagar

NOT FOR SALE
COMPLIMENTARY COPY

3





Contents

1	The Jamun Tree	3
2	Black Beauty	10
3	<i>What Robin Told</i>	19
4	The Lazy Camel	23
5	The Test	31
6	<i>Cradle Song</i>	40
7	The Elephant and the Cassowary Bird	44
8	The Pied Piper of Hamelin	51
9	<i>The Lamplighter</i>	59
10	The Jackal and the War Drum	63
11	<i>Return to Dehra</i>	69



The Jamun Tree

Ricky, Jonak, Monpi and Tinky lived near a tall and beautiful jamun tree.

The jamun tree was a source of joy to the children. They loved to climb on to its branches and play hide-and-seek in the foliage. During the sweltering summer months, hot and tired after playing in the backyard, the children rested under its welcome shade.



Many animals had made the tree their home. How many can you spot?

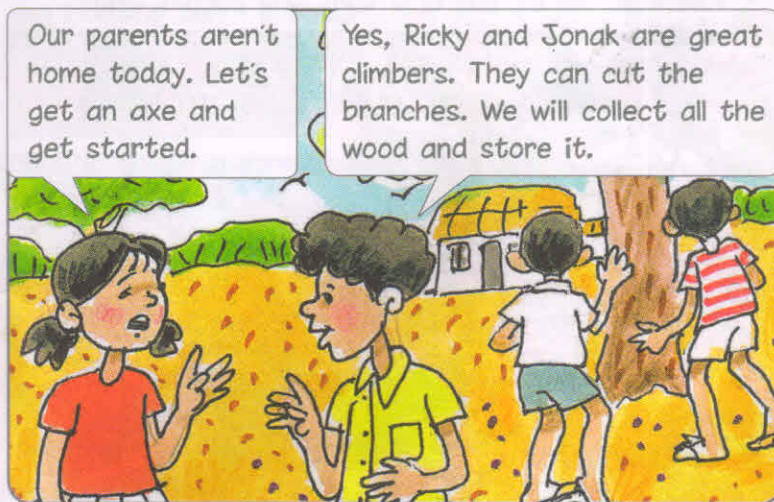


The children were excited because the Bihu festival was fast approaching.

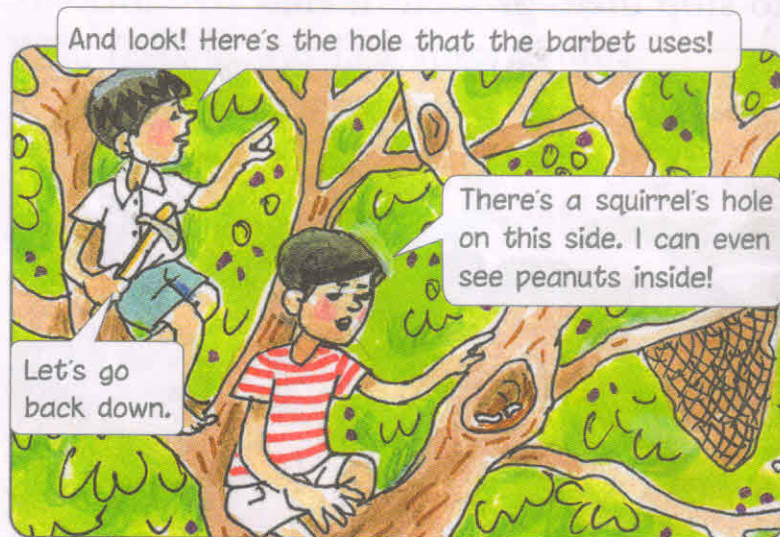
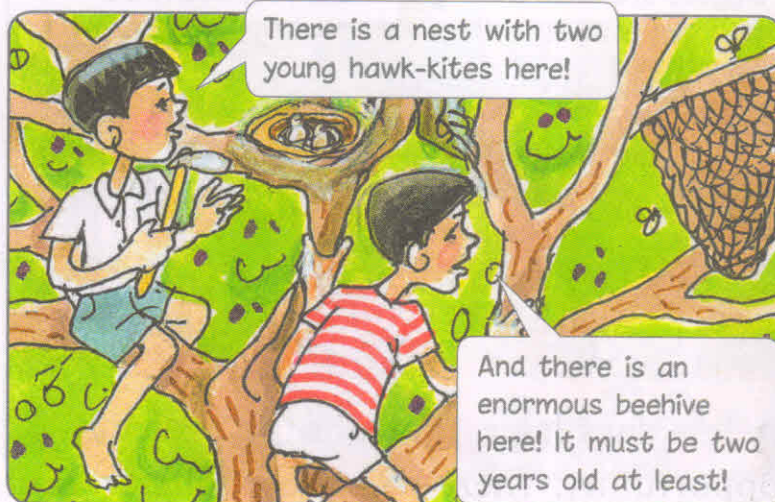




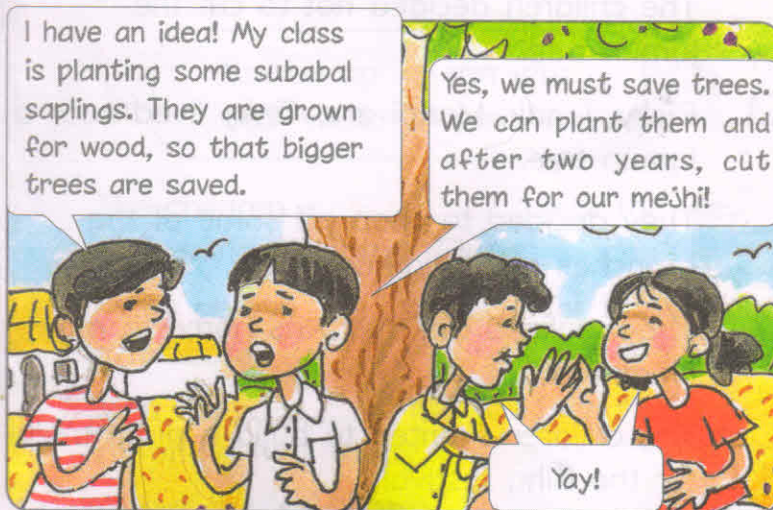
A few days later, they got the perfect opportunity. There were no adults around to stop them or scold them.



Soon, Ricky and Jonak were high on the branches of the jamun tree.



Ricky and Jonak climbed down slowly.
They were thinking about what they saw.



Adapted from *The Jamun Tree*
by Arup Kumar Dutta

Words to Know

was a source of joy: gave them happiness

foliage: the leaves of a plant or tree

sweltering: extremely hot

mejhi: bonfire (in Assamese)

Let us answer

A Number these sentences in the correct order.

— The children decided not to cut the jamun tree.

1 — Ricky, Jonak, Monpi and Tinky lived near a jamun tree.

— They decided to chop off some of the branches of the jamun tree.

— They realized the tree was home to many creatures.

— The children wanted to build a giant mejhi for the Bihu festival.

8 — Ricky and Jonak climbed the jamun tree.

B Answer these questions.

1. In what ways was the jamun tree a source of joy to the children?
2. What did Ricky and Jonak see when they climbed the jamun tree?
3. Why did the children decide not to chop down the branches of the jamun tree?
4. Write two ways in which you can save trees.

Fun with words



C Fill in the blanks using the correct phrases from the box.

turned up ran into
deal with came up

1. The children _____ with the idea of forming a 'Nature Club'.
2. Many people _____ for the science exhibition.
3. Jona _____ her old friend at the shopping mall today.
4. Sohini can confidently _____ difficult situations.



Black Beauty

Black Beauty by Anna Sewell is a storybook in which a handsome black horse named Black Beauty tells the story of his life. He is sold at a horse fair to a kind London cab driver called Jerry Barker. Renamed Jack, Black Beauty must learn the art of pulling a cab in the busy streets of London. The hard life is made bearable by Jerry's kind treatment. Jerry has a loving wife, Polly. Read this account of a memorable Sunday in Black Beauty's life.

On Sunday morning, Jerry was cleaning me in the yard when Polly stepped up to him, looking very full of something.

"What is it?" asked Jerry.

"Well, my dear," she said, "poor Dinah Brown has just had a letter brought to say that her mother is very ill, and that

she must go directly if she wishes to meet her. The place is more than ten miles away from here, out in the country, and she says if she takes the train she should still have four miles to walk. Weak as she is, and the baby only four weeks old, of course that would be impossible. She wants to know if you would take her in your cab? She promises to pay you as soon as she gets the money."

"We'll see about that. It was not the money I was thinking about, but of losing our Sunday. The horses are tired, and I am tired too – that's where it hurts."

"It hurts all round for that matter," said Polly, "for it's only half a Sunday without you, but you know we should do to other people as we would like they should do to us. I know very well what I would like if my mother was so ill. Jerry dear, I am sure it won't break the

Sabbath; for if pulling a poor beast or donkey out of a pit would not spoil it, I am quite sure taking poor Dinah would not do it either."

"Why, Polly, you are as good as the minister, and so, as I've had my Sunday morning sermon early today, you may go and tell Dinah that I'll be ready for her as the clock strikes ten. Before that, just step round to Braydon's with my compliments, and ask him if he would lend me his light trap. I know he never



uses it on a Sunday, and it would make a wonderful difference to the horse."

Away she went, and soon returned, saying that he could have the trap and that he was welcome.

"All right," said he, "now put me up a bit of bread and cheese, and I'll be back in the afternoon as soon as I can."

"And I'll have the meat pie ready for an early tea instead of dinner," said Polly. And away she went, while Jerry made his preparations.

I was selected for the journey, and at ten o'clock we started, in a light, high-wheeled gig, which ran so easily that after the four-wheeled cab, it seemed like nothing. It was a fine May day, and as soon as we were out of the town, the sweet air, the smell of the fresh grass, and the soft country roads were as pleasant as they used to be in the old times, and I soon began to feel quite fresh.

Dinah's family lived in a small farmhouse, up a green lane, close by a meadow with some fine shady trees. There were two cows feeding in it. A young man asked Jerry to bring his trap into the meadow, and said that he would tie me up in the cowshed. He wished he had a better stable to offer.

"If your cows would not be offended," said Jerry, "there is nothing my horse would like so well as to have an hour or two in your beautiful meadow. He's quiet and it would be a rare treat for him."

"Do, and welcome," said the young man. "The best we have is at your service for your kindness to my sister. We shall be having some dinner in an hour, and I hope you'll come in. Though with mother so ill, we are all out of sorts in the house."

Jerry thanked him kindly, but said as he had some dinner with him, there was nothing he should like so well as walking about in the meadow.

When my harness was taken off, I did not know what I should do first – whether to eat the grass, or roll over on my back, or lie down and rest, or have a gallop across the meadow out of sheer spirits at being free. I did all by turns. Jerry seemed to be quite as happy as I was. He sat down by a bank under a shady tree and listened to the birds, then he sang to himself and read out of the little brown book he is



so fond of. Then he wandered round the meadow and down by a little stream, where he picked the flowers and the hawthorn and tied them up with long sprays of ivy. After that, he gave me a good feed of oats which he had brought with him. The time seemed all too short - I had not been in a field since I left poor Ginger at Earlshall.

We came home gently, and Jerry's first words, as we came into the yard, were, "Well, Polly, I have not lost my Sunday after all, for the birds were singing hymns in every bush and I joined in the service. And as for Jack, he was like a young colt."

adapted from Black Beauty

Words to Know

Sabbath: Sunday, which Christians observe as a holy day for prayer and rest from work

minister: here, a priest in a church

light trap: a light horse-drawn carriage with two wheels

gig: here, a light two-wheeled carriage pulled by one horse

hawthorn: a thorny shrub or tree with white, red and pink flowers and small, dark red fruits

Let us answer

A Read the lines and answer the questions.

"We'll see about that. It was not the money I was thinking about, but of losing our Sunday . . ."

- a. Who said these words and to whom?
- b. Why would the speaker 'lose' a Sunday?
- c. Why did the speaker not want to lose her/his Sunday?

B Answer these questions.

1. What was the advice that Polly gave Jerry?
2. Write two examples from the story which show that Jerry cared about Black Beauty's happiness.

3. "Jerry seemed to be quite as happy as I was." What made Black Beauty think so?

C Tick (✓) the correct answers.

1. What news did Dinah Brown receive?

- a. Her father was ill. ☐
b. Her mother was ill. ☐

2. What did Black Beauty smell on the country roads?

- a. sweet roses ☐ b. fresh grass ☐

3. How did Black Beauty feel when his harness was taken off?

- a. overjoyed ☐ b. annoyed ☐

Fun with words

D Circle the words that have similar meanings to the words in capitals.

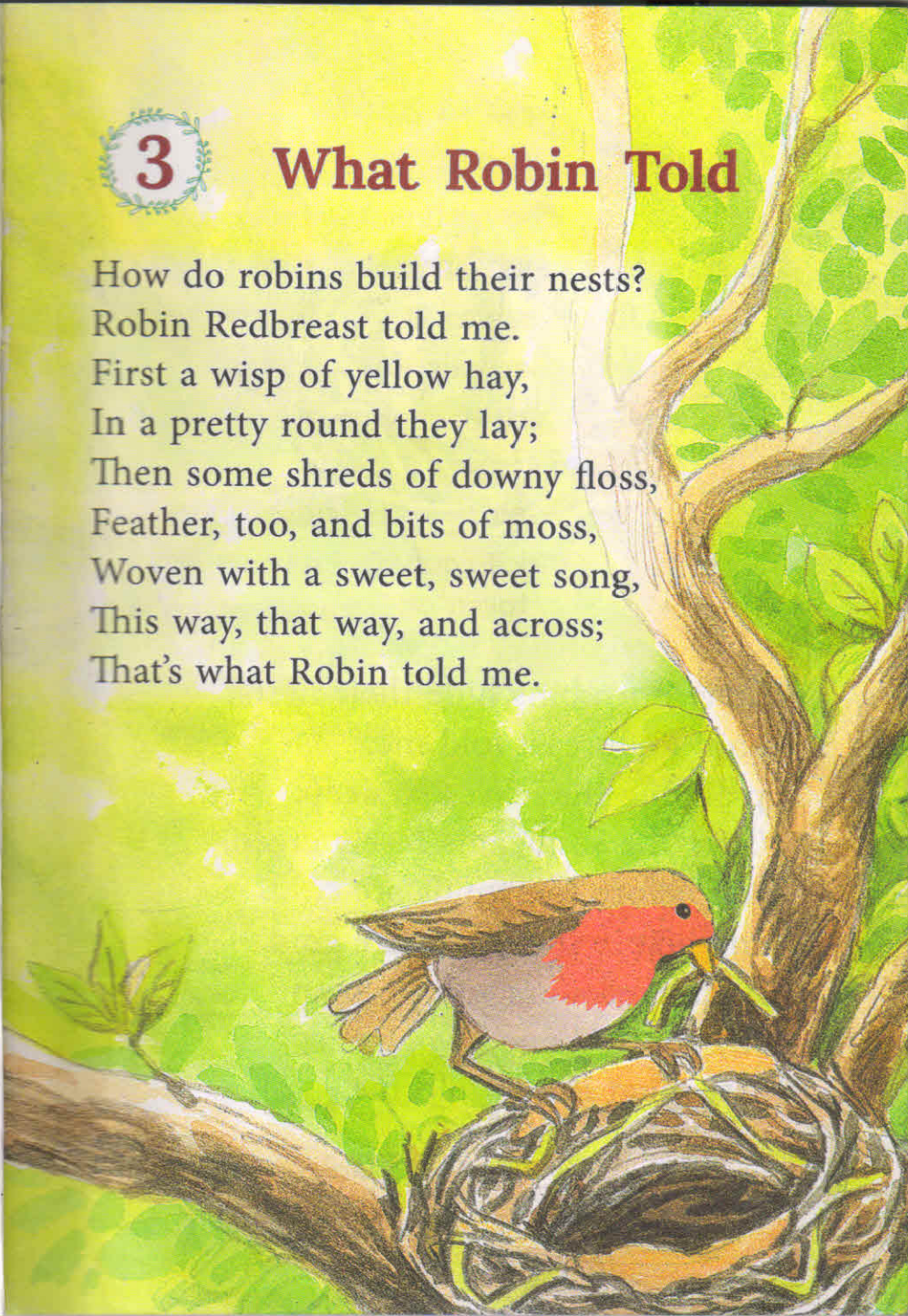
(HINT: The words should match the meanings as used in the story.)

- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. PLEASANT: | kind | pleasing | funny |
| 2. SELECTED: | special | decided | chosen |
| 3. OFFENDED: | annoyed | harmed | calmed |
| 4. GENTLY: | gradually | happily | willingly |



What Robin Told

How do robins build their nests?
Robin Redbreast told me.
First a wisp of yellow hay,
In a pretty round they lay;
Then some shreds of downy floss,
Feather, too, and bits of moss,
Woven with a sweet, sweet song,
This way, that way, and across;
That's what Robin told me.





Where do robins hide their nests?
Robin Redbreast told me.
Up among the leaves so deep,
Where the sunbeams rarely creep,
Long before the winds are cold,
Long before the leaves are gold,
Bright-eyed stars will peep and see,
Baby robins – one, two, three;
That's what Robin told me.

George Cooper

Words to Know

robin: a small bird with a reddish breast,
commonly found in England

wisp: here, a small, thin bunch

shreds: long, irregular strips cut off or torn
off something

downy floss: here, plant fibres that are as
soft as feathers

Let us answer

A Complete these sentences using words
from the poem.

1. To build their nests, robins first take a
wisp of _____ hay.
2. Then, they take some shreds of downy
_____ and feather.
3. They also use bits of _____
4. They weave their nests with a
_____ song.
5. Robins hide their nests up among
the _____

Fun with words



B For each of these words from the poem, write two rhyming words. Write words that have not been used in the poem.

1. deep _____
2. gold _____

C Underline the describing words in this passage about the robin.

The robin, also called the Robin Redbreast, is perhaps the most well-known bird of England. It has a reddish breast and face, a grey underbody and brown head, wings and tail. It is a small, plump bird.

The robin eats insects, worms, berries and seeds. It is found in the woods, parks and gardens of England. Its sweet song can be heard almost all through the year in England.

The robin's nest is made from grass, moss and dead leaves. In winter, the robin puffs up its feathers to protect itself from cold winds. Did you know that postmen in England used to be called 'robins', as they wore red tunics?



4

The Lazy Camel

*Joseph Rudyard Kipling (1865–1936)
was an English writer and poet.*

*The Jungle Book, Just So Stories,
Puck of Pook's Hill, and Kim are some
of his best-known stories. He won the
Nobel Prize for Literature in 1907.*

*Read this famous story by him about a
lazy camel who did not like to work.*

In the beginning, when the world was new and the Animals were just beginning to work for Man, there was a Camel. He lived in the middle of the Howling Desert because he did not want to work. He ate sticks and thorns. And when anybody spoke to him, he said, "Humph!" Just "Humph!" and no more.

One day, the Horse came to him with a saddle on his back.

The Horse said, "Camel, O Camel, come out and trot like the rest of us!"

"Humph!" said the Camel. The Horse went away and told Man.

Then, the Dog came to him, with a stick in his mouth, and said, "Camel, O Camel, come and carry the stick for Man like the rest of us."

"Humph!" said the Camel. The Dog went away and told Man.

Soon, the Ox came with a yoke on his neck and said, "Camel, O Camel, come and plough for Man like the rest of us."

"Humph!" said the Camel. The Ox went away and told Man.

At the end of the day, Man called the Horse and the Dog and the Ox together, and said, "Three, O Three, the Humph-thing in the Desert won't work, so I am going to leave him alone. You must work double-time to make up for it."



they held a meeting in a corner of the Howling Desert. The Camel came, chewing thorns, and laughed at them. Then he said "Humph!" and went away again.

Suddenly, rolling in a cloud of dust, there came along the Djinn, in charge of All Deserts. Djinns always travel that way because they know magic.

"Djinn of All Deserts," said the Horse, "is it right for anyone to be idle?"

"Certainly not," said the Djinn.

"Well," said the Horse, "there's a thing

in the middle of your Howling Desert with a long neck and long legs, and he doesn't do any work."

"Whew!" said the Djinn, whistling.

"That's my Camel! What does he say?"

"He says 'Humph!'" said the Dog.

"Does he say anything else?" asked the Djinn.

"Only 'Humph!'" said the Ox.

"Very good," said the Djinn. "I'll give him a 'humph'. Wait a minute."

The Djinn rolled himself up in his dust-cloak, and then blew across the desert, and found the Camel, looking at his own reflection in a pool of water.

"My friend," said the Djinn, "what's this I hear of your doing no work?"

"Humph!" said the Camel.

The Djinn sat down, with his chin in his hand, and began to think of a Great Magic, while the Camel looked at his own reflection in the pool of water and said, "Humph!"



"I wouldn't say that again if I were you," said the Djinn. "You have said it once too often."

But the Camel said "Humph!" again. No sooner had he said it than he saw his back, that he was so proud of, puffing up and up into a great big humph.

"Do you see that?" said the Djinn. "That's your very own humph that you've brought upon your very own self by not working. Now you are going to work."

"How can I?" said the Camel, "with this humph on my back?"

"That's made for a purpose," said the Djinn. "You will be able to work now for three days without eating, because you can store food in your humph; and don't you ever say I never did anything for you."

And from that day to this, the Camel always wears a humph. We call it 'hump' now, not to hurt his feelings.

*adapted from How the Camel got
his Hump by Rudyard Kipling*

Words to Know

trot: move fast with quick steps

plough: dig and turn up the soil for sowing

Djinn: genie (a spirit with magical powers)

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

Let us answer



A Answer these questions.

1. What did the Camel eat?
2. What did Man say to the Three?
3. How did the Djinn travel?
4. What did the Three tell the Djinn?
5. What did the Djinn do?

B Write True or False.

1. A Camel lived in the middle of the Howling Desert. _____
2. The Camel did not want to work. _____
3. The Horse asked the Camel to carry a stick like the rest of them. _____
4. The Ox could not make the Camel work. _____
5. Man gave the Camel a hump. _____

C Write words from the story which mean the following.

1. a wailing sound _____
2. biting and crushing food with the teeth _____



3. go from place to place _____
4. still water in a hollow place _____

Fun with words

D Rearrange the words to make sentences.
Punctuate the sentences correctly.

1. camels / mammals / are / strong and large

2. camels / usually / are / hot deserts / found in

3. camels / plant-eaters / are / herbivores or

4. a camel's hump / and / not water / contains fat

5. a camel / are scarce / lives off this fat / when
food and water



The Test

CHARACTERS

AKBAR

BIRBAL

COURTIERS

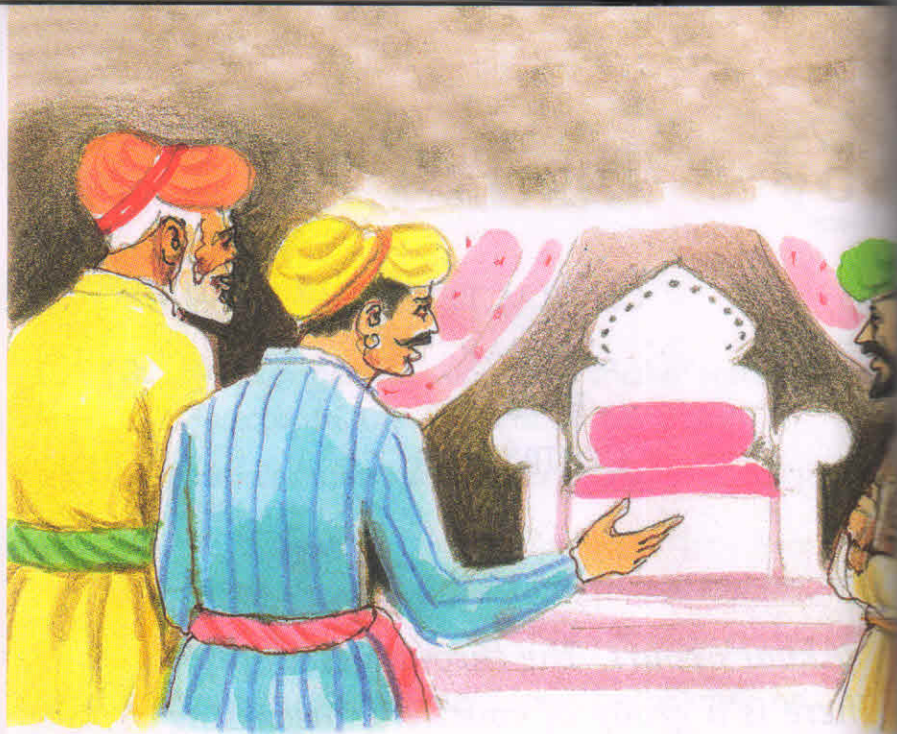
SCENE 1

*Akbar's court. The throne sits empty.
There is a group of courtiers, discussing
something excitedly.*

COURTIER 1: I have heard that Emperor
Akbar is looking for an
adviser.

COURTIER 2: Why should any of us even
bother to try?

COURTIER 1: Why not? I would like
to be the adviser.
Wouldn't you?



COURTIER 2: Don't you realize that the emperor will definitely select Birbal for the post?

COURTIER 1: I have heard that the emperor is going to test all the courtiers. I am going to try for the post.

COURTIER 3: I will too!

SCENE 2

Akbar's court. Akbar is seated on the throne and the courtiers stand facing him.

AKBAR: As you are all aware, I am looking for an adviser. The person who gets the post must be intelligent and good at solving problems.

COURTIER 1: What can we do, Huzoor, to prove our intelligence?

AKBAR: Simple! Pass this easy test.

Akbar gets off the throne. He takes off his cloak and hands it to Courtier 1. Then he lies down on the floor.

AKBAR: Now, I want you to cover all of me with my cloak!

COURTIER 1: That is easy!

The courtier covers Akbar with the cloak. The emperor's face is covered but not his feet.

COURTIERS

2 AND 3: The emperor's feet are not covered! You have failed!

AKBAR: Would anyone else like to try?

COURTIER 2: I would like to try!

COURTIER 3: I would like to try too!

AKBAR: You can all try. Remember, this cloak should cover me completely!

Courtier 2 takes the cloak and covers Akbar. Akbar's feet are covered but his face remains uncovered.

AKBAR: You have covered my feet but what about my face?

Courtiers 1 and 3 laugh loudly.

Courtier 2 frowns.

COURTIER 2: I give up! It is impossible! Here, try to see if you have better luck.

*He picks up the cloak and gives it to
Courtier 3. He tries but fails.*

SCENE 3

*Akbar's court. Birbal walks into the court
and stands behind the courtiers to watch.*

COURTIER 3: Oh, Huzoor! What a
difficult test you have set
for us! It is impossible to
cover you completely with
your cloak. Perhaps, if you
gave us a bigger cloak, we
could do it.

AKBAR: You have to use this cloak
and no other.

COURTIER 2: If you would let us cover
only your feet and body, we
could do it with this cloak.

AKBAR: No! This cloak must cover
my whole body!

COURTIER 1: That is impossible!

BIRBAL: No, it is not impossible.

*The courtiers turn to look at Birbal.
Akbar smiles at Birbal.*

AKBAR: Ah, Birbal, have you come
to try your luck?

BIRBAL: Yes, Huzoor. May I?

*He takes the cloak from Courtier 3
and walks up to Akbar.*

BIRBAL: Now, Huzoor, what am
I supposed to do?

AKBAR: Cover me from head to toe
with that cloak.

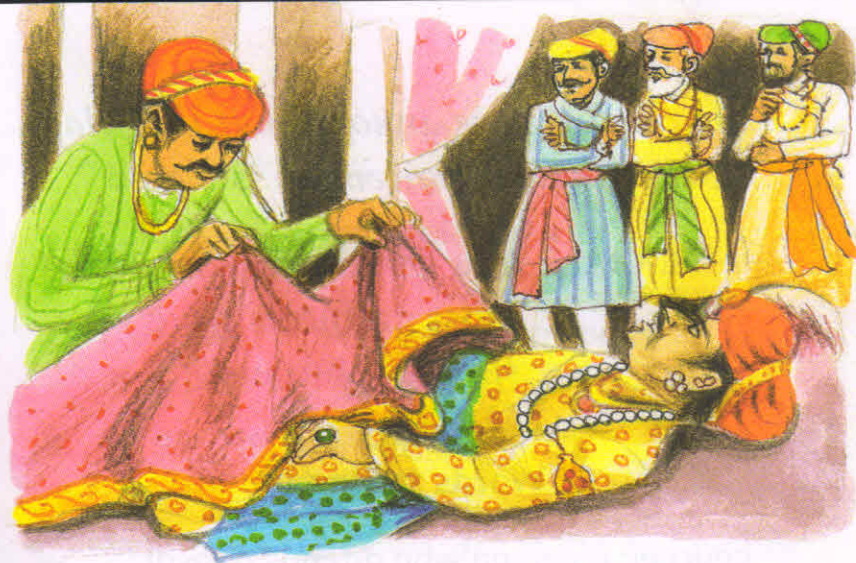
BIRBAL: Then, Huzoor, will you kindly
draw up your knees?

COURTIER 1: What have the Huzoor's knees
got to do with anything?

BIRBAL: If you wait and watch, you
will know.

Akbar draws up his knees.

BIRBAL: Ah, thank you, Huzoor.



*Birbal places the cloak over Akbar.
The cloak covers the emperor completely.*

BIRBAL: Look! I have covered the
emperor from head to toe!

Akbar throws off the cloak and stands up.

AKBAR: Yes, Birbal has indeed
covered me from head
to toe with the cloak. He
is the only one who has
been able to do so! He has
passed the test! Birbal will
be my adviser.

The courtiers are annoyed but they clap after the announcement is made.

BIRBAL: You should remember that most problems have very simple solutions!

Words to Know

courtier: a person who attends a royal court as a companion to the king or queen

adviser: here, a person who gives advice to the emperor

Huzoor: a term used to address a respected figure

Let us answer



Write True or False.

1. Courtier 3 said that Akbar would definitely choose Birbal to be his adviser.

2. Akbar said that his adviser must be strong and a great warrior. _____
3. Courtier 1 covered the emperor's face but not his feet. _____
4. Courtier 2 covered the emperor's feet but not his face. _____
5. Birbal asked Akbar to draw up his knees. _____

B Who said these words? Write the names of the speakers on the blanks.

1. I have heard that Emperor Akbar is looking for an adviser. _____
2. Now, I want you to cover all of me with my cloak! _____
3. I give up! It is impossible! _____
4. Perhaps, if you gave us a bigger cloak, we could do it. _____

Fun with words



C Find words in the story that mean the opposite of these words.

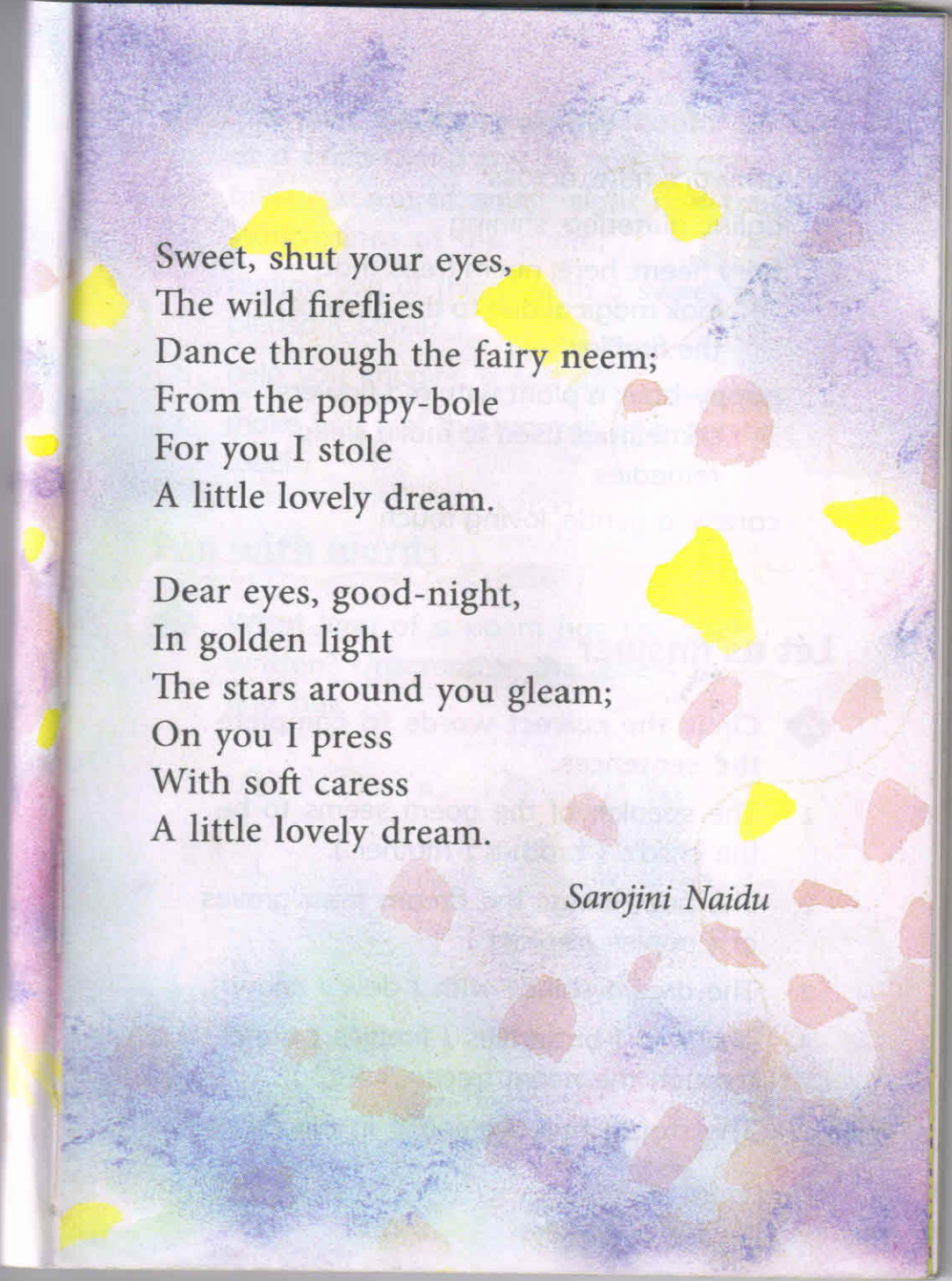
- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. perhaps _____ | 3. pleased _____ |
| 2. worse _____ | 4. complex _____ |



Cradle Song

From groves of spice,
O'er fields of rice,
Athwart the lotus-stream,
I bring for you,
Aglint with dew
A little lovely dream.





Sweet, shut your eyes,
The wild fireflies
Dance through the fairy neem;
From the poppy-bole
For you I stole
A little lovely dream.

Dear eyes, good-night,
In golden light
The stars around you gleam;
On you I press
With soft caress
A little lovely dream.

Sarojini Naidu

Words to Know

athwart: here, across

aglint: glittering, shining

fairy neem: here, neem trees that look magical due to the glow of the fireflies

poppy-bole: a plant with red flowers, sometimes used to make sleep remedies

caress: a gentle, loving touch

Let us answer

A Circle the correct words to complete the sentences.

1. The speaker of the poem seems to be the child's (brother / mother).
2. The poet brings the dream from groves of (apples / spices).
3. The dream shines with (dew / snow).
4. The wild (butterflies / fireflies) dance through the neem trees.
5. The stars (fade / gleam) in the dream.

B The poet has painted a beautiful picture of a child being put to bed. It appeals to our sense of smell, sight and touch. Which lines of the poem:

1. remind you of things with a sweet and pleasant smell?
2. help you imagine a scene?
3. make you feel the warmth of a person's touch?

Fun with words

C What kind of a poem has the poet written? Unscramble the letters to find out.

(B) (L) (A) (L) (Y) (U) (L)

— L — — — — —



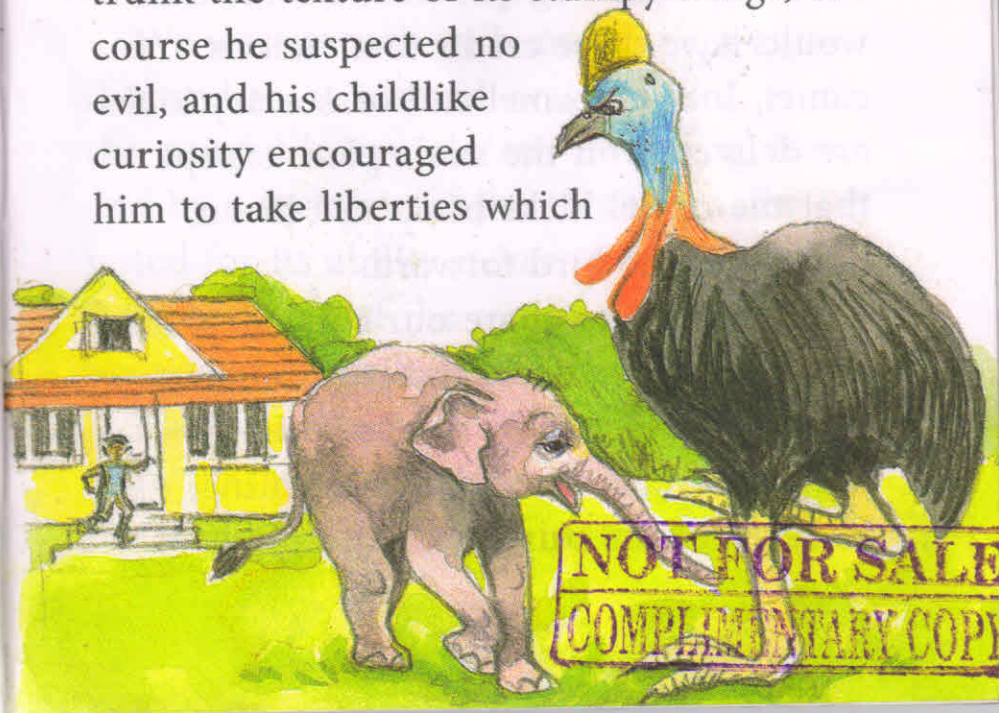
The Elephant and the Cassowary Bird

The baby elephant wasn't out of place in our home in North India because India is where elephants belong; and in any case, our house was full of pets brought home by Grandfather, who was in the Forest Service. But the cassowary bird was different. No one had ever seen such a bird before – not in India, that is. Grandfather had picked it up on a voyage to Singapore, where he had been given the bird by a rubber-planter, who had got it from a Dutch trader, who had got it from a man in Indonesia.

Anyway, it ended up at our home in Dehra, and seemed to do quite well in the subtropical climate. It looked like a cross between a turkey and an ostrich,

but bigger than the former and smaller than the latter – about five feet in height. It was not a beautiful bird, nor even a friendly one, but it had come to stay, and everyone was curious about it, especially the baby elephant.

Right from the start, the baby elephant took a great interest in the cassowary, a bird unlike any found in the Indian jungles. He would circle round the odd creature, and diffidently examine with his trunk the texture of its stumpy wings; of course he suspected no evil, and his childlike curiosity encouraged him to take liberties which



resulted in an unpleasant experience.

Noticing the baby elephant's attempts to make friends with the rather morose cassowary, we felt a bit apprehensive. Self-contained and sullen, the big bird responded only by slowly and slyly raising one of its powerful legs, in the meantime gazing into space with an innocent air. We knew what the gesture meant; we had seen that treacherous leg raised on many an occasion, and suddenly shooting out with a force that would have done credit to a vicious camel. In fact, camel and cassowary kicks are delivered on the same plan, except that the camel kicks backward like a horse and the bird forward.

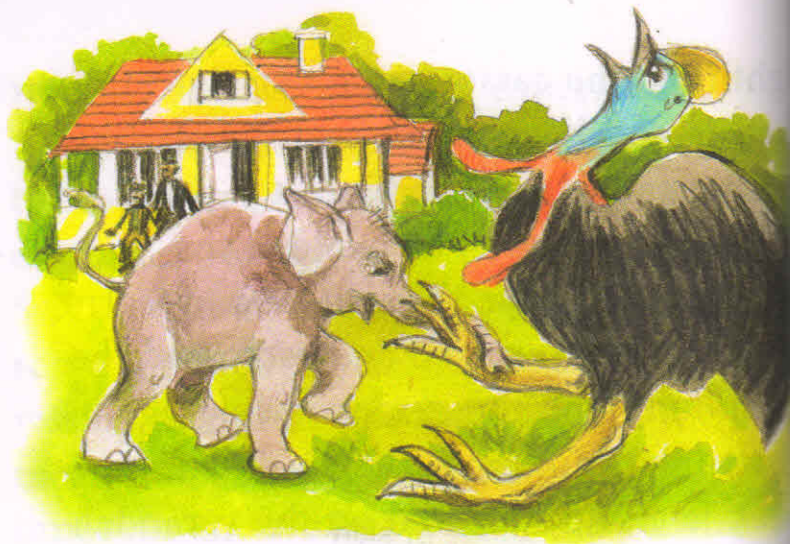
We wished to spare our baby elephant a painful experience, and led him away from the bird. But he persisted in his friendly overtures, and one morning, he received an ugly reward. Rapid as

lightning, the cassowary hit straight from the hip and knee joints, and the elephant ran squealing to Grandfather.

For several days, he avoided the cassowary, and we thought he had learnt his lesson. He crossed and recrossed the compound and the garden, swinging his trunk, thinking furiously. Then, a week later, he appeared on the verandah at breakfast time in his usual cheery, childlike fashion, sidling up to the cassowary as if nothing had happened.

We were struck with amazement at this and so, it seemed, was the bird. Had the painful lesson already been forgotten, and by a member of the elephant tribe noted for its ability never to forget? Another dose of the same medicine would serve the baby elephant right.

The cassowary once more began to draw up its fighting leg. It was nearing the true position for the master-kick,



kung fu style, when all of a sudden, the baby elephant seized with his trunk the cassowary's other leg and pulled it down. There was a clumsy flapping of wings, a tremendous swelling of the bird's wattle, and an undignified getting up, as if it were a floored boxer doing his best to beat the count of ten. The bird then marched off with an attempt to look stately and unconcerned, while we at the breakfast table were convulsed with laughter.

Words to Know

diffidently: here, timidly

morose: here, sullen, moody

apprehensive: nervous and worried

treacherous: seeming to be safe, yet dangerous

vicious: cruel and harsh

overtures: attempts to become friends

wattle: a fleshy fold of skin hanging from a bird's head or throat

Let us answer

A Answer these questions.

1. How did the cassowary bird end up at the writer's home?
2. Describe the cassowary bird in your own words.
3. What did the baby elephant do to try and make friends with the cassowary bird?
4. How did the bird respond to the elephant's attempts to make friends with it?

5. In which ways are the kicks of the camel and cassowary similar and different?
6. What did the baby elephant do to get even with the cassowary bird?

B Write two words used by the author to describe the cassowary bird.

1. _____
2. _____

Fun with words

C The cassowary is an uncommon bird. Circle the names of eight birds in the wordsearch.

O	S	T	R	I	C	H	L
R	O	B	I	N	U	O	K
I	B	I	S	T	B	O	Y
O	S	J	A	Y	L	P	C
L	W	F	A	L	C	O	N
E	M	U	O	L	A	E	Q
H	O	R	N	B	I	L	L



The Pied Piper of Hamelin

Robert Browning (1812–1889) was an English poet. His famous poems include The Pied Piper of Hamelin, My Last Duchess and Home Thoughts from Abroad.

Long, long ago, the old town of Hamelin in Germany, on the banks of the river Weser, was faced with a problem. It was full of rats. Rats of every size were everywhere. There were big rats, small rats, fat rats, thin rats, black rats, brown rats, grey rats, old rats and young rats.

The rats fought with the dogs and attacked the cats. They bit the babies in their cradles. They were so bold that they licked the soup from the cooks' own ladles and made nests inside men's Sunday hats.

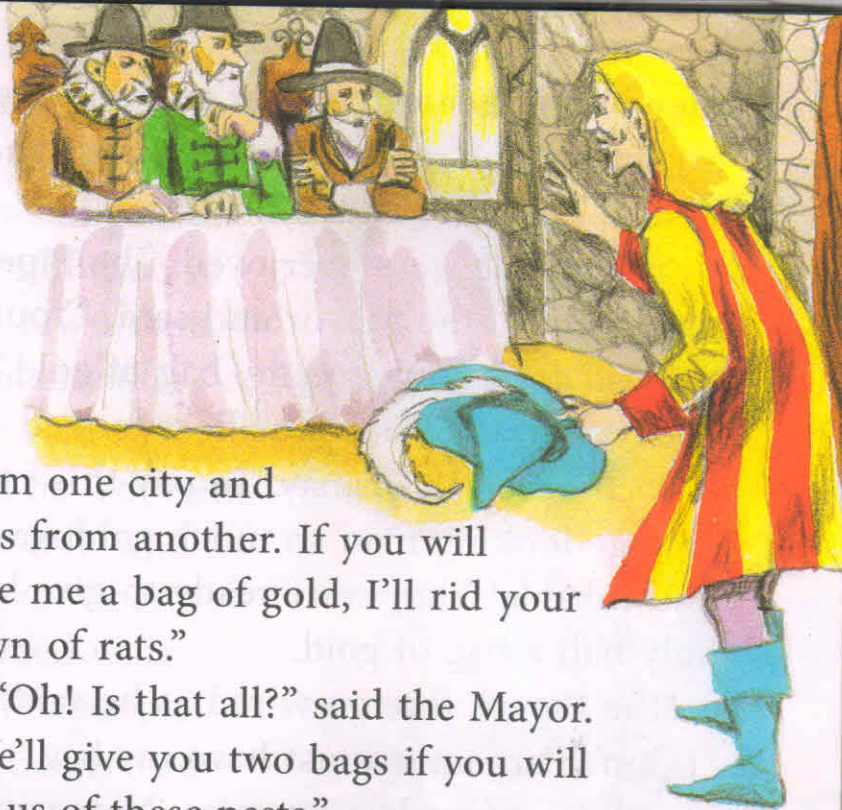
The entire town was disturbed by their squeaking and shrieking.

At last, the people went to the Mayor and his councillors with tears in their eyes. They demanded that he should do something about the rats at once.

"Something must be done!" they cried. "If you fail, we will get another Mayor."

The Mayor sat with his councillors for a long time, wondering what to do. As they were discussing the problem, a knock was heard at the door, and in walked a mysterious-looking man. He was tall and thin. He had shining blue eyes and yellow hair. His long coat was half yellow and half red. He had a white feather in his wide hat and a strange pipe hung around his neck.

"I am called the Pied Piper," he said. "I have rescued Kings in the West and in the East in times of trouble. By means of



from one city and flies from another. If you will give me a bag of gold, I'll rid your town of rats."

"Oh! Is that all?" said the Mayor. "We'll give you two bags if you will rid us of these pests."

The Piper smiled and stepped out into the street, piping a sweet tune. Before long, a mighty rumbling sound was heard and from the houses the rats came tumbling out. They followed the Piper who led them to the River Weser. They scrambled and scurried after the Piper as he waded into the water. One by one,

they plunged into the river and drowned, except for one rat who swam across and went to Rat-land to tell his tale.

The people were overjoyed. The Piper then went to the Mayor and said, "Your work is done. Give me my bag of gold." The Mayor and his councillors looked at each other, in dismay. To pay this strange-looking man so much gold was unthinkable! They were ready to give him only half a bag of gold.

The Piper's face grew red as he said, "I don't bargain. I must have my bag of gold! You made a promise. Now you must keep it. I will not take less."

The Mayor would not listen. So the Piper said, "I will pipe another tune and you will be sorry."

The Mayor still did not pay any heed to him. Out stepped the Piper without a word. He now played a sweeter note than

a bustling and
all the streets
came alive as
the children of
the town went
dancing after
the Pied Piper,
and he led them
to a hill, where
a giant door
opened wide.

The people
were horrified.
They came
forward and
urged the Mayor
to stop the Piper
from taking
away their
children. The
Mayor also
realized that he



had done wrong by breaking his promise.
He begged the Piper to forgive him and
offered to pay him the promised gold.
The Piper was pleased and he happily
sent the children back to their homes.
He reminded the people that promises,
once made, should be kept and walked
away with his bag of gold.

*adapted from the poem The Pied Piper
of Hamelin by Robert Browning*

Words to Know

Sunday hats: here, hats worn to
church on Sundays, usually more
showy than ordinary hats

shrieking: here, making shrill sounds

Mayor: the elected head of a town or city

councillors: here, a body of elected
members who help the head of a town
or city to govern it

mysterious: here, strange

Let us answer



A Circle the correct words to complete the sentences.

1. The people of Hamelin were troubled by (rats / hens / cats).
2. The Pied Piper's coat was half yellow and half (brown / red / grey).
3. The rats came (crawling / tumbling / flying) out of the houses.
4. The rats followed the Piper to the (river / hill / sea).
5. The Pied Piper led the children to a (tree / hill / building).
6. The Pied Piper walked away with his bag of (money / silver / gold).

B Read the lines and answer the questions.

1. "We'll give you two bags if you will rid us of these pests."
 - a. Who said these words and to whom?
 - b. What would the two bags contain?
 - c. What does 'these pests' refer to?

2. "Your work is done. Give me my bag of gold."
 - a. Who said these words and to whom?
 - b. What work had been done?

Fun with words



Choose the names of the stories from the box and write them beside the correct descriptions.

Snow White Aladdin
Winnie-the-Pooh Rapunzel

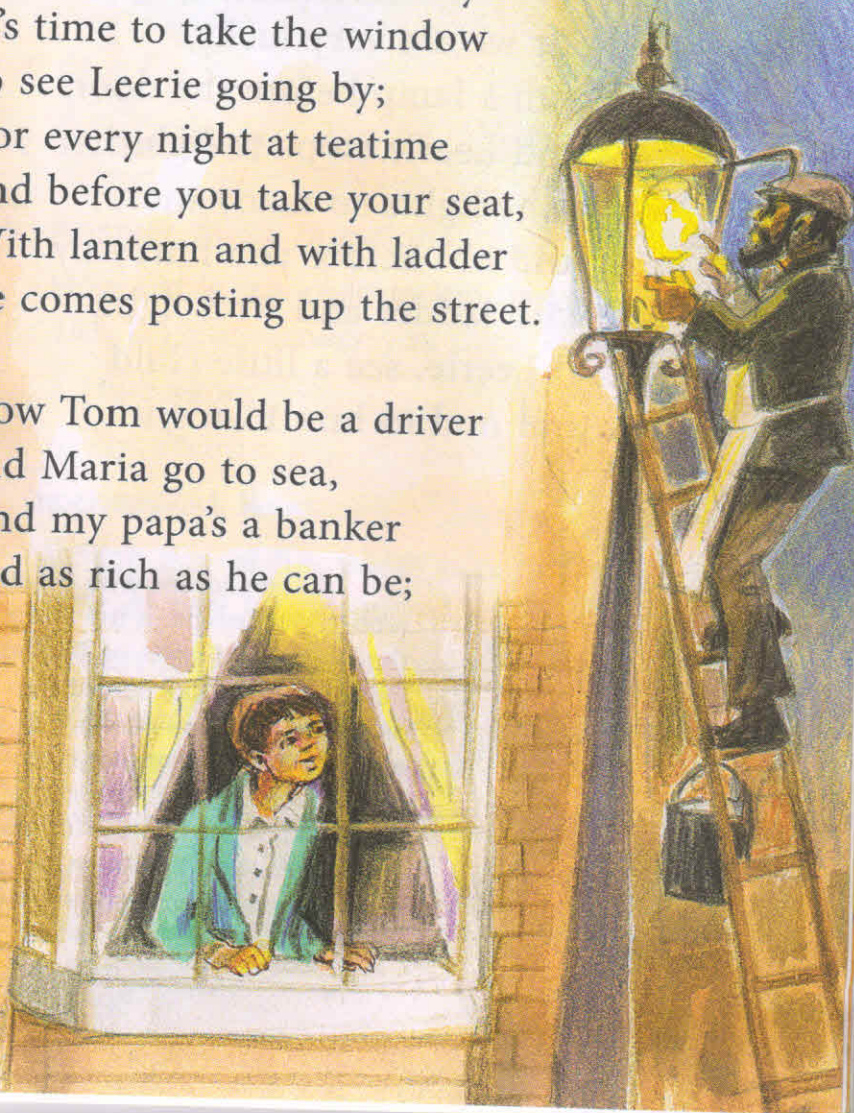
1. The story of a bear who loves honey; his friends are Piglet, Rabbit and Christopher Robin. _____
2. The story of a girl who eats a poisoned apple and faints. _____
3. The story of a boy who flies on a magic carpet. _____
4. The story of a girl with beautiful, long hair who is shut away in a tower. _____

9

The Lamplighter

My tea is nearly ready
and the sun has left the sky.
It's time to take the window
to see Leerie going by;
For every night at teatime
and before you take your seat,
With lantern and with ladder
he comes posting up the street.

Now Tom would be a driver
and Maria go to sea,
And my papa's a banker
and as rich as he can be;

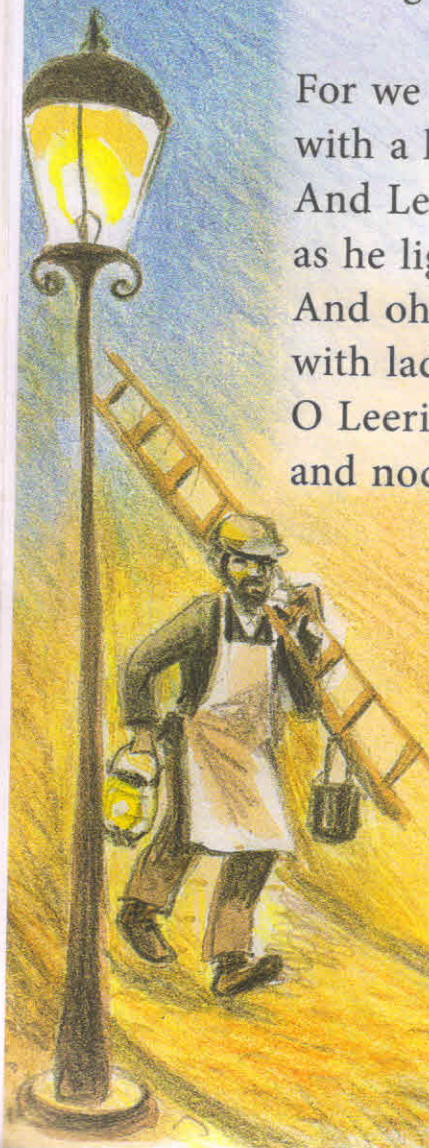


But I, when I am stronger
and can choose what I'm to do,
O Leerie, I'll go round at night
and light the lamps with you!

For we are very lucky,
with a lamp before the door,
And Leerie stops to light it
as he lights so many more;
And oh! before you hurry by
with ladder and with light;
O Leerie, see a little child
and nod to him to-night!

R L Stevenson

NOTE: A lamplighter was a person who lit gas lamps in the streets of the towns and cities of England before the introduction of the electric lights. Lamps were lit each evening by lamplighters by means of a lighted wick at the end of a long pole. At dawn, the lamplighter would return to put them out using a small hook on the same pole. They usually carried a ladder.



Words to Know

take the window: sit by the window

Leerie: the name of the lamplighter

posting up: walking quickly

Let us answer

A Answer these questions.

1. How old is the child in the poem?
Tick (✓) the answer you think is correct.
 - a. two years ☐
 - b. ten years ☐
 - c. eighteen years ☐
2. Which line of the poem tells us about the time of day in the poem?
3. Which two objects is Leerie carrying?
4. Who do you think Tom and Maria are?
Give a reason for your answer.
5. What job does the poet's father do?
6. Which lines of the poem tell us that the poet would like to be friends with the lamplighter?

Fun with words



B Write two rhyming words for each of these words. Write words that have not been used in the poem.

1. sky _____
2. seat _____
3. sea _____
4. light _____

C Write a paragraph in your notebook about what you would like to be when you grow up. Give reasons for your answer. You may use these words.

work exciting dream
wish regular not give up

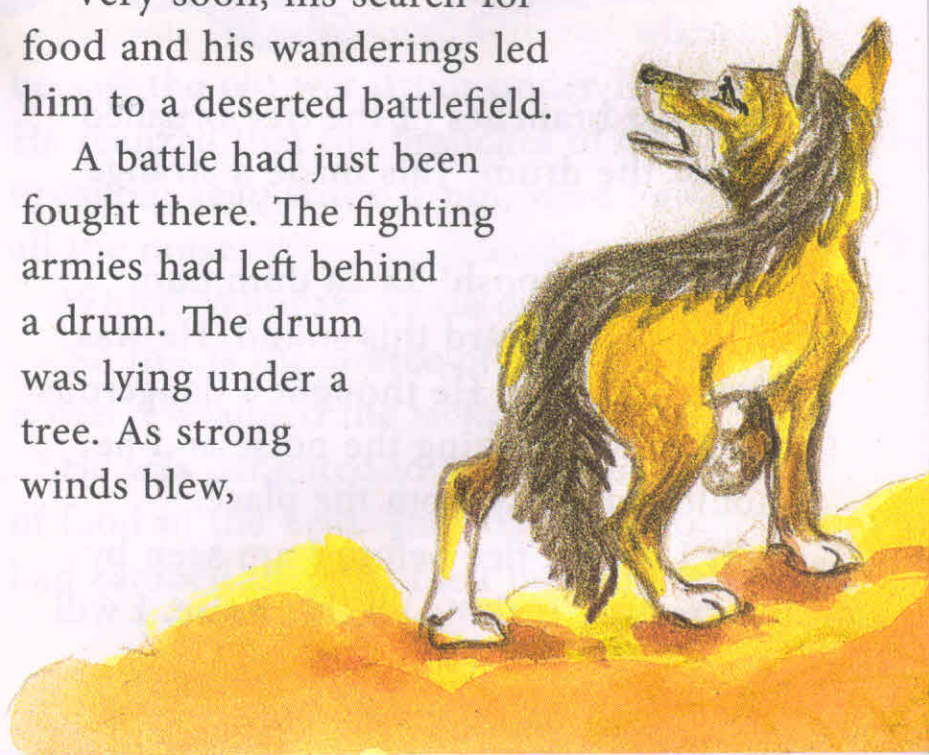
The Jackal and the War Drum

Deep inside a jungle, lived a jackal. One day, he wandered about restlessly in search of food. He was very hungry as he had not eaten for two days.

'I feel weak. I hope I find some food soon,' he thought.

Very soon, his search for food and his wanderings led him to a deserted battlefield.

A battle had just been fought there. The fighting armies had left behind a drum. The drum was lying under a tree. As strong winds blew,





the lower branches of the tree brushed against the drum. This made a strange noise.

Whirr! Whoosh! Ta da dum dum!

The jackal heard this sound. He was frightened by it. He thought a dangerous creature was making the noise and he should run away from the place.

'If I do not flee before I am seen by
64 the creature making all this noise, I will

be in trouble,' he thought.

But just as he was about to run away, he had another thought.

'It is unwise to run away from something without knowing what it is. I should try and find the source of this noise. I wonder what the sound really is and who is making it?'

'I must be brave,' said the jackal to himself as he crept forward slowly and cautiously.

He was surprised and relieved when he saw the old war drum under the tree. He realized that the branches of the tree, brushing against the drum, were making all the noise.

Whirr! Whoosh! Ta da dum dum!

'So this is the source of the peculiar noise!' exclaimed the jackal.

He was delighted to find a great deal of food in the field. The soldiers who had camped there had left behind the



food along with the drum.

The jackal enjoyed the meal and said to himself, 'Mmm! Had I not been brave, I would never have found this food.'

Words to Know

war drum: a drum beaten as a call to battle

deserted: here, empty

brushed against: touched gently

peculiar: here, strange

delighted: very happy

had camped there: here, had set up camps for shelter

Let us answer



A Answer these questions.

1. Why was the jackal restless?
2. How did the jackal reach the battlefield?
3. What did the jackal think when he first heard the strange noise?
4. What was the jackal's second thought?
5. What did the jackal find under the tree?
6. What did the jackal say to himself as he enjoyed the meal?

B Fill in the blanks with words from the lesson.

1. One day, a jackal was wandering about in search of _____
2. He was very _____ as he had not eaten for two days.
3. The fighting armies had left behind a drum under a _____
4. The jackal was really afraid when he heard a strange _____
5. The jackal was _____ to find a great deal of food near the drum.

6. The food had been left there by the _____ who camped at the place.
7. The jackal enjoyed _____

Fun with words



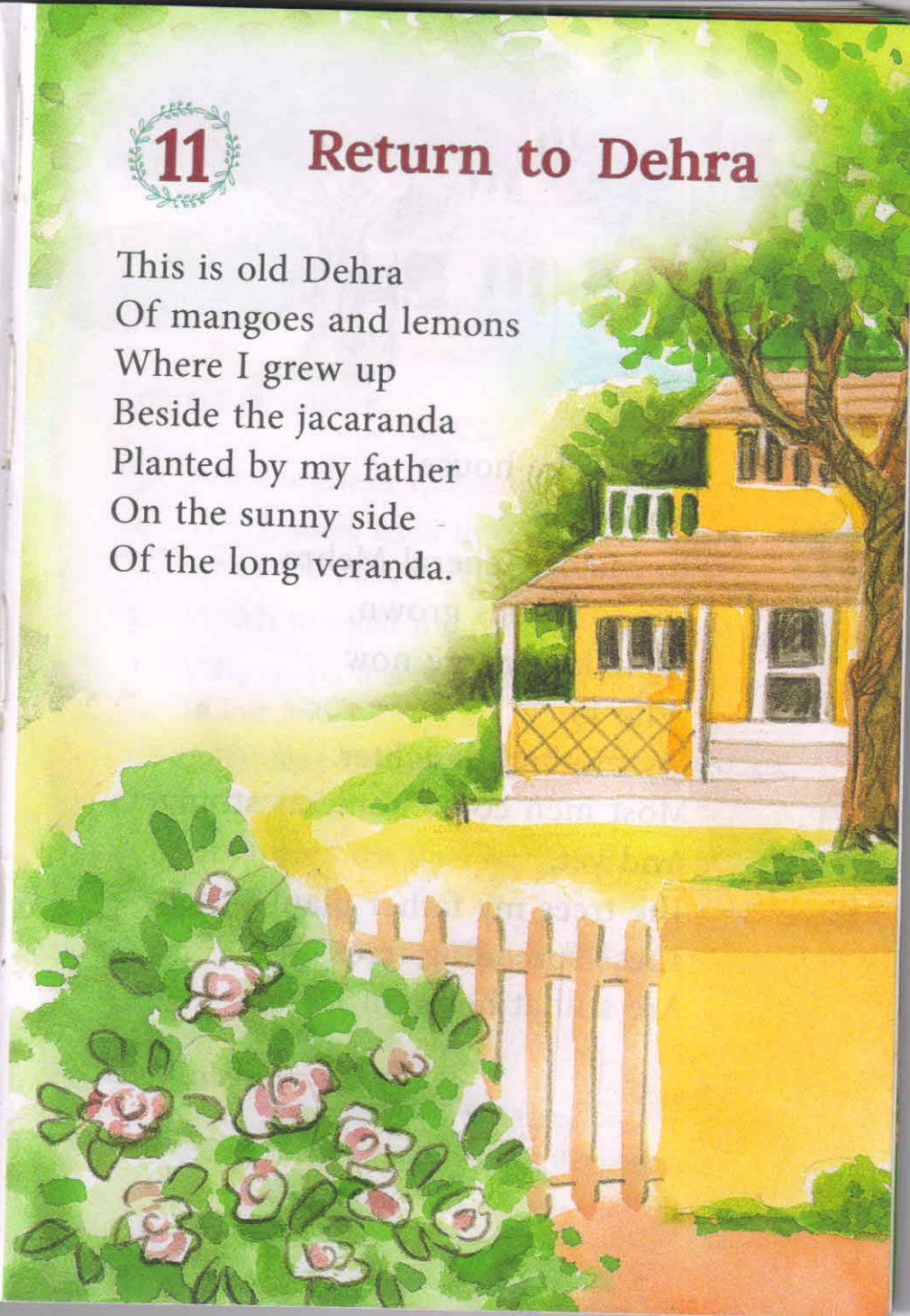
Circle the words that have a similar meaning to the words in capitals.

- | | | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| 1. HUNGRY | a. sad | b. full | c. starved |
| 2. RESTLESS | a. calm | b. quiet | c. uneasy |
| 3. WANDER | a. roam | b. think | c. lose |
| 4. STRANGE | a. usual | b. odd | c. broad |
| 5. FLEE | a. escape | b. stay | c. jump |
| 6. CAUTIOUSLY | a. quickly | b. kindly | c. slowly |



Return to Dehra

This is old Dehra
Of mangoes and lemons
Where I grew up
Beside the jacaranda
Planted by my father
On the sunny side -
Of the long veranda.





This is the house
Since sold
To Major General Mehra.
The town has grown,
None knows me now
Who knew
My mother's laughter.
Most men come home as strangers.
And yet,
The trees my father planted here –
These spreading trees –
Are still at home in Dehra.

Ruskin Bond



Words to Know

Dehra: Dehradun

jacaranda: a tree with fern-like leaves
and pale, purple flowers

Let us answer

A Answer these questions.

1. Which trees used to grow in Dehradun when the poet was young?
2. Which tree did the poet's father plant?
3. Who owns the house that the poet used to live in?
4. Why does the town seem to be unfamiliar to the poet?
5. What does the poet remember about his mother?
6. What has not changed in Dehradun?

Fun with words

B Form a group and go to a nearby park with your teacher. Carry a notebook.