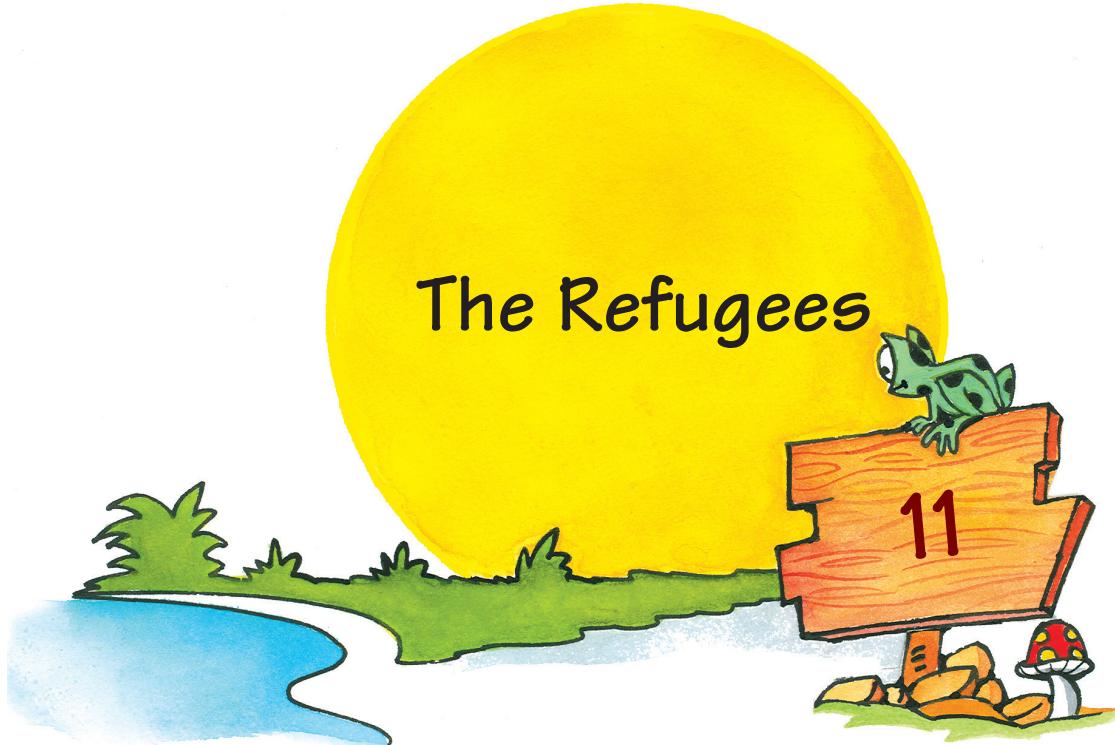
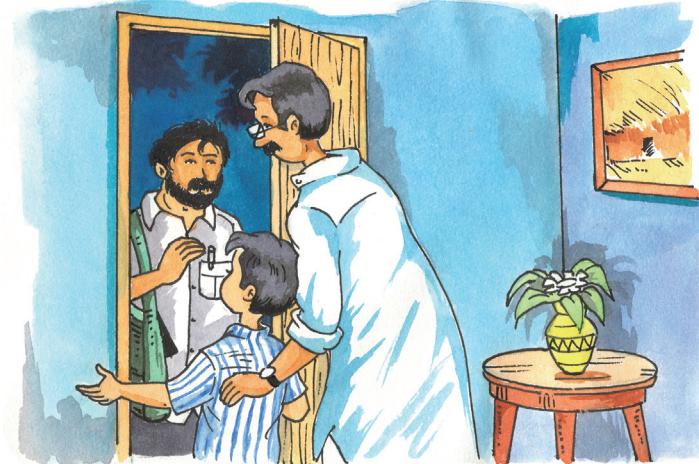




The Refugees



STARTER



Suppose a stranger comes to your house at night and asks for some food and shelter, what will you do? How will you decide whether you should or should not help the person? Discuss this in groups of three or four and present your views to the rest of the class.

Now read this play.



Scene 1

In a room in the house of Jadhav Rana, a local chieftain of Sanjan in Gujarat. The year is 936 A.D.

Jadhav Rana, and a number of other men are present. Two servants stand behind him, fanning him. Jadhav Rana is on his throne, surrounded by his advisors. They are in the middle of a discussion.

Suddenly there is an interruption. A messenger rushes in, bows before Jadhav Rana, and stands with bowed head, waiting for permission to speak.



JADHAV RANA (*impatiently*) Don't you see that we are in the middle of a very important discussion? Did anybody give you permission to interrupt¹ us so rudely? Well, man, speak. Tell me quickly why you have come rushing in.

MESSENGER (*very frightened*) Forgive me, my lord. I came only because it is urgent. Aanchal Rana himself asked me to come straight to you, and to bring you this message. It is a matter of great urgency.

JADHAV RANA Well, give me the message then.

The messenger hands over a scroll to one of the servants. The servant offers it to Jadhav Rana. Jadhav Rana signals to one of his advisors to take the scroll and read it.

ADVISOR 1 (*reading the open scroll*) To His Highness, Jadhav Rana, ruler of Sanjan. From his humble servant Aanchal Rana.

¹ *interrupt*: say or do something that makes a person stop what he/she is doing or saying





Your Highness, it has come to my notice that a ship carrying a group of people from a foreign country have come to the shores of your land. I have prevented² them from landing, saying that without permission from you, they will not be allowed to set foot upon your soil. I await your orders, my lord. Tell me what to do with them. There are old people and women among them, and they look peaceable³.

Awaiting your orders, your humble servant, Aanchal Rana.

JADHAV RANA A ship carrying many people. From a foreign land. What do you think we should do?

ADVISOR 1 They may be dangerous. I think Aanchal Rana should be asked to chase them away from our shores.

ADVISOR 2 On the other hand, Sire, Aanchal Rana himself says that they look peaceable, and that there are old men and women among them. Why don't you ask them to send their representatives⁴ to meet you here? Aanchal Rana could escort⁵ them, and see to it that they are not carrying arms⁶.

JADHAV RANA Yes, I think that sounds sensible. Let us find out what they want before we send them away. Write a reply quickly, and send it to Aanchal Rana through this fellow. Tell him that only four of their people should be allowed to come, and they should not be armed⁷.

² prevented: (here) stopped

³ look peaceable: wish to live in peace with others

⁴ representative: a person who has been chosen to speak for somebody else or for a group

⁵ escort: go with somebody

⁶ arms: weapons

⁷ armed: carrying a gun or





ADVISOR 2 Yes, my lord. (*To messenger*) Come with me, I will give you the reply.

Scene 2 Same scene as before, with Jadhav Rana, and his advisors and servants. Suddenly, there is a stir, and a group of people come in, led by Aanchal Rana. Among the strangers is an old man, bearded, and wearing the robe of a priest, holding a swinging bowl with the sacred fire burning in it. The four strangers in the group are dressed differently from the local people.

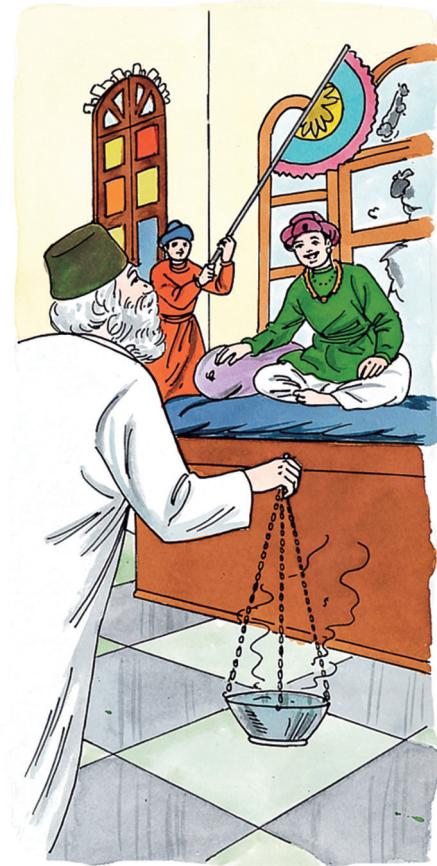
AANCHAL RANA (*bowing before Jadhav Rana*) Your Highness, respectful greetings.

JADHAV RANA Thank you, Aanchal. Welcome to my house. And who are these strangers that you have brought with you? Where do they come from? Do they speak our language?

AANCHAL RANA (*Leading the old man forward and presenting him to the chieftain*) This old man does. Speak, stranger, and tell our Rana Sahib who you are and what you want from him.

OLD MAN We come in peace, Sire, strangers from the distant land of Persia. We had to leave our land and come away because we were no longer safe there. Our lives were in danger because we practise a religion that is different from that of our new rulers. Help us, most gracious ruler. All we ask is refuge⁸, and a chance to live in peace.

JADHAV RANA All religions are but different ways to God. You are welcome to practise your religion here, most gracious stranger. You and your people can live in safety in our country.



⁸refuge: protection from danger or trouble





OLD MAN (*Bowing low, and saluting the chieftain with trembling hands*)

Thank you, Your Gracious Highness. I thank you on behalf of⁹ my poor people, who have been searching for refuge for many years, and have now found it in this most beautiful of countries.

JADHAV RANA But tell me first, what do you need from me, apart from¹⁰ permission to live in my land and practise your religion here?

OLD MAN We want freedom, Your Highness, freedom to bring up our children according to the customs and traditions¹¹ of our country and religion.

JADHAV RANA I grant you the right to that. What else do you need?

OLD MAN A small piece of land to till¹², Your Highness, so that we may work and earn our bread, and not be a burden¹³ upon the people of your country.

JADHAV RANA Granted. But in return, oh stranger, what will you be able to do for the country that has adopted¹⁴ you?

OLD MAN Before I tell you that, Your Highness, may I ask for something?

JADHAV RANA Certainly.

OLD MAN May I have a small bowl of milk, and some sugar?

Jadhav Rana claps his hands, and signals. In a few minutes, a servant comes with a bowl of milk, which he hands to the old man, together with some sugar on a plate.

The old man hands over the sacred fire to one of the other strangers, then adds the sugar to the bowl of milk, and stirs it well. He holds it up in his trembling hands.

OLD MAN Does any man here see the sugar that is in this bowl of milk?



⁹on behalf of: as a representative of

¹⁰apart from: in addition to

¹¹traditions: ways of doing things that have continued from the past to the present (example: the tradition of wearing new clothes on festival days)

¹²till: to prepare and use land for growing crops

¹³burden: something that causes a lot of worry

¹⁴adopted: (here) taken into the country and treated as their own



ALL BYSTANDERS (*in a sort of chorus*) No. No. No.

OLD MAN We shall try to be like the sugar in this bowl, Sire, invisible¹⁵, but present all the same, to sweeten the milk of human kindness that you have shown us. We will blend¹⁶ with your people, just like the sugar which blended with the milk, adding sweetness to it.

JADHAV RANA Well spoken, old man. We are pleased to welcome you and your fellow countrymen to our country. You will always be welcome here, and no one will trouble you because you follow a different religion. Live in peace among us, as our neighbours and friends.

OLD MAN (*Bending down, with the other three men who came with him, to touch their foreheads to the soil*) We salute this gracious¹⁷ and hospitable¹⁸ country and the people who live in it, and promise to become one of them henceforth¹⁹.

And that is how the Parsis came to India and became one of its many peoples.

SHYAMALA KUMARADAS



¹⁵ *invisible*: that cannot be seen

¹⁶ *blend*: mix

¹⁷ *gracious*: kind, polite and helpful

¹⁸ *hospitable*: friendly and kind to visitors

¹⁹ *henceforth*: hereafter



Learn to read-1

1. The messenger came with an important message. The matter was urgent because
 - (a) the country was about to be attacked by a group of foreigners.
 - (b) a group of foreigners were seeking permission to enter the country.
 - (c) a group of foreigners were waiting outside the palace to see Jadhav Rana.

(Tick the right answer.)





2. Aanchal Rana did not allow the foreigners to land without Jadhav Rana's permission. *True or False?*
3. Why do you think the second advisor suggested that Jadhav Rana should talk to the foreigners' representatives?
4. How many of these statements are true about the group of foreigners?
(Put a ✓ against them.)
 - (a) They came to Gujarat to attack Jadhav Rana's country.
 - (b) They were on a world tour.
 - (c) They came because it was unsafe to live in their own country.
 - (d) They had a new ruler who belonged to a different religion.
 - (e) They had visited many other places to ask for shelter before coming to Jadhav Rana's land.
5. In addition to permission to live in the land, what else did the foreigners want from Jadhav Rana?
6. What kind of a person was Jadhav Rana?
7. What kind of people were the Parsis?



Learn to read–2

1. Do you think we should treat all foreigners like Jadhav Rana treated the Persians?
2. What are some of the ways in which we can be hospitable to people who visit us at our homes?



Learn words

Here are the meanings of ten words from the passage. Locate the ten words in the grid on the next page and circle them as shown. The ninth word has been marked as an example for you.

1. you ask for this before you enter a person's room



2. a time when there is no war or violence
3. a person who lives near you
4. a written or spoken piece of information you leave for a person when you can't speak to him/her
5. belonging to a country that is not your own
6. a person who goes with and protects someone
7. a person that you do not know
8. a long roll of paper with writing on it
9. a place that is safe
10. a responsibility or a difficult task that causes worry



S	M	E	S	S	A	G	E	S	T	A	L
T	I	S	P	C	R	H	O	D	K	F	A
N	A	P	E	R	M	I	S	S	I	O	N
G	E	E	L	O	S	G	O	T	E	R	T
B	R	A	L	L	C	E	P	R	D	E	L
U	V	C	O	L	R	A	W	A	A	I	A
R	O	E	S	C	O	R	T	N	N	G	N
D	E	H	K	R	E	F	U	G	E	N	D
E	N	G	J	F	O	T	B	E	G	V	E
N	E	I	G	H	B	O	U	R	R	M	D





Learn grammar

Fill in the blanks in this passage by choosing the right words from the brackets.

Your heart is an amazing pumping system. It¹ (*begins/began*) its work when you were 25 days old in your mother's womb. It² (*continue/will continue*) beating until the end of your life, usually without³ (*any/some*) repair. Everyday it⁴ (*pumps/pumped*) about 43,000 litres of blood, enough to completely fill over 150 baths.

When you were a newborn baby your heart beat⁵ (*faster/fastest*) than it is beating now. It is really quite small for all the work it does. In an adult it is as⁶ (*big/bigger*) as a clenched fist. In your heart, there⁷ (*is/are*) two pumps side by side. One sends blood to your lungs to⁸ (*pick/picks*) up oxygen; the other sends blood with oxygen round the rest of your body. Your heart is...⁹ (*no/not*) on the left as most people think. It is¹⁰ (*in/on*) the middle of your chest.



Learn to write

You liked the play, didn't you?

Suppose you want your friends in the other classes to read this play. Write a review that tells them briefly about the play.

(A review is a report in which a person gives their opinion of a book, play or movie.) Your review will be displayed on the school noticeboard.

Divide your review into three paragraphs:

Paragraph 1—Talk about the purpose of writing the review. (This has been done for you.)



Paragraph 2—Give a brief summary of the play.

Paragraph 3—Write about what you particularly liked in the play.

Begin your review like this:

A Review
of
The Refugees—A Play

I must tell you about a short and interesting play I read in my English Coursebook. It is indeed a ‘Don’t Miss’! . . .

