

New  
Edition

GEM'S SUPPLEMENTARY READERS

33

# The PANCHATANTRA Selections

4



## CONTENTS

1. The Heron and the Crab	Swapna Dutta	3
2. The Lioness and the Baby Jackal	Swapna Dutta	6
3. Dharmabuddhi and Papabuddhi	Swapna Dutta	10
4. The Mice that Ate Iron	Rupa Gupta	14
5. The Cat's Justice	Rupa Gupta	18
6. The Princess	Rupa Gupta	21
7. The Faithful Camel	Deepa Agarwal	25
8. The Rishi and the Mouse	Swapna Dutta	29





## THE HERON AND THE CRAB

IN THE MIDDLE OF A JUNGLE WAS A LARGE LAKE. Many fish swam about and played in the water all day long with their friend, a crab, who lived with them.

On the banks of the lake lived a heron. The heron loved to eat fish. But he was too lazy to go and catch some.

'If only I could get some fish every day,' he said to himself one day. And he thought of a clever plan.

Next morning, the fish and the crab were amazed to see the heron standing quietly by the lake.

"What's up?" asked the crab in surprise. "Why are you standing so quiet? I hope you are not ill?"

"Oh, no! Not ill. But I am very unhappy!"

"Why, what is the matter?"

"I've decided to fast until death!"

"Why?" asked the astonished crab.

"Some fishermen came here a little while ago. I heard them making plans," said the heron.

"Plans! What kind of plans?"

"Plans to catch you all!" answered the heron.

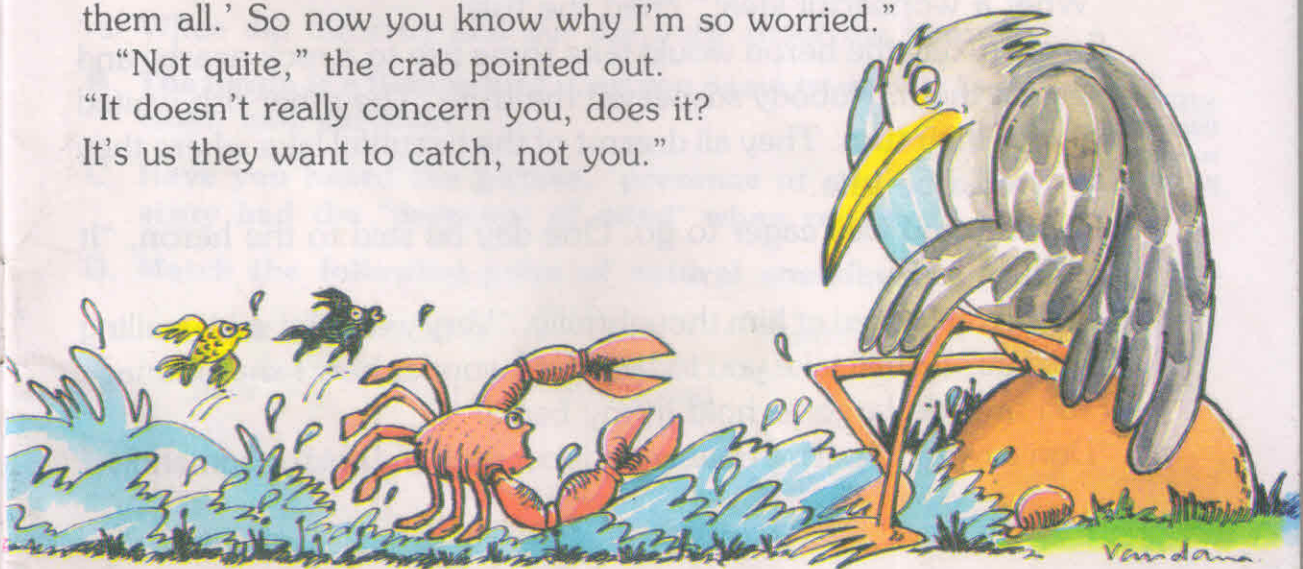
"How?" asked the crab.

"Well I heard one of them say, 'This lake is full of fish, friends. Let's go home and call all the others. We shall bring our nets and catch them all.' So now you know why I'm so worried."

"Not quite," the crab pointed out.

"It doesn't really concern you, does it? It's us they want to catch, not you."

  
ASTONISHED:  
surprised



"Yes, but don't you see what would happen to me? If they took all of you away, what would I eat? So I've given up catching fish. I might as well starve myself to death from now!"

The crab was lost in thought. Having the heron catch a fish or two every day was one thing, but the whole lake being emptied of fish by fishermen was something else again!

"Did the fishermen say when they would be back?" asked the crab. "Will they catch us all today?"

"No, no!" said the heron. "It'll take them some time to tell everybody and get hold of large nets. But they will come."

The fish also heard this conversation. They put out their heads anxiously and stared at the heron. They did not feel scared of him any more. He was worried about them after all. Wasn't that why he was going to fast unto death?

"Please tell us what to do," the worried fish said to the heron.

"Yes, how can we escape the fishermen's nets?" asked the crab.

"Very well. Let me think. Maybe I can come up with a plan to save you all," said the heron.

After a while, the heron said, "There is a lake on the other side of that rock. It is very deep and much bigger than this lake. I could carry you there, one by one. You could live there without fear of being caught. But I can carry only one or two of you at a time. So the rest of you must wait patiently."

"What a wonderful idea!" cried the fish.

So every day the heron would take some fish to a rock nearby and eat them. Nobody suspected the truth. The other fish waited for their turn. They all dreamt of the beautiful lake where they would be safe.

The crab too was eager to go. One day he said to the heron, "It is my turn today."

The heron looked at him thoughtfully. "Very well," he said, smiling at the crab. "I shall take you today. But I wonder how I shall manage it! You are too large to hold in my beak."

"Don't worry, I'll put my claws round your neck and hold on somehow."




SUSPECT:  
think that  
something is  
probably true



So up flew the heron carrying the crab with him. The crab could not see the other lake. "There is no lake here," cried the crab. "Where are you taking me?"

"Look down and you will see where I am taking you," said the heron with a nasty laugh. "All the others are also there."

The crab was horrified to see the rocks below strewn with fish bones. He at once understood what had happened.

  
**STREWN:**  
scattered—spread  
here and there

'I must find a way to get out of his clutches and try to save the remaining fish,' he said to himself. 'Or, I too shall be eaten up!'

He dug his claws into the heron's neck. The heron struggled for a while, but the crab held on until the heron was dead. They landed with a thump on the ground. The crab dragged the dead heron back to the lake.

"What happened?" cried the fishes. "Why did you kill the heron?"

"Because he was not our friend, but our enemy!" said the crab. He then told them the whole story and became a hero.

## EXERCISES

### A. Answer the following questions.

1. Why was the heron standing quietly in a corner of the lake?
2. What had the fishermen planned to do?
3. Why didn't the fish feel afraid of the heron any longer?
4. What did the heron do with the fish?
5. When did the crab find out the truth about the heron?

### B. The heron is a fishing bird. Can you name two other birds which catch and eat fish?

### C. Have you heard the phrase, 'presence of mind'? Who in this story had the 'presence of mind' when required?

### D. Match the following pairs of natural enemies.

SNAKE

CAT

LION

INSECT

SPIDER

deer

frog

mongoose

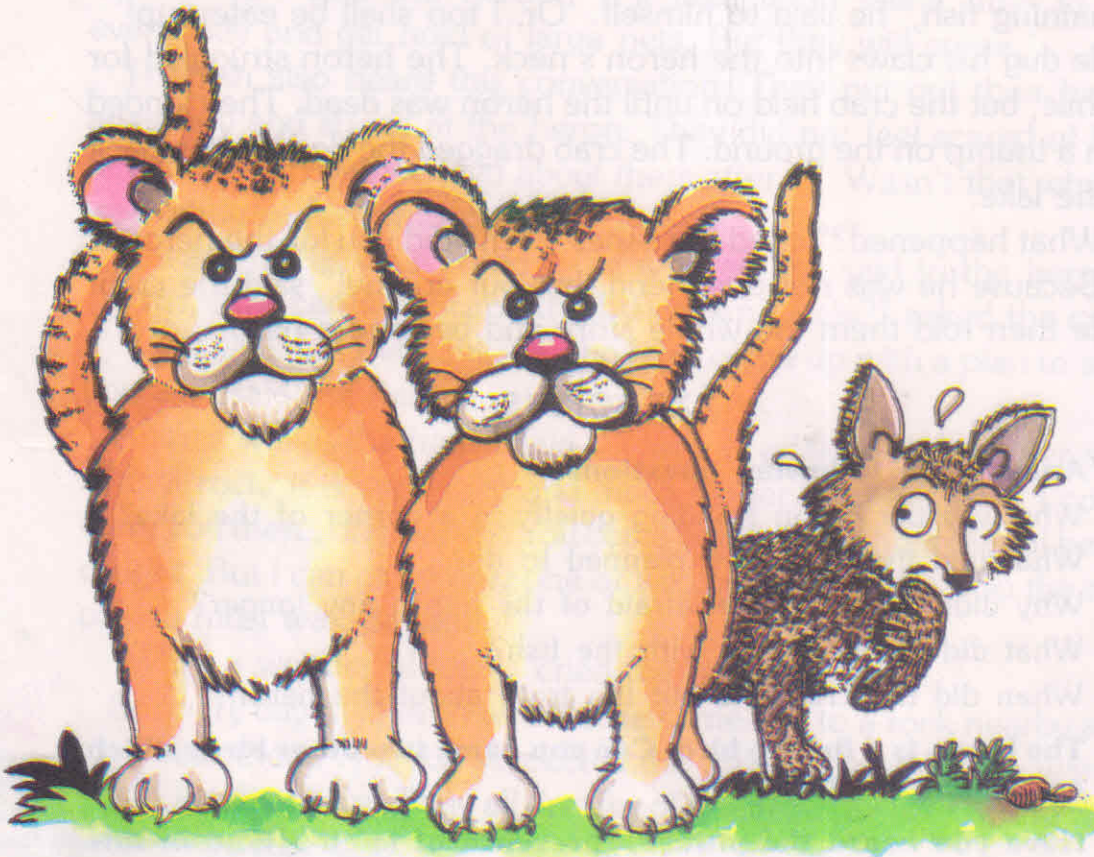
fly

mouse

## THE LIONESS AND THE BABY JACKAL

A LIONESS HAD JUST GIVEN BIRTH TO TWO CUBS. She stayed in her cave and looked after her little ones. The lion went out hunting for food.

One day the lion did not find anything. He was worried. He could do without food for a day or two. But the lioness, who was still not very strong, would have to be fed.



He was wondering what he should do when he spotted a tiny creature near a bush. It was a baby jackal. The lion raised his paw to strike it. But the little baby looked at him and whined so softly that the lion felt sorry for it. He picked it up carefully and brought it home.


The lioness was waiting eagerly for the lion's return. She was very hungry. "Did you find any food?" she asked.



"No. There were no animals around," said the lion.

"But what is that?" asked the lioness pointing to the tiny bundle.

"A baby jackal. I didn't have the heart to kill him," said the lion. "But you can eat him if you want to. I know you are very hungry."

 HAVE THE HEART:  
want to do  
something

"Poor little lost baby!" said the lioness. "No, I shan't eat him, I shall bring him up along with our own cubs."

So the baby jackal grew up with the two lion cubs, getting the same love and care from the lioness. He had no idea that he was different from his brothers, the lion cubs. The cubs too did not notice the difference. The three played together and roamed about the forest all day long.

One day, as they were playing together as usual, they saw an elephant in the distance. It was a huge animal and seemed to be very angry. The jackal trembled in fright and tried to hide behind the lion cubs. The cubs, however, were not scared.

"Who is that?" said the first cub, his fur standing up.

"Let us attack him!"


"Yes," agreed the second cub. "Let us go and drive him out. How dare he come to our forest?"

"Don't be foolish," cried the jackal. "That is an elephant, our enemy. He might attack us. Let us run away and hide."

"Run away from an elephant?" said the first cub. "You must be crazy!"

"Why should we be afraid of a mere elephant anyway?" asked the second cub, amazed.

"Do as you please," said the young jackal. "I shall run away and hide. It is silly to risk one's life like this."

 RISK ONE'S LIFE:  
put oneself in  
danger

"Risk one's life? What are you talking about?" cried the cubs together. But the jackal had already run away and was nowhere to be seen!

Later that day when they were with their mother, the two cubs burst out laughing. They remembered what had happened that morning.

"Mother, you should have seen what our little brother did!" said the

first cub, rolling with laughter.

"He ran away when he saw an elephant." said the other cub.

"Yes, Mother. He was so scared and looked so funny!" said the second cub. "Imagine being afraid of an elephant!"

The jackal was angry. "You are fools, both of you! I should not have warned you. I should have let that elephant kill you both."

"Pooh!" said the cubs, laughing even louder.

The lioness took the little jackal aside. She saw that he was shaking with anger.



"I hate them, Mother," he cried. "How dare they make fun of me when I was trying to protect them."

"Calm down, son," she told him gently. "They did not mean to be unkind. They just don't understand your fear."



TO FOSTER:  
to bring up  
someone  
else's child

The lioness realized that it was time to tell the jackal who he really was. Otherwise, one day, his life could be in danger. So she gently told him that she was only his foster mother and that he was not a lion but a jackal. "I am telling you this because so long as my sons are cubs they will not harm you. But once they're fully grown, they might. You are very different from them! You cannot live the way they do."



"Why did you bring me up then?" asked the jackal.

"Because you were young and helpless," said the lioness. "But you are almost grown up now and not helpless any longer. So you'd better go live with other jackals before my sons find out that you are a jackal." The jackal shuddered at the thought of facing two full grown lions and ran off to find his own pack.



SHUDDERED:  
shook with  
fear

### EXERCISES

#### A. Answer the following questions.

1. Why didn't the lion and the lioness kill the baby jackal?
2. How did the difference between the lion cubs and the jackal come out?
3. Why did the baby jackal run away when he saw the elephant?
4. Why could the lion cubs not understand the jackal's fear?
5. Why did the lioness tell the jackal to go back to his own kind?

#### B. "You are very different from them! You cannot live the way they do."

1. Who said this? Who was the speaker talking to?
2. What was the difference?
3. Who had brought out the difference between the two?
4. Why couldn't they lead the same kind of life?

#### C. Have you heard the idiom, 'a fish out of water'? What does it mean? Can you relate an incident when you felt like a fish out of water?

#### D. Do you think the jackal could have learnt to be brave? Can bravery be taught? Discuss.

#### E. The young ones of a lion are called 'cubs'. What are the young ones of the following animals called?

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Hen _____  | 5. Pig _____   |
| 2. Cow _____  | 6. Cat _____   |
| 3. Goat _____ | 7. Horse _____ |
| 4. Dog _____  | 8. Sheep _____ |

## DHARMABUDDHI AND PAPABUDDHI



THERE ONCE LIVED TWO FRIENDS CALLED Dharmabuddhi and Papabuddhi. Dharmabuddhi was a simple, honest and good-natured man. He trusted his friend completely. Papabuddhi, on the other hand, was sly and dishonest and not a true friend. Both men had to work very hard to earn their living. Honest Dharmabuddhi did not mind it at all. But Papabuddhi was lazy and always wondered how he could make money without having to work for it. Finally, he hit upon a plan.


He went to Dharmabuddhi and said, "Look here, friend. We cannot make money if we continue to live in this small village. Let us go to the city and set up some business there."

"What! Leave our village and go to an unknown city!" cried



Dharmabuddhi. "I don't think it would be wise! We do not know anybody there."

"It will only be for a short while," coaxed Papabuddhi. "We shall return to the village as soon as we have made some money."

  
COAX:  
to persuade  
by pleading  
or flattery

Dharmabuddhi agreed. They went to the city and set up business. Dharmabuddhi worked very hard. People trusted him. Papabuddhi did very little work but made a big show of working. Soon, however, they both started making a lot of money.

After a few months, Papabuddhi suggested that they should now return to the village. Dharmabuddhi happily agreed. He was very glad to return home. Papabuddhi smiled secretly to himself because he had a perfect plan to cheat Dharmabuddhi and pocket all his hard-earned money.

  
POCKET:  
here it  
means take

They had almost reached the village when Papabuddhi stopped in front of a big tree.

"You know, Dharmabuddhi," he said in a whisper, "I do not think it would be a wise thing to take all this money home. We might be attacked by robbers and lose everything. So let's just carry some of the money and bury the rest under this tree. It will be safe and no one will know. We can come and fetch it whenever we need it."

Dharmabuddhi nodded. They dug a hole under the tree and buried most of their money in it.

Soon the two friends reached home. Their families were very happy to have them back. Dharmabuddhi told them all about the city and how they had set up their business. But Papabuddhi had no time for talking. He rushed back to the tree as soon as it was dark and dug out all the money.

  
GLEEFULLY:  
happily

'I need not work any more,' he thought gleefully. 'Let that foolish Dharmabuddhi work for the rest of his life! But I must make a plan to put all the blame on him.'

Papabuddhi went to see Dharmabuddhi the next day. "Let us go to the forest and fetch some more money," he told his friend. "I have spent all my share."

"What! Spent everything in a single evening!" Dharmabuddhi was surprised. Papabuddhi just smiled and said nothing.

They reached the forest and dug under the tree where they had buried their money. But there was nothing there!

"Good God! Where is all the money we buried here last evening?" cried Dharmabuddhi.

"Someone has stolen it," said Papabuddhi. "And that someone has to be you! No one else knew about the money or our hiding place."

"Of course, I didn't!" cried Dharmabuddhi angrily. "I wouldn't dream of cheating you or anyone else. I'm not a thief!"

"Yes, you are!" cried Papabuddhi. "You wanted all that money, so you stole it. I shall go to the headman and tell him everything."


They went to the village headman, quarrelling all the way. The headman heard their story. "Do you have a witness, Papabuddhi?" he asked. "You cannot accuse a person without proof."

"Of course, I have a witness," said Papabuddhi at once. "It is the tree god. Go and ask him if you like."

"Very well," said the headman. "We shall all go to the forest tomorrow and hear what your witness has to say."

Dharmabuddhi went home, feeling puzzled and hurt. Papabuddhi too went home, told his father everything and asked for his help.

The next morning the headman and all the village elders went to the forest with Dharmabuddhi and Papabuddhi. Papabuddhi stood before the tree and shouted, "O tree god! Tell everyone who stole the money."

 Papabuddhi's father who was hiding inside a hollow in the tree, said, "Dharmabuddhi stole all the money. He is the thief!"

TRIUMPHANT:  
happy about a  
success

"There! What did I tell you?" said Papabuddhi triumphantly.

"I knew that my witness could not fail me."

The headman was puzzled. He could not believe that the tree or the tree god could really speak. Whose voice was it then? There was not a soul in sight!

Dharmabuddhi had sharp eyes. He noticed the hollow. He also recognized the voice of Papabuddhi's father. He did not say anything




but placed a handful of dry twigs in front of the hollow and set it alight. Soon there was thick black smoke around the tree and inside the hollow. Papabuddhi's father began to choke and cough as the smoke went into his nose and eyes. He jumped out of the tree.

"Here is your tree god, Sir!" said Dharmabuddhi, pointing to him.

"What does this mean?" cried the headman in a stern voice. "You'd better confess everything," he said to Papabuddhi's father.

"It is my son's fault," said Papabuddhi's father bursting into tears. "It is he who made me hide inside the tree and . . ."

 **BURSTING INTO TEARS:**  
start crying all of a sudden

Everyone understood what had happened! The headman took all the money from Papabuddhi and gave it to Dharmabuddhi. Papabuddhi was punished so severely that he never dared cheat anyone again for the rest of his life.

### EXERCISES

#### A. Answer the following questions.

1. How were the two friends different?
2. Why were Dharmabuddhi and Papabuddhi happy to return to the village?
3. What did Papabuddhi do that evening?
4. Who was Papabuddhi's witness?
5. How was the tree god made to come out?

#### B. Dharmabuddhi was not only honest and hardworking, but clever too. Comment.

#### C. Is there something special about the names of the two friends? What is it?

#### D. Papabuddhi's father began to choke and cough as the smoke went into his nose and eyes. Find out why smoke makes people choke and cough.

#### E. Papabuddhi was punished by the headman, who is called sarpanch in Hindi. Who punishes people in towns and cities?

## THE MICE THAT ATE IRON



**IN A CERTAIN VILLAGE THERE ONCE LIVED** a merchant called Mani Ram.  
**BUSINESS SENSE:** A poor business sense made Mani Ram gradually lose all his money. One by one he had to sell off all his possessions.

know how to  
make profit

In the end, all he had left was his weighing scales. He had used them to weigh the groceries in his shop. They were huge scales made of iron, and Mani Ram's favourite possession. In fact they were the biggest weighing scales anyone had ever seen. They had come down to Mani Ram from his great, great, great grandfather. Mani Ram could not bear to part with them.

Once it so happened that he had to go to town for some work. Since he lived all alone, Mani Ram was worried that in his absence thieves would break into his house and steal his weighing scales. So he decided to leave them with another merchant, called Laxman, who lived in the same village.

Laxman agreed to keep them safely for his friend for as long as



he wanted. Mani Ram thanked him, and went off on his journey with an easy mind.


When Mani Ram came back, he was in for a nasty surprise. For when he went to his friend to get back his weighing scales, Laxman told him that he no longer had them.

"What do you mean you no longer have the scales?" cried Mani Ram, shocked. "What happened to them?"

"I am afraid, my friend, that though I had kept your scales very carefully, they have been eaten up," said Laxman sadly.

"Eaten up? Impossible! Tell me, what creature eats iron," shouted Mani Ram, not able to believe his ears.

"Mice ate it up," said Laxman with a shrug. "I tried to save your scales but they gobbled them up before I could do anything."



SHRUG:  
an upward movement  
of shoulders to suggest  
you do not know

Now Mani Ram was no fool! He guessed at once that Laxman was lying, and there was no way he would get his scales back by begging or pleading. He would have to think of a trick to get them back.

So Mani Ram got up with a loud sigh, "You are right, friend, it is not your fault at all," he said. "It is just my bad luck that the mice chose to eat iron instead of food."

Laxman heaved a sigh of relief. He had not thought that it would be so easy to make a fool of his friend.

"I have just one favour to ask of you," said Mani Ram. "I have to go now to bathe in the river. As you see, I am carrying a big bundle. I would be happy if your son would help me carry my things."

Since Laxman had already got what he wanted, he was only too happy to do as his friend asked. He called his son and told him to go with Mani Ram to the river.

Mani Ram went with the boy to the river and had a bath. After that he locked up the boy in his house, and went to Laxman's house moaning loudly, "Hai! Hai! These are terrible times!"

Laxman, on hearing his cries, came running to find out what had happened. Mani Ram told him, "while we were bathing in the river a hawk swooped down and carried your son away."



BESIDE HIMSELF  
WITH ANGER:  
very, very  
angry

Laxman was beside himself with anger when he heard this. He screamed, "Liar! Cheat! You think I am fool enough to believe your story? Bring me back my son or I'll tell the sarpanch!"

His friend just shrugged his shoulders and said, "I did try to save your son, but the hawk flew away with him before I could do anything."

His words angered Laxman even more and he dragged Mani Ram to the panchayat and complained to the sarpanch that his friend had kidnapped his son.

Hearing this the sarpanch looked sternly at Mani Ram and asked him what he had to say.

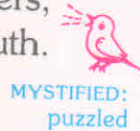
"I did not kidnap his son, Your Honour," said the merchant meekly. "It is true I took the boy to the river with me. He was sitting on the river bank while I went into the water for a dip. Suddenly I saw a hawk swoop down on the boy and carry him away."

"You don't expect me to believe such rubbish, do you?" the sarpanch asked Mani Ram sternly. "What have you done with the boy?"



"He is a liar, Your Honour," cried Laxman angrily. The villagers, who had gathered to hear the case, asked Mani Ram to tell the truth.

Mani Ram's reply left them all, except Laxman, totally mystified. This is what he said:



*His mice eat up my iron scales,  
And I don't raise a hue and cry.  
But when a hawk carries away his son,  
Why then he says I lie!*

'Hm, there is more to this than meets the eye,' thought the sarpanch, a wise man. He spoke to Mani Ram kindly and said, "Instead of talking in riddles, why don't you tell us what actually happened?"

Mani Ram bowed to the sarpanch and told him how his friend had tried to cheat him. He ended by saying that if mice could eat up his heavy iron scales, then why couldn't a hawk fly away with a big boy?

Everyone burst out laughing when they heard this. The sarpanch glared at Laxman and ordered him to return his friend's scales immediately. Mani Ram then returned the boy to Laxman.

### EXERCISES

**A. Answer the following questions.**

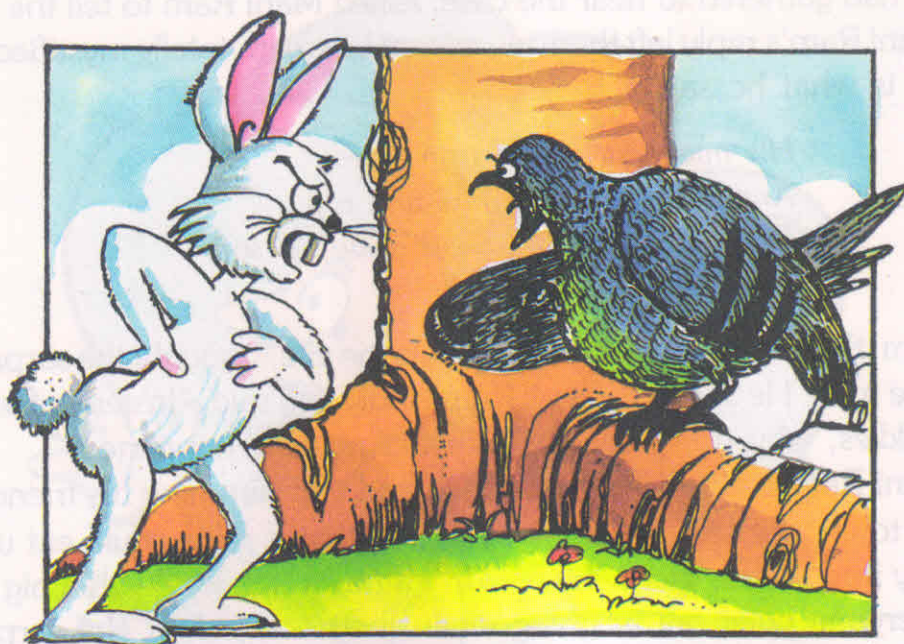
1. What was special about Mani Ram's weighing scales?
2. What nasty shock did Mani Ram get when he returned?
3. What happened to Laxman's son?
4. How was justice finally done?

**B. Do you agree that the sarpanch was a wise man? Give reasons for your answer.**

**C. 'People who cheat never prosper'. Discuss this in class.**

**D. Have you heard of the phrase 'Tit for tat'? How is it related to this story?**

## THE CAT'S JUSTICE



ADVENTURES:  
unusual events

ONCE THERE WERE TWO VERY GOOD FRIENDS, a pigeon and a crow. They lived on a big green tree in a forest. During the day they would go off in search of food. In the evenings they would sit and talk about the day's adventures.

One day the pigeon found a wheat field full of lovely ripe grain. He flew into the field and ate lots of wheat. He found the grain so delicious that he began to live on a tree at the edge of the field. Now he had only to fly down to eat whenever he wanted.

In the meantime, the crow wondered what had happened to his friend. One day he was surprised to see a rabbit sitting comfortably in the pigeon's nest. The rabbit had been looking for a house for a long time. He had seen the empty nest of leaves and grass, and had thought that it would make a fine home.

"Hey! you can't move in here. This nest belongs to my friend the pigeon," protested the crow.

"Not anymore, it doesn't," said the rabbit and settled comfortably into his new home.

One day, when the pigeon had become nice and fat he returned



to his old tree. He was very angry to see the rabbit in his nest. "You thief!" he said. "Go away! Get out of my house!"

"I live here now, so it is my home," the rabbit said.

"But I built it, so it is mine," said the pigeon.

They decided to go to a wise animal who could decide which one of them was in the right.

The crow, who had heard everything, told them that they should settle the quarrel between themselves. "It is not wise to quarrel in front of outsiders," he said.

But both of them were so angry that they did not listen to the crow.

The rabbit suggested that they should go to a cat who lived near the river. "Everyone says that he is very wise. We will do whatever he says," he said. The pigeon agreed.

The crow warned them once again, "It is dangerous to go to your enemy for justice. Isn't the cat your natural enemy?"

The pigeon assured the crow that they would not go too near the cat. He went off with the rabbit to the river. There they saw the cat stretched out, sunning himself. They stood as far away from the cat as they could and calling out to him, told him about their quarrel.

"Tell us, O wise cat, who does the house really belong to now?" they both asked together.

The cat squinted at them and said, "Where are you? I cannot see you from here."

So the two came a little closer and asked him the same question again.

But the cat said that he could not hear them clearly. "I have become very weak since I gave up eating flesh," said the cat in a very low voice. "I hate cruelty and it makes me sad when animals kill each

IN THE RIGHT:  
a way of  
saying it/he  
was right

ASSURE:  
promise to  
do/not to do  
something



other. I would rather die than kill another creature for food."

Hearing this, the pigeon and the rabbit felt a little less scared and went closer.

Still the cat said that he could neither hear nor see them. "I am too weak to move or I would have come to you myself," the cat said.

This time the bird and the rabbit went right up to the cat and started to speak into his ears.

Before they could say anything, the cat pounced on them. He caught one with his paw and the other with his teeth.

And that was the end of the rabbit and the pigeon.

### EXERCISES

#### A. Answer the following questions.

1. Why did the pigeon change his house?
2. Why did the rabbit and the pigeon go to the cat?
3. Why did they keep going closer to the cat?
4. What is the moral of this story?

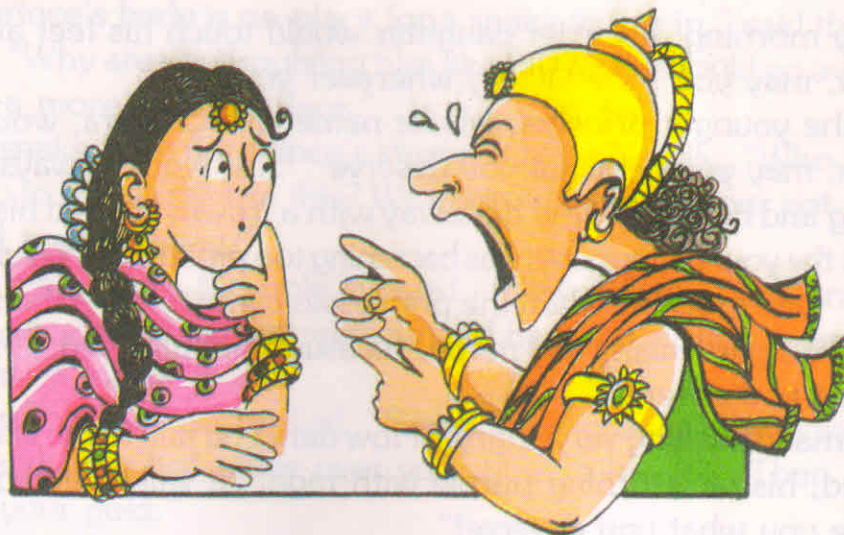
#### B. How is justice carried out in our country? We have law, judges courtrooms and juries. Find out more about these.

#### C. Suppose you were the judge in this case. Write your judgement in five sentences.

#### D. The pigeon wasn't a very good friend to the crow, was he? What do you think his faults were? List them.

#### E. This time the bird and the rabbit went right up to the cat and started to speak into his ears. This sentence can be broken up into 2 sentences. a. This time the bird and the rabbit went right up to the cat. b. They started to speak into his ears. Find 2 more sentences like the above, from the story. Break them up into separate sentences.





## THE PRINCESS

**L**ONG AGO IN A SMALL KINGDOM, lived a king and a queen. They had a brave and handsome son called Roop Kumar. They loved him dearly and gave him everything he wanted.

One day the prince fell ill. Doctors came from far and wide to cure him, but they could do nothing.

What they did not know was that while eating some fruit the prince had swallowed a seed in which lived a tiny snake. Since then the snake had been in the prince's stomach. It had grown big and fat feeding on all the delicious food the prince ate. So, it had decided to live in Roop Kumar's stomach.

The poor prince grew paler and weaker every day. And by and by, he stopped hunting and riding, his favourite sports.

His parents were very anxious. Roop Kumar could not bear to see his parents so worried and decided to leave home.

One night, when everyone was asleep, he left the palace. He walked and walked till he reached another kingdom. There he sat down on the steps of a temple to rest his aching legs.

This kingdom was ruled by a king called Alpabuddhi. He had two daughters whom he loved very much. But he loved his elder daughter a little more than his younger one.



BY AND BY:  
slowly

ANXIOUS:  
worried

Every morning, his elder daughter would touch his feet and say, "Father, may you have victory wherever you go."

But the younger princess, whose name was Chatura, would say, "Father, may you get what you deserve." This would always annoy the king and he would send her away with a frown. He told his queen



**INSOLENT:**  
insulting

that the younger princess was becoming too proud and insolent.

One morning when the princesses came to greet their father he was in a particularly bad mood. As usual, Chatura said, "May you get what you deserve."

This made the king very angry. "How dare you talk to me like that!" he cried, his face turning purple with rage. "It will serve you right if I give you what you deserve!"

The princess was surprised at her father's anger, for she had not meant to be rude. "Father, I am not afraid to get what I deserve," she answered softly.

The king grew angrier still. "You deserve a penniless, good-for-nothing beggar as your husband," he said. He then called his minister, and told him to take her away and give her in marriage to the first homeless man he came across. She was to be given nothing in marriage but two maids.

So the minister went out with some soldiers in search of a poor man. When they saw Roop Kumar, so sickly and pale, sitting on the temple steps, they asked him where he lived. He replied that he had no home. The minister decided that he was the right person for the princess, and got them married in the temple.

The princess did not really mind. In fact, she liked the good-looking stranger very much. She suggested that they leave her father's kingdom and go and build a house for themselves in the forest. He agreed and they left for the forest with the two maids. There, near a river, they built a house.

One day, when the prince was sleeping under a tree, the princess, with her maids, went gathering fruits in the forest. When she returned she saw something that made her gasp in horror. She saw that a huge snake had slipped out of the sleeping prince's mouth. The snake was



talking to another snake that was sunning itself.

"A prince's body is no place for a snake to live in," said the other snake. "Why are you troubling him like this? You should go away and live in a more suitable place."



SUITABLE:  
right for a  
certain purpose

The snake from the prince's stomach hissed loudly, "Who are you to talk to me like this? Why don't you leave your pot of gold and go away?"

The snake from the hole swayed its hood angrily and snapped, "Someone should tell the prince that if he is fed black mustard paste you can be killed!"

The prince's snake replied, "Someone should tell the prince that he should pour hot water over your hole to kill you. Then he can get all your gold."

The princess quickly sent one of her maids to fetch black mustard from the market. She then made a paste and fed it to her husband. As soon as Roop Kumar ate the mustard the snake inside him died. The prince became well once again.

Then the princess poured hot water into the hole and killed the other snake too. She told the prince to look inside the snake pit. Roop



Kumar was surprised and thrilled to find the pot of gold.

"Because of you I am cured and now we are rich as well," he told his wife gratefully. Then he told her that he was not really a pauper, but a prince. "We will now go back to our kingdom, and you will be my queen. That is what you deserve to be."

Chatura smiled and replied, "First, I will go to my father's kingdom and show him that I did get what I deserved."

King Alpabuddhi, who had been feeling very sorry for having treated his younger daughter so cruelly, was overjoyed to see her again. Now he had to agree with her that people got what they deserved.

### EXERCISES

#### A. Answer the following questions.

1. Why did Alpabuddhi love his elder daughter more?
2. What did Alpabuddhi tell his minister to do and why?
3. What was the secret of the snake who lived in the prince's stomach?
4. What was the secret of the snake who lived in a hole?
5. Do you think Chatura got what she deserved?

#### B. "Because of you I am cured and now we are rich as well."

1. How did the prince get well?
2. How did they become rich?

#### C. Do you agree that people always get what they deserve? Tell the class about an incident in your life when you got what you deserved, and another when you didn't.

#### D. Find out the meaning of the words 'Alpabuddhi', 'Chatura' and 'Roop Kumar'. Do they suit the characters?

#### E. "It will serve you right if I give you what you deserve!" The punctuation at the end of this sentence is called an exclamation mark. The two other punctuations for the end of a sentence are FULLSTOP and QUESTION MARK . Put the correct punctuation at the end of each sentence.

- a. What shall I do     b. What a lovely surprise     c. Can you come today     d. Let's go home     e. So it was you




## THE FAITHFUL CAMEL

ONCE THERE WAS A LION who was the king of the forest. He was the strongest and bravest of all the animals. Everyone was afraid of him.

One day the lion had an idea. 'Since I am the king,' he thought, 'I must have courtiers.'

He called the fox and said, "I've heard you are clever and wise. You shall be my adviser."

  
COURTIERS:  
those who attend  
a king's court

The fox was thrilled to be chosen by the king. He bowed low and said, "Thank you, My Lord!"

Next, the lion called a leopard and said, "You will be my bodyguard. You are a fast runner and very alert."

The leopard too bowed low and said, "Thank you. Thank you very much, Sir."

  
ALERT:  
paying full  
attention

Finally the lion called a crow, and said, "Since you can fly I'll make you my messenger."

"Now," said the lion, "I want you all to promise me that you will always be faithful to me. You will serve only me and no one else."



"We promise, Your Majesty," all three said together.

The lion said, "As for me, I promise that I'll give you food. No one will harm you while you are with me."

The three served the lion faithfully. They searched for animals for the lion to kill. After he had eaten, they fed on the left-overs.



RARE:  
something not  
found or seen  
very often

One day the crow said to the lion, "Your Majesty, I have found a very rare and tasty animal for you. A camel. I tasted camel meat once in a desert. It is delicious."

"What's a camel?" the lion asked. "I have never seen one."

"A camel is a big animal. It lives in the desert. I have just seen one. Why don't you kill it?"

"What do you say, friends?" the lion asked the fox and the leopard.

"Is camel meat good to eat?"

The other two had not seen either a camel or a desert before. But they did not want to admit it. They were afraid that the lion would think the crow was more clever than them.

"Very tasty," Your Majesty, they said. "Let's go to the desert."

So they left for the desert. The crow flew ahead to lead the way. After some time they reached the desert. It was very hot and the lion's paws started to burn on the hot sand.

"I'm going back," he roared angrily. "I don't want camel's meat."

But his advisers were lost and did not know the way back.

The crow said cunningly, "Your Majesty, please wait here. I'll go and find the camel."

He flew off into the desert, and soon found a camel.

"Come on quickly," he said to the camel. "The king of the jungle wants to talk to you."

The camel was surprised to hear this but he went along quietly.

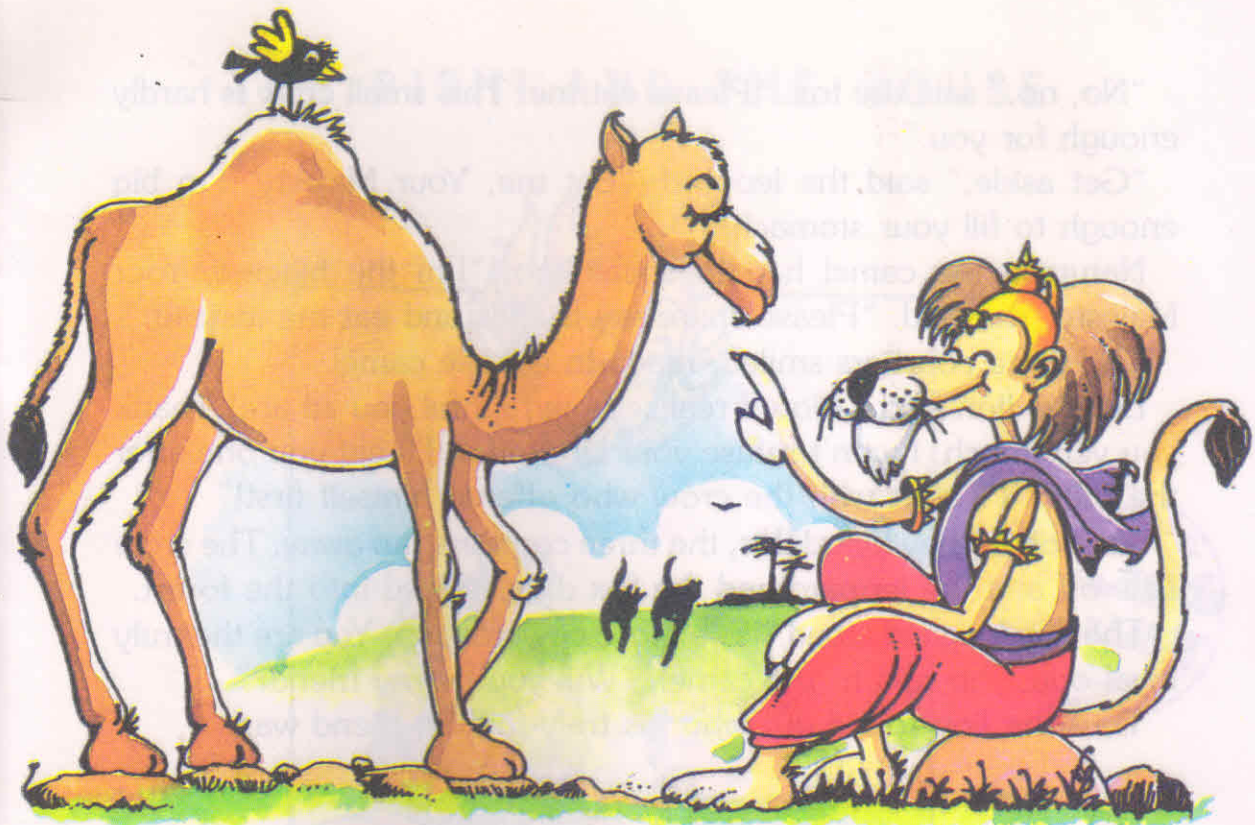
The lion was pleased when the crow arrived with the camel.

"Here he is, Your Majesty," the crow said. "He knows the way across the desert and will lead us back to the jungle."

The lion climbed onto the camel's back. The fox and the leopard jumped on too. The crow flew above.

Soon they reached the forest, very hungry. The three courtiers





were surprised when they heard the lion say to the camel, "Thank you, friend. You have saved our lives. Please stay with us. I will always protect you."

The courtiers, who were waiting to pounce on the camel, did not dare say anything.

The lion was very hungry now. But he could not go out hunting. The hot sand had badly burnt his paws.

"Hey, you fellows!" he roared. "Get me some food at once!"

The fox, the crow and the leopard ran off. But instead of hunting for food, they sat down to talk.

"What are we to do?" said the crow.

"How are we to get food for the lion?" asked the leopard.

The fox had an idea. "There is one way," he said. "We'll have to trick the camel. We'll make him offer himself to the lion." He told them what they had to do. The three went back to the lion.

"Your Majesty," the crow said, "we could not find any food for you. I am your loyal servant. Why don't you eat me?"

"No, no," said the fox. "Please eat me. This small crow is hardly enough for you."

"Get aside," said the leopard. "Eat me, Your Majesty. I'm big enough to fill your stomach."

Naturally the camel had to speak too. "I'm the biggest, Your Majesty," he said. "Please spare my friends and eat me instead."

The three courtiers smiled, ready to eat the camel.

But the lion said, "Now I realize how faithful you all are! Thank you very much. I won't refuse your kind offer. I'll eat you one after the other. I'll start with the crow who offered himself first!"

As soon as they heard this, the three courtiers ran away. The crow flew off and the leopard and the fox disappeared into the forest.

The lion laughed aloud. "See those cowards run. You are the truly loyal one," he said to the camel. "Will you be my friend?"

Thus the lion found out who his truly faithful friend was.

### EXERCISES

#### A. Answer the following questions.

1. Why did the lion choose the fox, leopard and crow as his courtiers?
2. Why did the fox and the leopard pretend to know about the camel?
3. Why did they need the camel to find their way to the jungle?
4. What lesson do you learn from the story?

#### B. Imagine that you are a king. You have to form a council of ministers. What qualities would you look for in each of them?

#### C. If the lion is known as the king of the jungle, what's the camel known as? Why?

- D. a. Everyone was afraid of him.    b. Everyone is afraid of him.  
c. Everyone will be afraid of him. What is the difference between the three sentences? The tense. Change the tense of the following sentence to the present and the future.

I had gone to Arun's house.



## THE RISHI AND THE MOUSE



**L**ONG, LONG AGO LIVED A RISHI. He had great powers and could do a lot of wonderful things. He lived in a hut by the Ganges and spent most of his time in prayer.

One morning as the rishi was going to the river for a bath, something strange happened. A hawk who had been making off with a baby mouse suddenly dropped it into his hands. He looked at the tiny creature shivering in his palm. His heart was filled with pity. 'If I leave it on the shore the hawk is sure to get hold of it once again,' he thought.

Then an idea came to him. He remembered how his wife had always longed for a daughter. With his great powers the rishi turned

the mouse into a baby girl and took her home to his wife. She was delighted with the baby and brought her up with great love and care.

Many years passed. The girl was now old enough to be married. The rishi's wife was very keen to see her happily settled. So she asked him to find a husband for her daughter. The rishi agreed.



RADIANT:  
shining

He decided to call the Sun and ask him to marry his child. The rishi's wife was also happy with his choice. After all, who could possibly be more radiant than the Sun?

So the rishi summoned the Sun and said, "O Glorious Sun, will you marry my daughter?"

"Ask your daughter first and see if she is willing," said the Sun with a bright smile.

The rishi turned to his daughter. "Well, little one," he asked, "would you like to marry the dazzling Sun? After all, it is he who gives light, life and warmth to everyone."

"Oh, no, Father!" she said at once. "The Sun may be bright and radiant but he is much too hot. Isn't there anyone who is greater than him?"

The rishi turned to the Sun once again. "Tell me, Blessed One, is there anyone greater than you?"

"Yes, there is," said the Sun. "The Cloud is greater than me because he can blot me out and hide all my radiance whenever he wants to."

The rishi called the Cloud. But this time he decided to ask his daughter first. "Will you marry the Cloud, my daughter?"

The little girl looked at the Cloud and shook her head. "The Cloud looks too dark and cold. I don't want to marry him. Find me someone else, Father."

The rishi faced the Cloud and asked, "O Blessed Cloud, can you suggest anyone who is better than you?"

"The Wind is far stronger than me," said the Cloud. "He can blow me about the sky and push me wherever he wants to."

The rishi called the Wind but his daughter turned her face away. "Well?" asked the rishi. "Do you like the Wind? Will you have him for a husband?"





"No, Father," said the girl. "The Wind is far too restless for my liking! He is always rushing about. He will make me feel dizzy." RESTLESS: unable to be still

"O Blessed Wind," said the rishi beginning to look worried, "can you suggest someone who is steady?"

"The Mountain is the steadiest of all," said the Wind. "No one can move him even an inch."

The rishi then took his daughter to the Mountain because he could not ask the Mountain to come to him. "O Blessed Mountain," said the rishi, "will you accept my daughter as your wife?"

"Of course, I will," said the Mountain in a deep voice.

"Well, my little daughter, are you happy now?" asked the rishi. "I cannot think of anyone steadier than the Mountain."

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To the rishi's surprise, his daughter turned to him with tears in her eyes. "Oh, Father! Please don't make me marry the Mountain! He is so very serious and lifeless! Please find me someone who is active and lively or I shall be very unhappy."



**PROSPECTIVE:**  
likely to become

The sage was at his wit's end. What was he to do with a girl who turned down every prospective husband? "O Mountain," he said, "can you think of anyone who is lively and active enough for my daughter?"

"Why don't you ask the King of Mice?" said the mountain. "He is the liveliest fellow I know. He is very active, always running about."

The rishi finally called the King of Mice, who came running at his command. His daughter's face lit up with joy as soon as she saw him. "What a charming person!" she cried. "I shall marry him, Father. He is just the right husband for me. Oh, please turn me into a mouse!"

The rishi sighed and turned her back into a mouse. He then married her to the Mouse King and saw her run away happily with him. She might have married the mighty Sun, the Cloud, the Wind or the Mountain, but she chose her own kind! Let a mouse remain a mouse!

### EXERCISES

#### **A. Answer the following questions.**

1. Why did the rishi change the mouse into a baby girl?
2. Why didn't the rishi's daughter want to marry the Sun?
3. Why did the Cloud think the Wind was stronger than him?
4. Why did the girl prefer the Mouse to the Mountain?

#### **B. Do you think the rishi wished he had left the mouse as she was?**

#### **C. Get together with a few friends and act out this story. One of you could play the mountain, one of you the sun and so on.**

#### **D. If you were the rishi's daughter, who would you have married? Why?**

