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Edition

GEM'S SUPPLEMENTARY READERS

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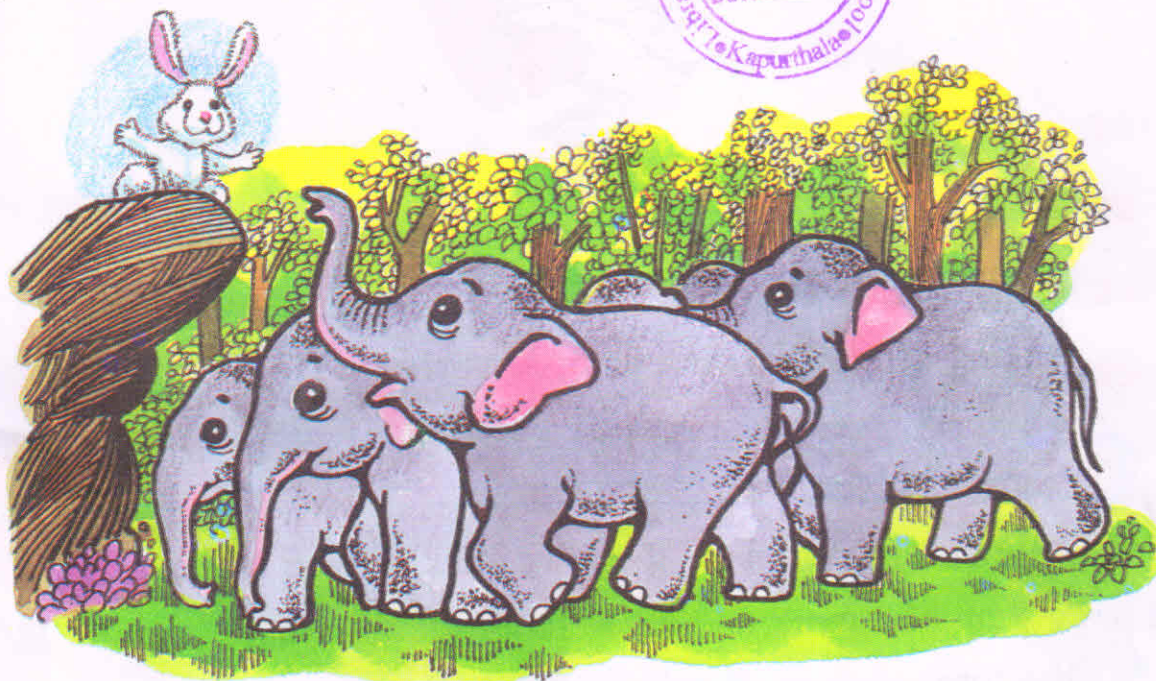
# The PANCHATANTRA Selections

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The  
**PANCHATANTRA**  
Selections

1



Illustrations: Viky Arya

**NOT FOR SALE**  
Ratna Sagar  
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## HOW AND WHY?



**D**O YOU KNOW how and why the stories of the Panchatantra came to be written?

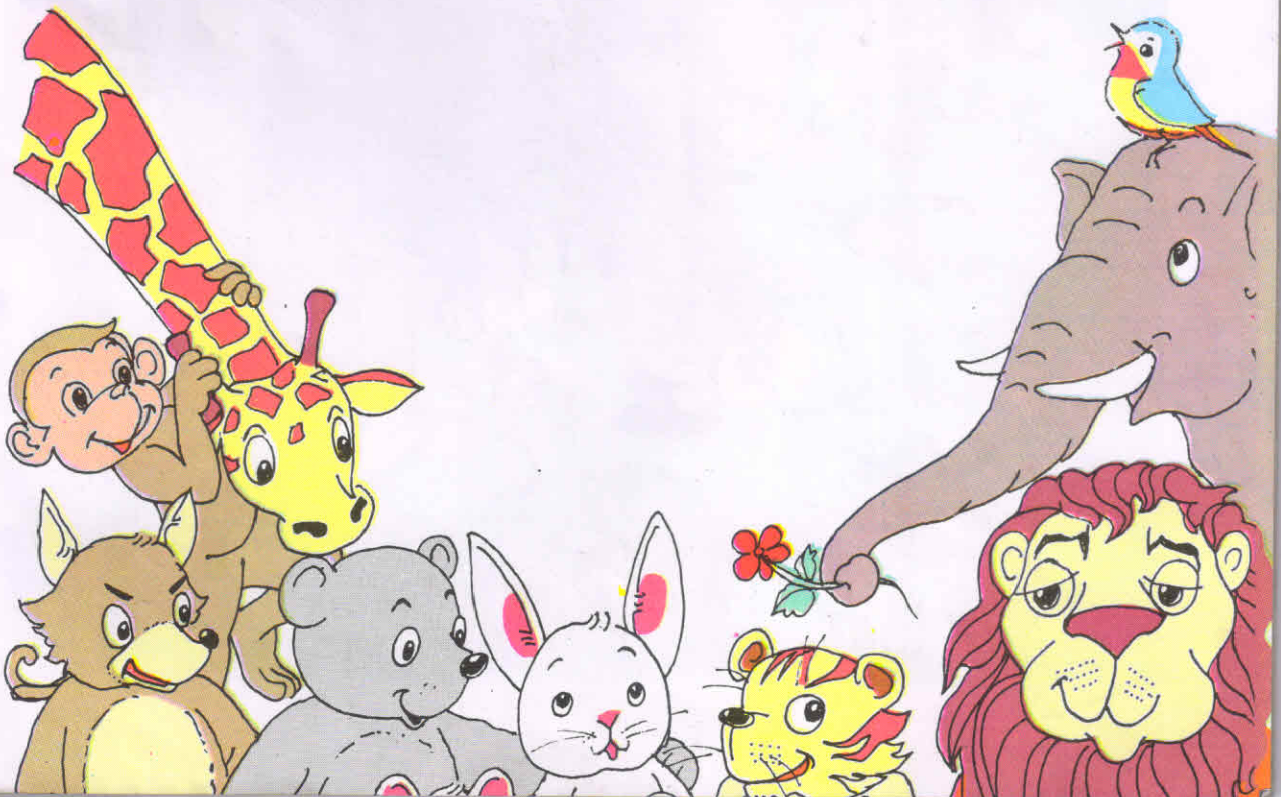
Long ago, there was a king, Amarsakti. He had three sons. All three were foolish and lazy. They refused to learn anything.

When all else failed, the king called a wise brahman, Vishnu Sharman, and asked him to find a way to teach the three princes. Pandit Sharman made up interesting stories with a moral. He told the princes these stories to educate them. That's how the three foolish boys became wise men.

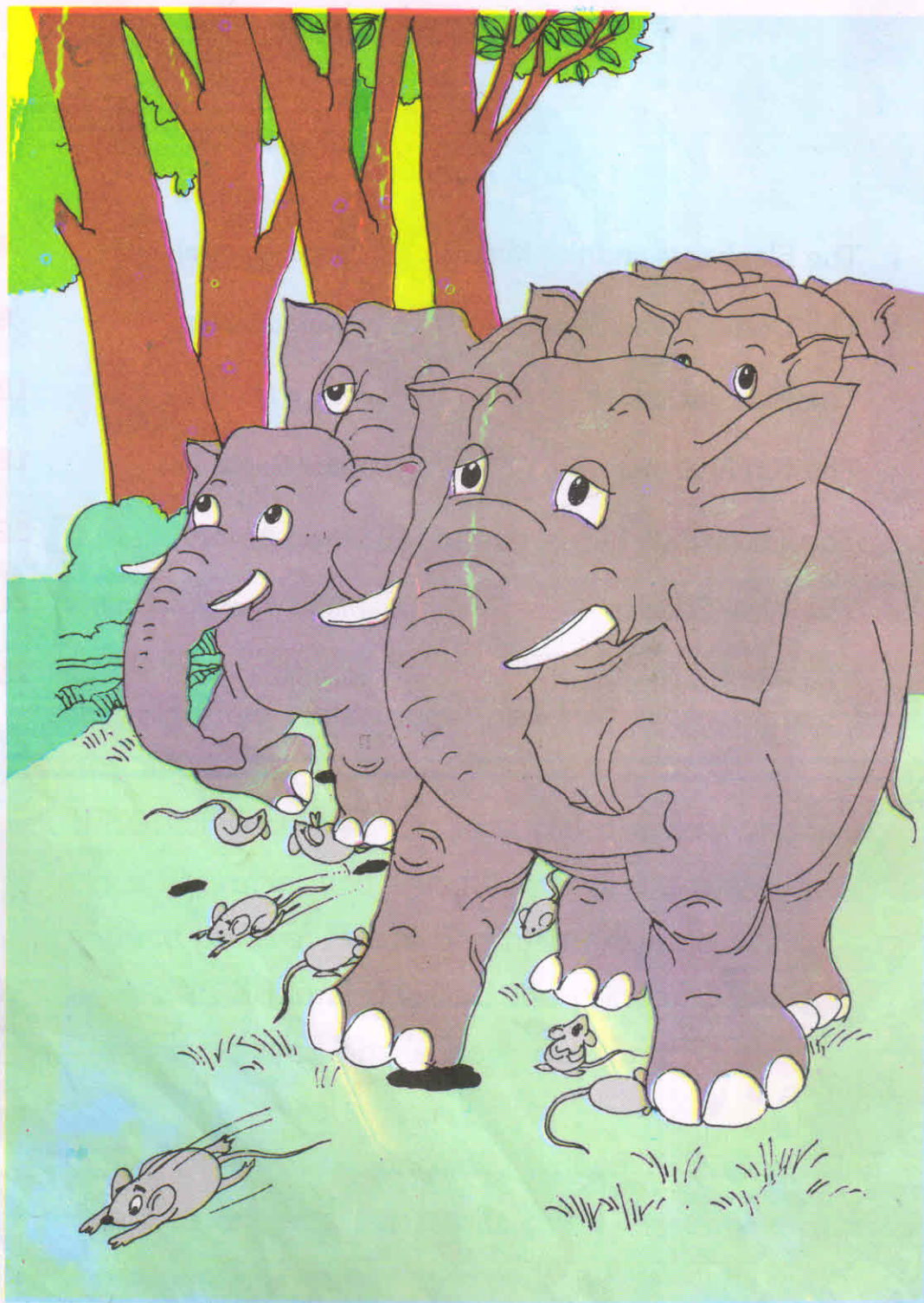
These stories were originally written in Sanskrit and made into a set of five books called the *pancha* (five) *tantra* (books).

## CONTENTS

1. The Elephants and the Mice	Deepa Agarwal	4
2. The Donkey who Sang	Swapna Dutta	8
3. The Blue Jackal	Mukta Munjal	13
4. The Kind Farmer	Rupa Gupta	18
5. The Three Fish	Deepa Agarwal	22
6. The Wise Gander	Indira Anantkrishnan	26
7. The Foolish Brahman	Swapna Dutta	29



# THE ELEPHANTS AND THE MICE



ONCE UPON A TIME there was a city near a lake. Only mice lived there. They had lots of parties, weddings and festivals.

Nearby, in a jungle, there lived a herd of elephants. They were ruled by a wise king and all lived happily together.

One summer, it did not rain. The elephants were very thirsty. They hurried towards the lake.

As the elephants rushed through the city, they did not see the small mice, and crushed them with their big feet. Many mice died and quite a few of them were hurt.



CRUSHED:  
pressed  
very hard

The rest of the mice held a meeting. They knew that if the elephants came again, many more of them would be crushed and killed.

"Let us go and talk to the king of the elephants. May be he can help," suggested a wise mouse.

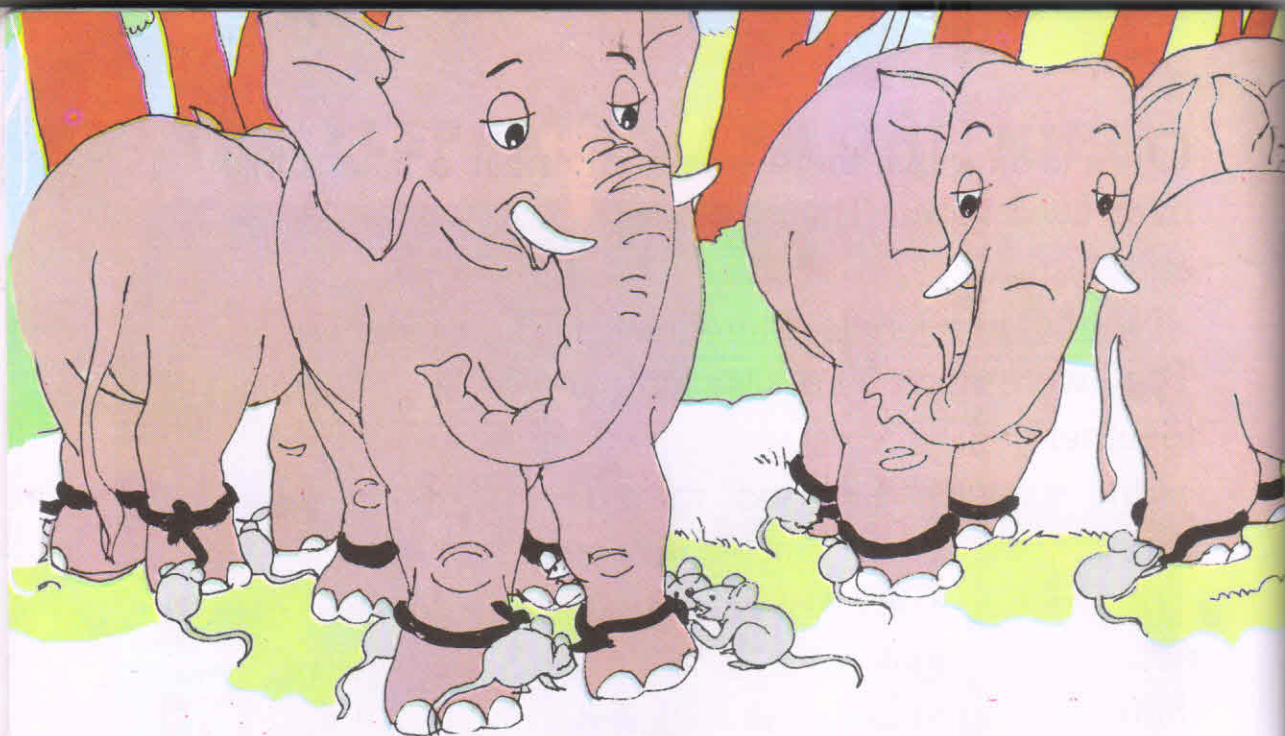
Three mice were sent to the elephant king. They bowed before him and said, "Your Majesty, we come from the city near the lake. While you and your friends were passing through the city, many of us were hurt and killed. Sir, will you be kind enough to choose another path next time? We shall be very grateful to you. We are small, but we may be able to help you one day."

The king was very sorry to hear that so many mice had died. "It won't happen again," he promised.



One day, some trappers came to catch the

TRAPPERS:  
people who  
catch  
animals



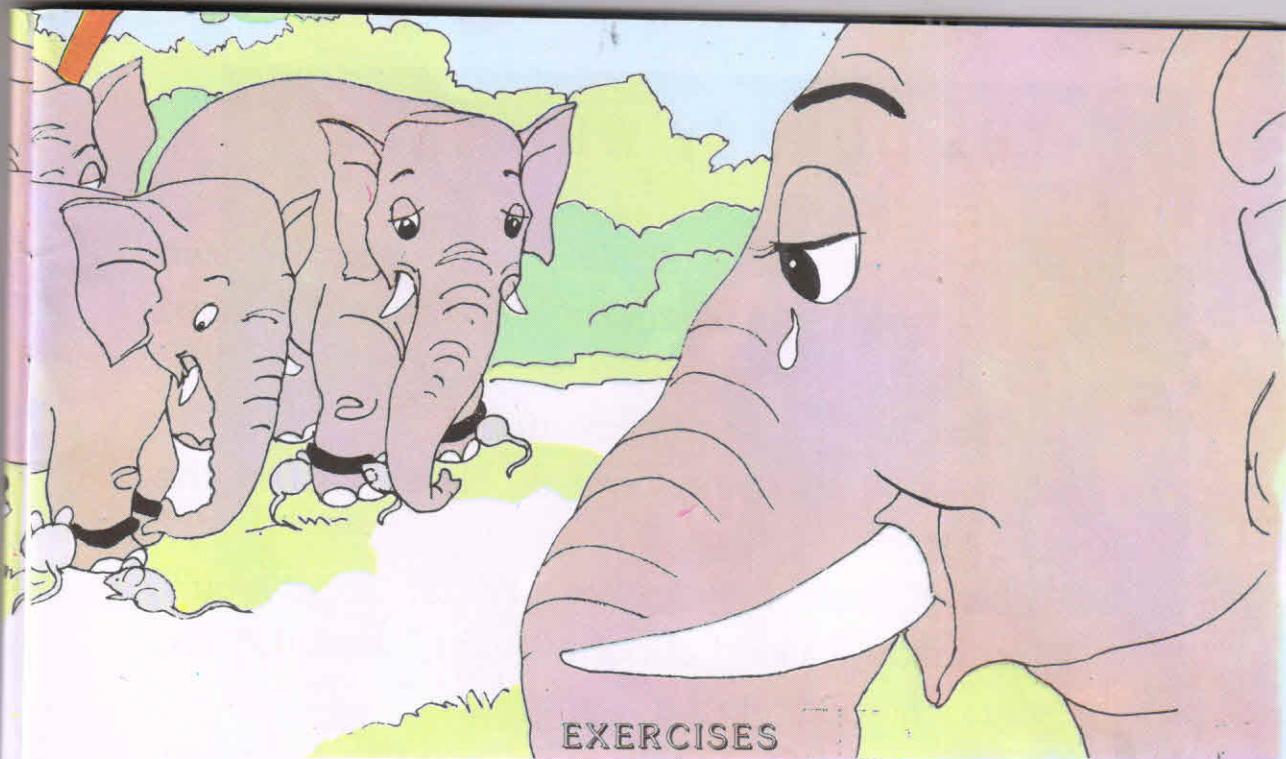
elephants. They dug pits and covered them with branches. Soon the elephants passed that way. They fell into the pits. The pits were so deep, they could not climb out.

The trappers came and pulled them out. They tied the elephants to trees with thick ropes and went away to tell their leader the news of the catch.

The elephant king thought of the mice and their promise. Luckily, his queen had not been caught. She took the king's message to the mice with tears in her eyes.

"Of course, we will help," they said. They came running to the jungle where the elephants were tied. They bit the thick ropes and cut through them.

Soon the elephants were free. And so the big elephants and the tiny mice became very good friends.



**A. Answer the following questions.**

1. Who lived in the city near the lake?
2. Why did the elephants rush through the city?
3. How did the elephants get caught?
4. How did the elephants get free?

**B. Fill in the blanks.**

1. As the elephants passed through the city, they \_\_\_\_\_ the mice with their big feet.
2. They tied the \_\_\_\_\_ to tress with thick ropes.

**C. Which of the sentences below do you think describes the moral of this story?**

1. United we stand, divided we fall.
2. A friend in need is a friend indeed.
3. If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.

**D. The opposite of thick is thin. What is the opposite of:**

1. Up
2. Night
3. Tall
4. Good?

## THE DONKEY WHO SANG



ROAMING:  
walking about

LONG AGO THERE WAS a donkey. He loved his own voice. He would sing whenever he could. He enjoyed roaming in the fields, singing.

One night the donkey met a fox.

"What are you doing here at night?" asked the fox in surprise.

"Walking," said the donkey. "What about you?"

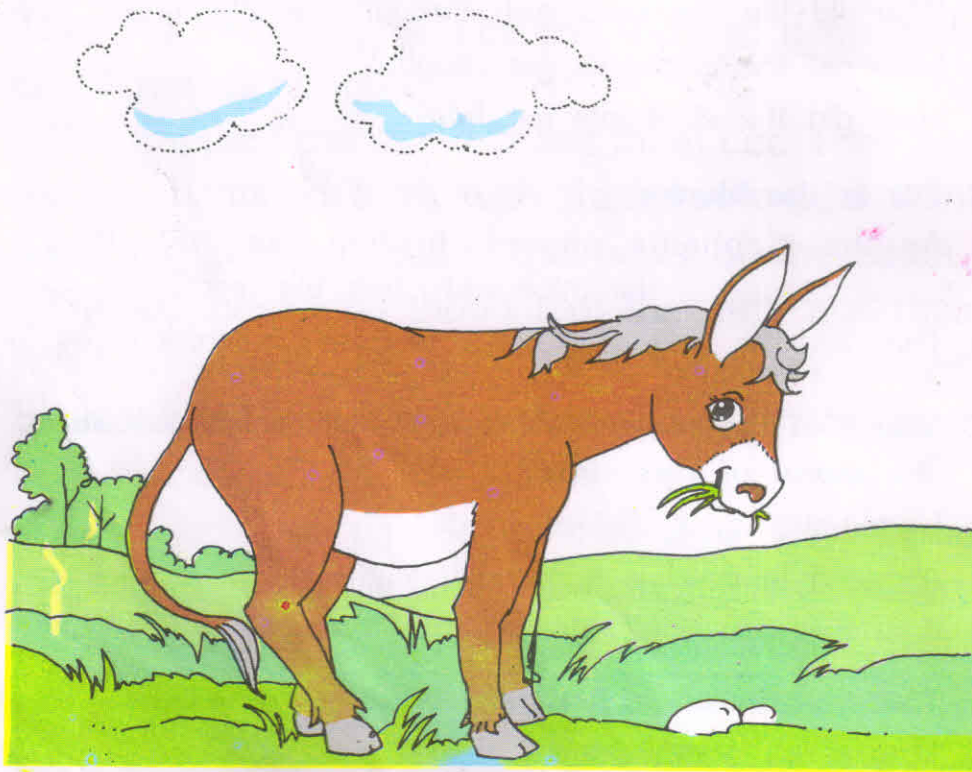
"I too enjoy walking about at night," said the fox.

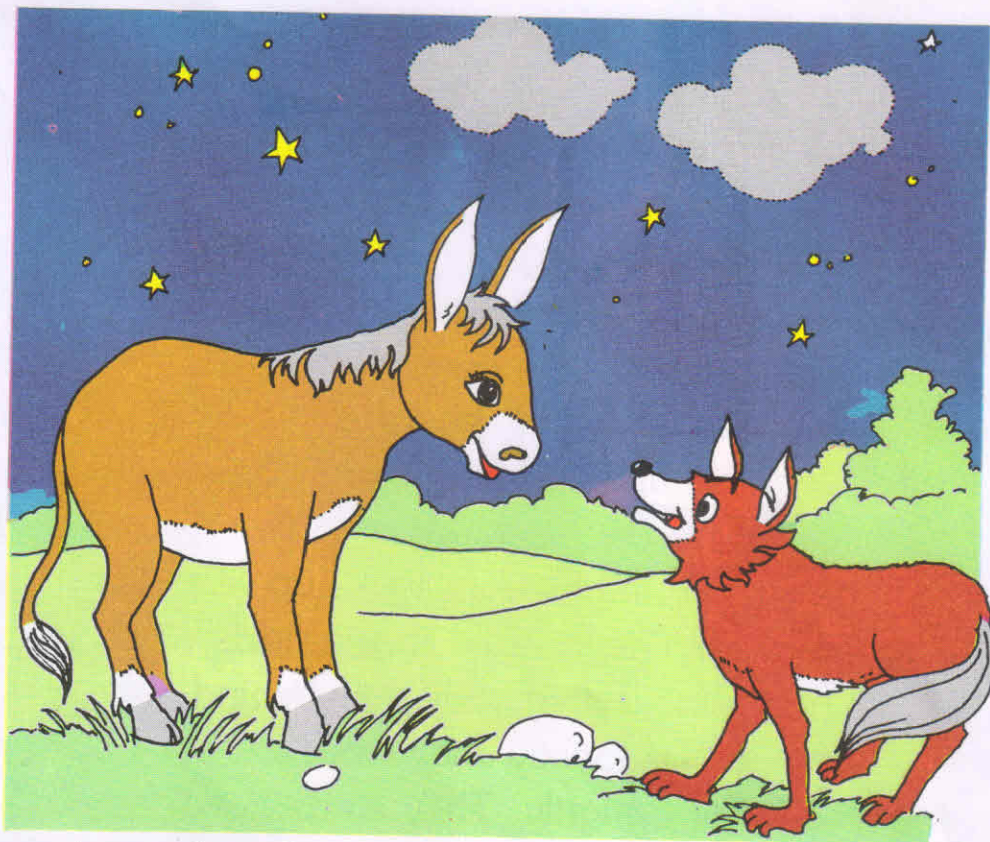
"I hunt for food at the same time."

"Oh good! Let us be friends," said the donkey.

"We can meet here each night."

"Right," said the fox eagerly, "it will be fun if there





are two of us.”

“Yes,” the donkey smiled. “I have a very sweet voice. I can sing for you. Will you listen to me now?”

“Some other time,” said the fox. “I am in a hurry.”

So the two met every night. As they were always busy looking for food, the donkey never got a chance to sing.


One night they were not too hungry. The donkey said, “Friend, I will sing for you tonight!”

“We have come to this field without asking the farmer,” said the fox. “We will be in trouble if he wakes up.”

“Wait till you hear me sing. You will love my voice and so will the farmer. He might even give me a prize.”

"Just a minute," said the fox. "Don't start singing until I go to the other end of the field. I will be able to hear you better from there."

The donkey waited till the fox had reached the end of the field. Then he lifted his head and started braying.

BRAYING:  
the cry of a  
donkey

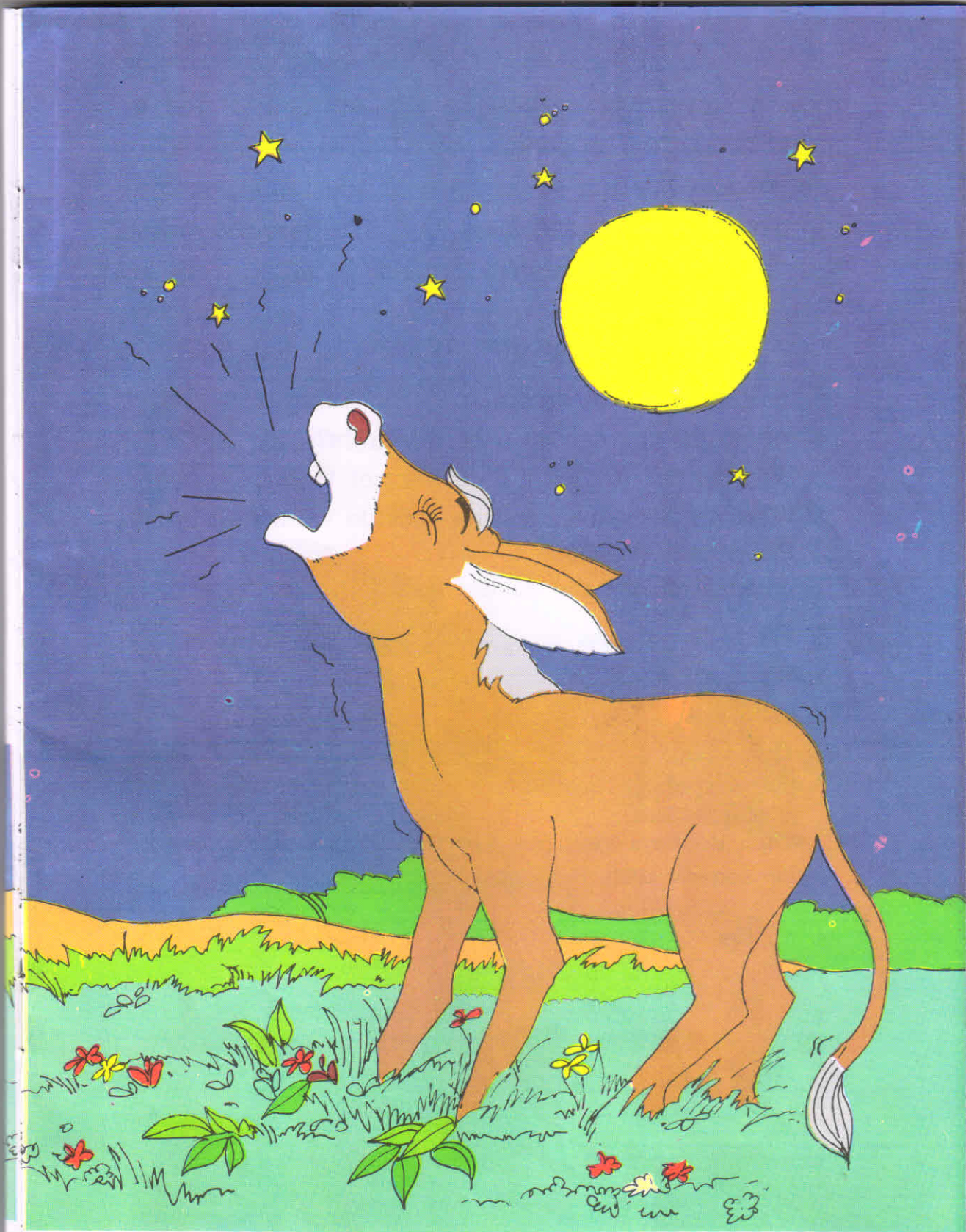
He was so happy to hear his own voice that he went on and on! His song sounded ten times louder in the silent night.

The farmer and his sons woke up when they heard the donkey. They rushed to the field. When he saw the men, the fox quickly hid behind a tree.

"Here's the donkey that woke us up!" cried the farmer's sons angrily. They surrounded the donkey. They were carrying sticks.

They gave the donkey a good beating. Then they





took a stone with a hole in its centre and tied it round his neck! The donkey went home, braying sadly.

Next day, the fox saw him with the stone around his neck. "Well, friend," he said. "Is that the prize the farmer gave you for singing?"

### EXERCISES

#### A. Answer these questions.

1. Whom did the donkey meet one night?
2. Why did the fox tell the donkey not to sing?
3. What did the farmer and his sons do when they heard the donkey singing?
4. What lesson did the donkey learn?

#### B. Fill in the blanks with words from the story.

1. We can meet here each \_\_\_\_\_
2. We will be in \_\_\_\_\_ if he wakes up.
3. The donkey \_\_\_\_\_ till the fox had reached the end of the field.

#### C. When donkeys sing, we say they are braying. Match the sounds with the animals.



a. trumpet



b. roar



c. croak



d. bark

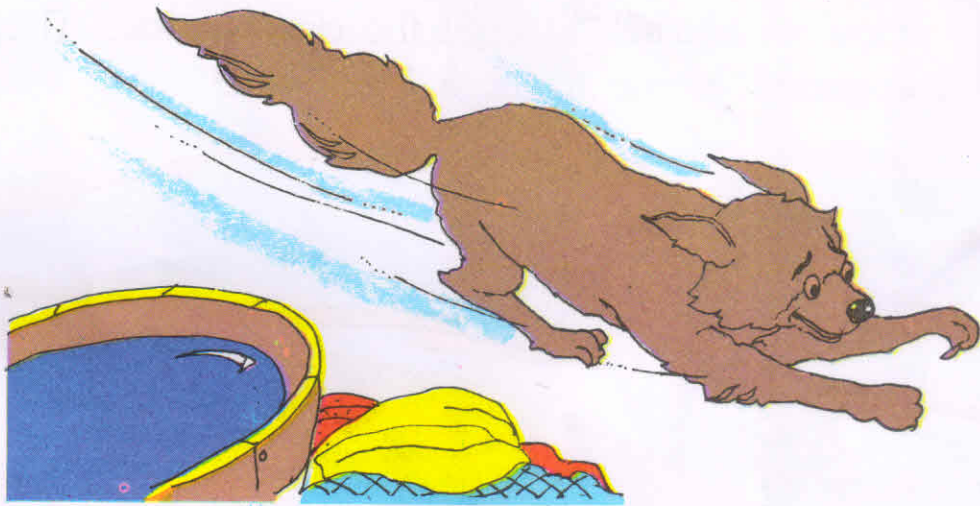


e. purr

## THE BLUE JACKAL

IN A CORNER OF A JUNGLE lived a jackal. One day, while looking for food, the poor jackal got lost. Trying to find his way home he reached a village. He was scared to go in. He was sure the village dogs would chase him.

'What should I do? I will die if I do not get food,' thought the jackal. So he walked bravely into the village.



As soon as he entered the village some dogs saw him. "Woof-Woof," they barked all together running after him.

The jackal took off as fast as he could. Panting, he reached a house. He quickly ran inside to hide.

There was a line of clothes hanging on a rope tied to two trees.

'I will hide behind the clothes,' thought the jackal.



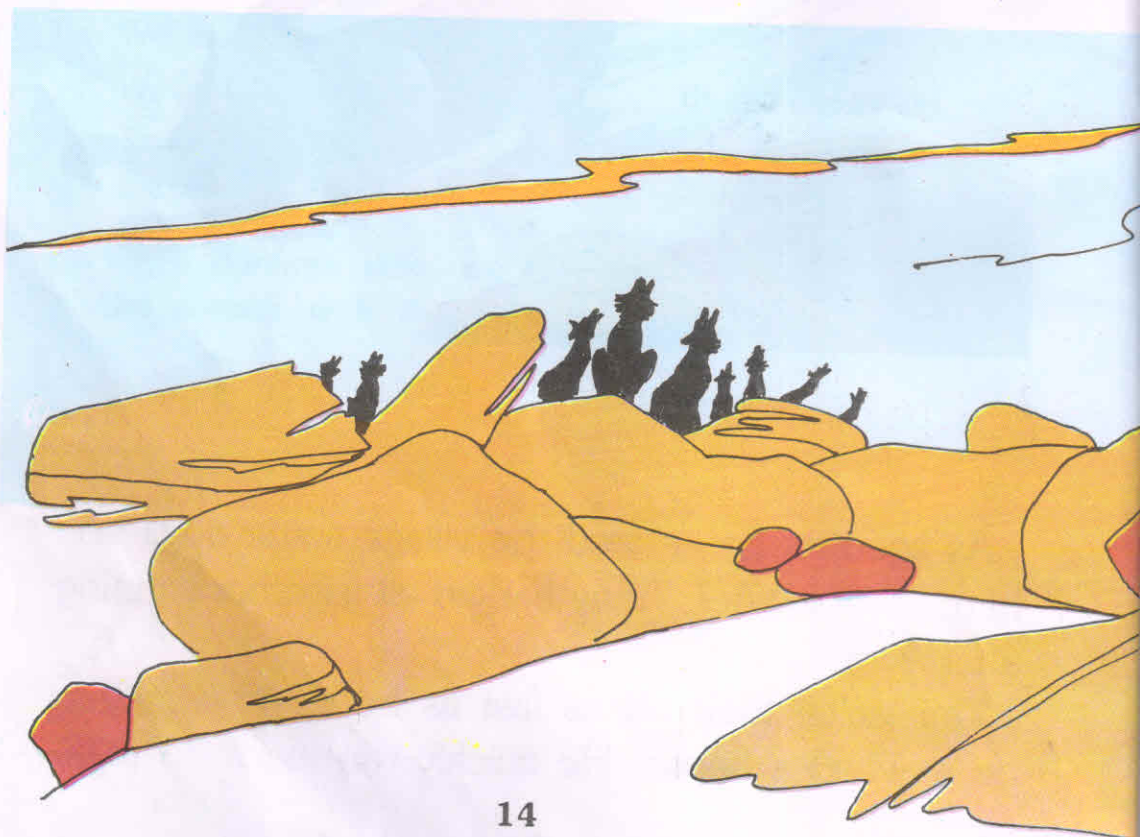
DYE:  
used to change  
the colour

Behind the clothes was a large tub. It was filled with blue dye. The jackal did not see it. He tripped and fell into it with a S-P-L-A-S-H!

After some time, when everything was quiet, the jackal climbed out. He was dripping with the dye. His body was blue all over!

When he reached the forest, all the animals ran away on seeing him.

'How wonderful!' thought the clever jackal. 'They are scared of me because I am blue!'





He climbed on to a big rock. The blue jackal then ordered all the animals to come to him. Elephants, tigers, lions, foxes, monkeys, rabbits, squirrels and many others crowded around him. They were all very scared.

"Do not be scared. I will not harm you," said the blue jackal. "I have been sent here by God. He has made me your new king. I will look after you."



CREATURE:  
any living  
being

The animals had never seen such a strange creature before. Bowing, they said, "Your Majesty, we are ready to serve you in every way."

"Right!" ordered the jackal, "Go and bring me lots of food. I am hungry."

The animals ran to bring all the food they could find.

"What else can we do for Your Majesty?" they asked.



ENEMIES:  
people who  
fight against you

"You must always obey me. In return, I will protect you from your enemies."



HOWLING:  
the long cry of a  
wolf, dog or  
jackal

The animals served the jackal and he lived like a king.

One day, the jackal heard the howling of a pack of jackals.

'My brothers are calling me,' the jackal thought happily.

Without thinking, he answered them with a long and loud howl. As soon as they heard him, the animals knew who he was.

An ordinary jackal coloured blue!  
 How angry they were! They all ran to catch him.  
 The jackal jumped off his throne, and ran for his  
 life. His days as king were over.

### EXERCISES

#### A. Answer these questions.

1. Why didn't the jackal want to go into the village?
2. Where did the jackal hide?
3. How did the jackal turn blue?
4. Why were all the animals scared of the jackal?
5. What does the story teach you?

#### B. A group (collection) of jackals is called a pack. Fill in the boxes to make words that describe a collection of the following.



	U	N		H
--	---	---	--	---



F	L	O		
---	---	---	--	--



B		N		L	E
---	--	---	--	---	---



T	E	A	M
---	---	---	---

#### C. Can you think of other ways by which the animals could have found out who the 'blue animal' really was?

## THE KIND FARMER

ONCE THERE LIVED A FARMER who was very poor. Nothing would grow in his fields because the land was rocky and full of stones. So the farmer decided to clear the field before sowing his crop.



SOWING:  
planting seeds

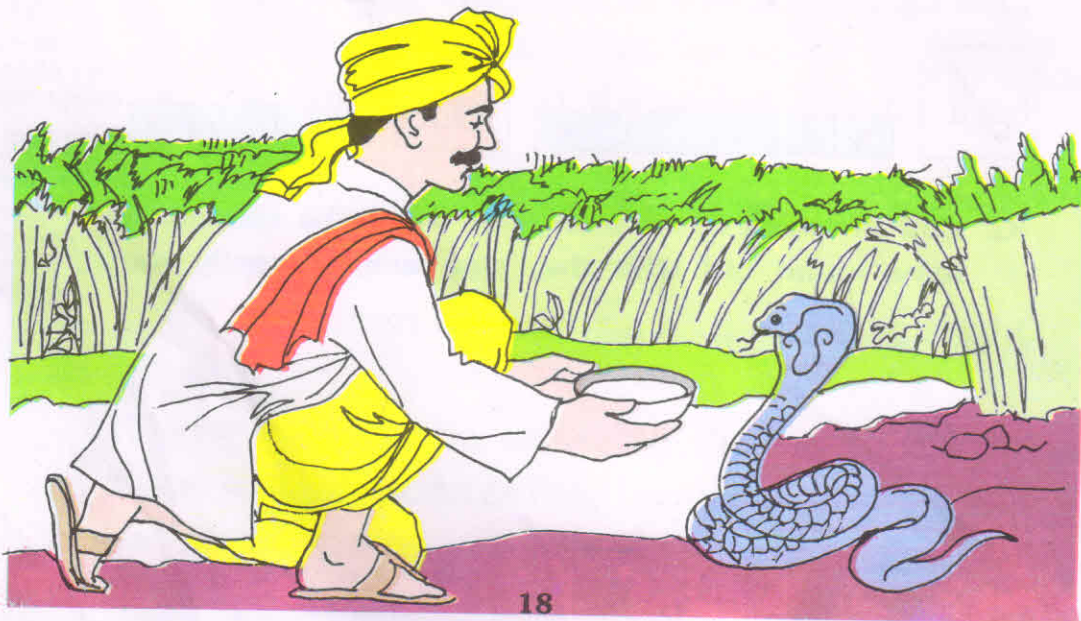
DIGGING:  
making a hole  
in the ground

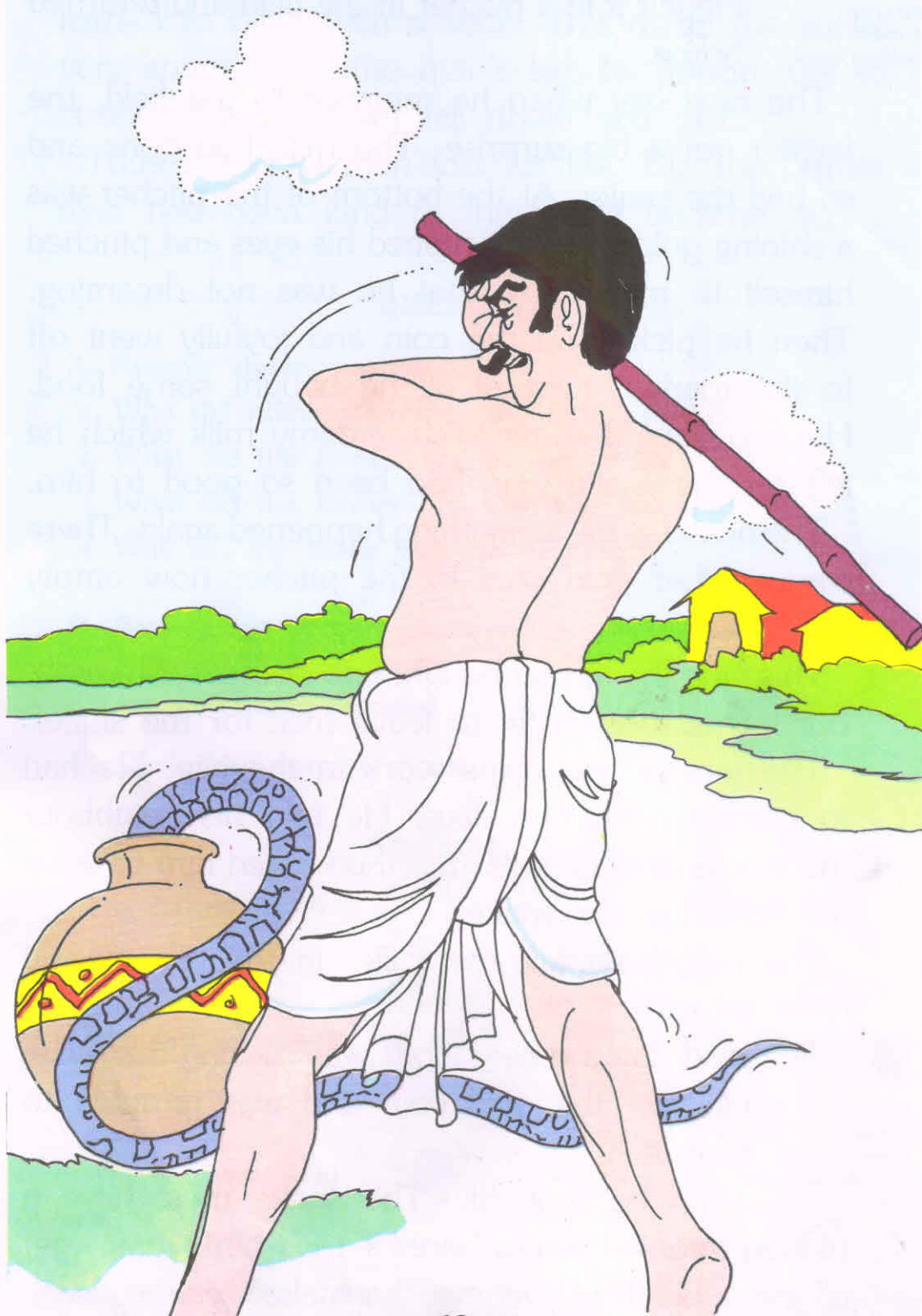
The farmer worked long and hard. One day, while digging the earth, he saw a big snake sitting in the middle of his field.

At first he was frightened. Then he saw that the snake looked very weak.

'Poor thing! He has not found anything to eat here,' thought the farmer. He felt really sorry for the snake.

The farmer went to his house to get something for it to drink, but his pots and pans were all empty. So he went to his neighbour's house and got some milk.







PITCHER:  
a vessel for  
holding liquid

He left it in a pitcher in the field and returned home.

The next day when he returned to the field, the farmer got a big surprise. The milk had gone and so had the snake. At the bottom of the pitcher was a shining gold coin! He rubbed his eyes and pinched himself to make sure that he was not dreaming. Then he picked up the coin and joyfully went off to the market. First of all he bought some food. He also bought some thick, creamy milk which he left for the snake who had been so good to him.

The next day the same thing happened again. There was another gold coin in the pitcher now empty of milk.

This time the farmer bought fine clothes for himself. But he did not forget to leave milk for the snake.

The farmer had some work in the city. He had to go away for two days. He told his neighbour the whole story. The farmer then asked him to leave the milk for the snake.

The neighbour left the milk in the pitcher and went away.



TEMPT:  
to make  
someone want  
to have/do  
something

The next day the neighbour was passing that way.

He saw the gold coin and was tempted to take it.

Then he thought, 'The snake must have a hidden treasure somewhere. If I kill him, I will get all the gold.' That evening, the snake came as usual.

As it was going to drink from the pitcher, the man rushed to hit it with a stick. This made the snake very angry. It bit the man's leg. Its poison was so strong that the man fell down and died.

Thus the cruel man lost his life. But the farmer who had been kind to the snake became rich.

### EXERCISES

#### A. Answer these questions.

1. Why did nothing grow in the farmer's fields?
2. What did the farmer find in the pitcher?
3. What did the farmer buy with the first gold coin?
4. Why did the snake bite the neighbour?

#### B. Snakes are part of the 'Cold-Blooded' group of living beings.

Are you 'Cold-Blooded' or 'Warm-Blooded'? Find out.

#### C. Circle the correct picture.

1. The farmer found a   in his field.

2. The farmer bought   from the market.

3. There was a gold   in the pitcher.

4. The   was kind.

## THE THREE FISH

IN A LAKE lived three fish. The first was wise. He thought carefully before doing anything. The second fish was clever. He could solve a problem within minutes. The third fish believed that no one could change what was going to happen. So he never tried to find a way out of his difficulties. The three were good friends.

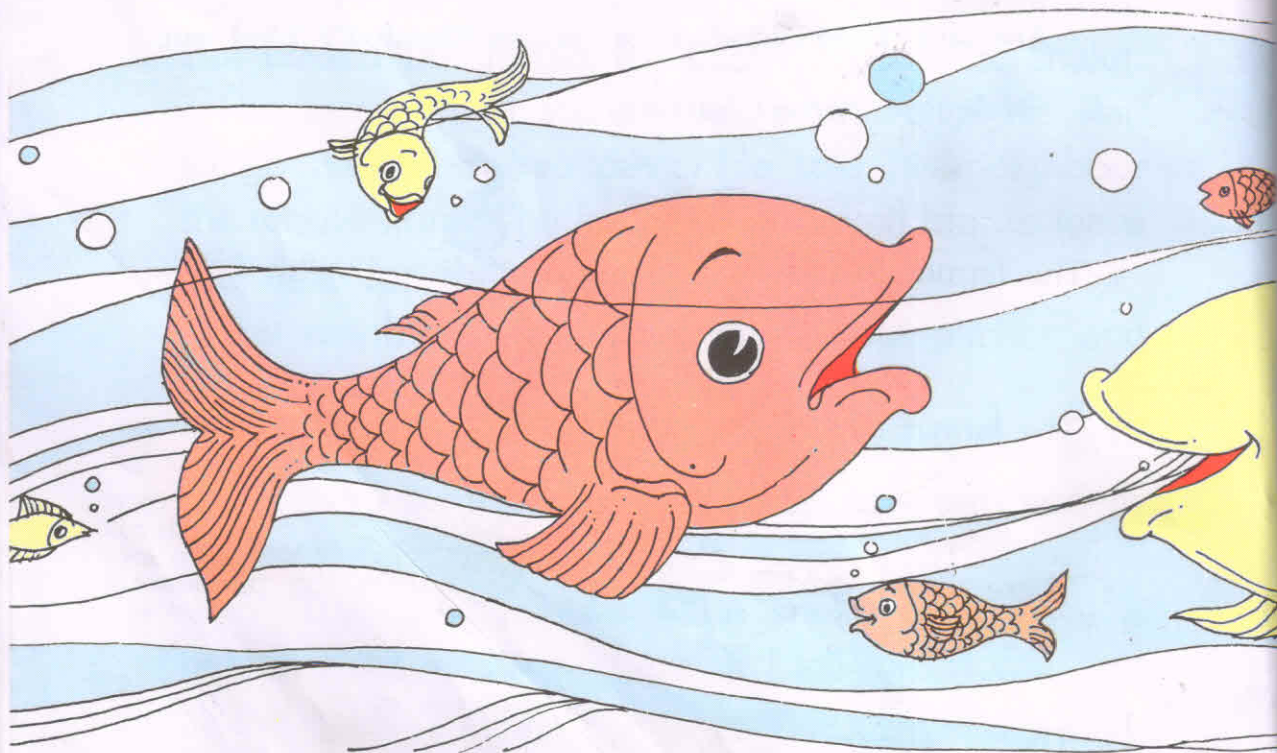


DIFFICULTIES:  
things hard  
to do

One day, the first fish was swimming lazily near the shore when he heard some fishermen talking.

"There are plenty of fish in this lake. We'll come and catch them tomorrow," they said.

'This place is not safe any longer,' the fish thought.



He went to his friends to warn them.

"We must leave this lake at once," he said, "The fishermen are planning to cast their nets here tomorrow."

  
CAST:  
here, to spread

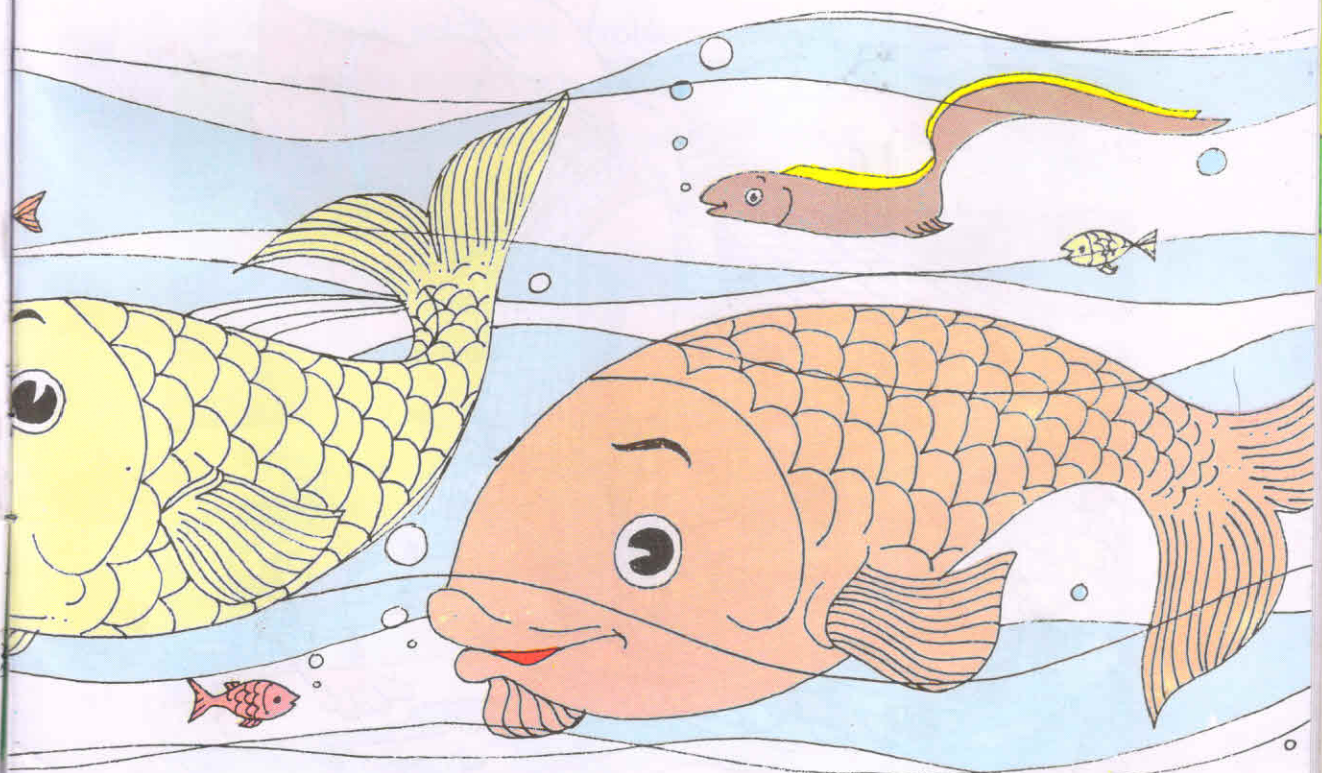
But the second fish said, "I will not go away from this lake. I have always lived here. I will save myself somehow."

The third fish said, "How can you be sure that they will come here? There are many other lakes nearby. And, even if they come, what can we do?"

The first fish had made up his mind.

"I am going," he said and swam off to another lake through a canal.

The fishermen came the next day. They cast their



nets and caught all the fish. The two friends who  
had stayed back were caught too.



PRETENDED:  
to make believe  
something is  
true when it's  
not

The clever one pretended to be dead.

The fishermen said, "We do not want a dead fish." They threw him back into the lake.



The third fish kept moving inside the net, looking for a way out. But he found none and the fishermen took him away.

So the wise fish and the clever fish saved themselves. But the foolish fish, who did nothing to save himself, was caught.

### EXERCISES

#### A. Answer these questions.

1. Where did the three fish live?
2. Why did the first fish want to leave the lake?
3. Why did the fishermen throw the clever fish back into the lake?

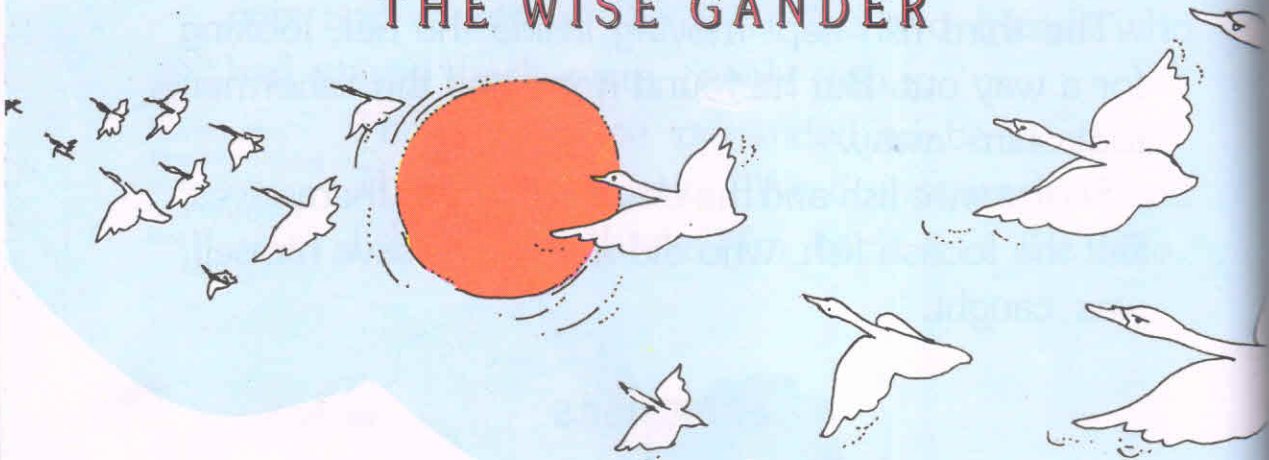
#### B. Fill in the blanks with words from the story.

1. He could solve any problem within \_\_\_\_\_
2. One day the first fish heard some \_\_\_\_\_ talking.
3. The fishermen are planning to spread their nets here \_\_\_\_\_
4. The third fish kept \_\_\_\_\_ inside the net.

#### C. Have you ever been in trouble because you did not listen to the advice of others? Relate the incident briefly.

#### D. Wise, clever, foolish are words which describe the fish. Choose any five of your classmates. Use one word each to describe them.

## THE WISE GANDER



IN A JUNGLE WAS A FIG TREE. On the fig tree lived a flock of geese and a wise old gander.

GANDER:  
a male goose

CREEPER:  
a plant that  
grows along the  
ground and up  
trees

One day, the gander saw a tiny creeper at the bottom of the tree. It looked pretty, but the gander was not happy to see it there.

"Do you see that tiny creeper at the bottom of our home?" he asked the geese. "It is pretty, but not good for us."

"What harm can a creeper do?" asked the geese.

"The creeper will soon reach the top of the tree. With its help someone can climb up and lay a trap for us. Cut it while it is small," warned the gander.

"Cut it! Oh no! We cannot do that. It is such a pretty little thing," cried some of the geese.

Others said, "It is so tiny. There is still time for it to grow. We will cut it later."



WARNING:  
a notice that tells  
you of danger

Months passed. The geese soon forgot about the creeper, and the gander's warning. The creeper grew bigger and climbed up the tree.



One day, while the geese had gone out to get food, a hunter came by. He climbed the tree with the help of the creeper and laid a trap among the branches. Then he climbed down and went away.

When the geese returned, they settled down in their nests. And they were all caught in the trap!

It was then they remembered the wise gander's warning. They began to cry and said to the gander.

"We are sorry we didn't obey you. Please save us now."

The kind old gander forgave them. He said, "When the hunter comes, lie still and pretend to be dead. He has no use for dead geese. He will free you from the trap. Then you can fly away."

In the morning, when the hunter came, he thought the geese were dead.

"What! Dead all of them!" he said. "What will I do with dead geese?"

He slowly freed all the geese, and threw them on the ground. Suddenly, the whole flock rose up and flew away into the sky. The hunter rubbed his eyes in surprise and looked again. Sure enough, all the geese had escaped, thanks to the wise old gander.



ESCAPED:  
got away  
from danger

### EXERCISES

#### A. Answer these questions.

1. What did the gander see one day?
2. Why did the hunter throw the geese down?
3. What lesson did the geese learn from the gander?

#### B. What do you think the hunter said when he saw all the geese flying away?

#### C. 'Geese' is the plural of goose. Can you give the plurals of the following?

MOUSE      WOMAN      OX      SHEEP      CHILD      DEER

#### D. Ask Teacher to tell you the story of the Goose That Laid Golden Eggs.

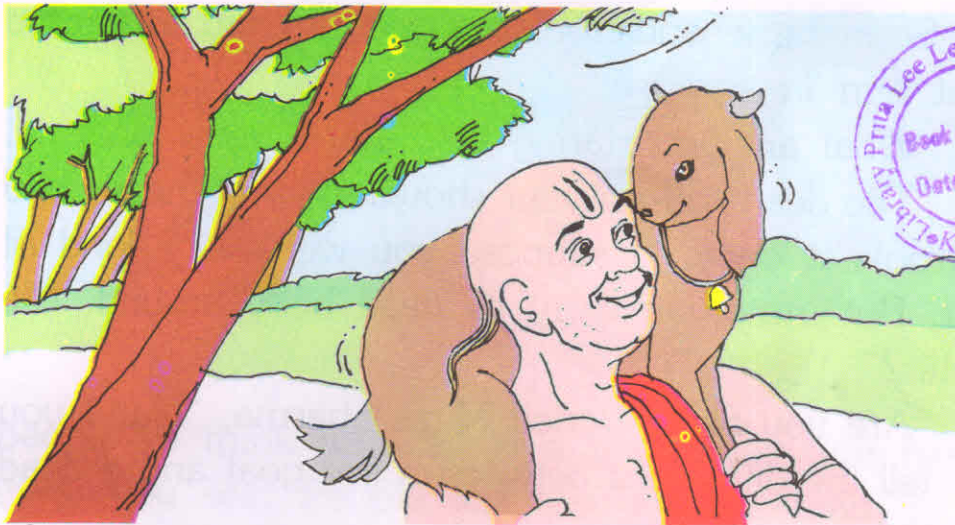
## THE FOOLISH BRAHMAN

ONE EVENING, MITRA SHARMA, the brahman, was walking with a plump goat by his side. The goat was very playful and jumped about so much that Mitra Sharma decided to carry it on his shoulders.

  
PLUMP:  
fat

Three clever crooks of the village saw him from a distance. They looked at the goat hungrily.

  
CROOKS:  
people who are  
not honest



"Just look at that goat!" said the first crook. "What a lovely meal he would make!"

"Let us play a trick on this brahman and get hold of the goat," said the second.

"I have already thought of the trick," said the third crook. "Listen to me."

The first crook went up to Mitra Sharma and said, "Why are you carrying a dog? You are a brahman, aren't you? And the dog is not even clean!"

"A dog, you fool?" laughed Mitra Sharma patting



the goat. "You must be either crazy or blind! Don't you know the difference between a dog and a goat?"

"I do," said the crook. "That is why I asked you this question! Why do you want to call a dog a goat and carry it around? I am surprised at you just as everyone else will be."

"Blind fool!" muttered Mitra Sharma.

Soon the second crook bumped into him and stared at him in surprise.

"What are you staring at?" asked Mitra Sharma.

"The dead calf on your shoulder," said the second crook at once. "I suppose you were very fond of it. But must you carry its dead body around, like this?"

"Are you blind?" cried Mitra Sharma. "Can't you tell the difference between a live goat and a dead calf?"

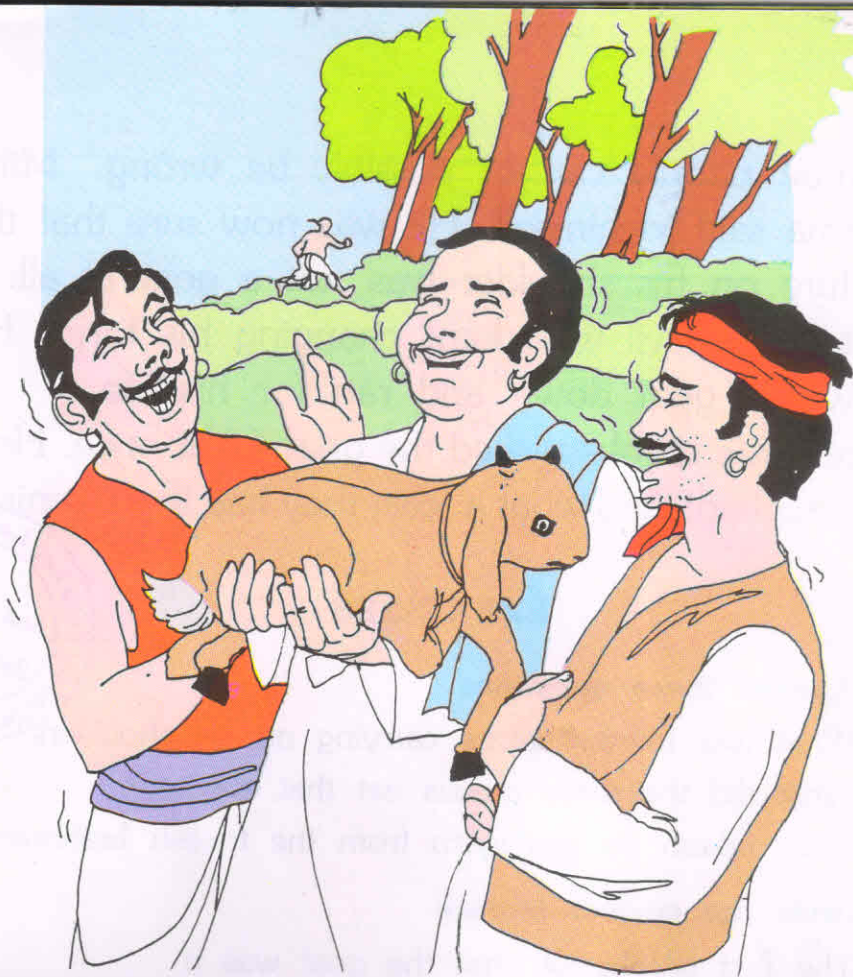
"Of course, I can," said the second crook.

"But surely you are not saying that this dead calf is a live goat?"

"It is a live goat, you fool!" shouted Mitra Sharma.

"You may shout all you like but you can't expect





people to think this calf is a goat. Everyone has eyes, you see. People will say you are mad.”

Mitra Sharma began to get worried. ‘Why were the two men saying such strange things? Was something really wrong with his eyes?’

Just then, the third crook came up to him. “Why are you carrying this donkey on your back, Mitra Sharma? Are you quite crazy? For God’s sake, throw it away before anyone sees you.”

“A donkey?” mumbled Mitra Sharma, confused.

“What is wrong with you?” said the third crook.

“Can’t you see the donkey?”



CONFUSED:  
not able to  
think clearly

'Three people cannot possibly be wrong,' Mitra Sharma said to himself. He was now sure that the creature on his shoulder was not a goat at all. It must be a devil who kept changing his form! He threw the goat down and ran for his life.

The three crooks picked the goat up at once. How they laughed! And what a feast they had that evening!

### EXERCISES

#### A. Answer these questions.

1. What was Mitra Sharma carrying on his shoulders?
2. What did the three crooks eat that evening?
3. What lesson do you learn from the foolish brahman?

#### B. Circle the correct picture.

1. The first crook said that the goat was a



2. The second crook said that the goat was a



3. The third crook said that the goat was a



- #### C. When should you believe what others tell you and when should you try and find out yourself? Give one example of each.

BLAZZ BOOK TOWN