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SWAMY AND FRIENDS

CHAPTER – TWO RAJAM AND MANI

Objective :

- (1) Enhance reading skills
- (2) Understand punctuations
- (3) Building vocabulary
- (4) Structural nuances (Tense)



Courtesy: The Indian Express

If you are given a chance to name a town, what would you call it?

- Malgudi is a fictional town located in South India in the novels and short stories of R.K. Narayan. It forms the setting for most of Narayan's works.
- Malgudi is located on the banks of the fictional river Sarayu, near the also-fictional Mempi forest, on border of the states of Mysore and Madras and a few hours' away from Madras.
- Narayan's assertion that Malgudi is work of fiction has not discouraged readers from speculating about its actual location being Mysore, with a river on one side and a forest on the other, and buildings and lanes similar to those of Malgudi
- MP of Shimoga (Lok Sabha constituency) has requested Indian Railways to rename Arasalu Railway Station a small station on Shimoga-Talaguppa railway line to Malgudi Railway station.

Read out aloud at a slow tempo

RIVER SARAYU was the pride of Malgudi. It was some ten minutes walk from Ellaman Street, the last street of the town, chiefly occupied by oil mongers. Its sand-banks were the evening resort of all the people of the town. The Municipal President took any distinguished visitor to the top of the Town Hall and proudly pointed to him Sarayu in moonlight, glistening like a silver belt across the North. The usual evening crowd was on the sand. Swaminathan and Mani sat aloof on a river-step, with their legs **dangling** in water. The peepul branches overhanging the river rustled **pleasantly**. A light breeze played about the **boughs** and scattered stray leaves on the gliding stream below. Birds filled the air with their cries. Far away, near Nallappa's Mango **Grove**, a little downstream, a **herd of cattle** was crossing the river. And then a country cart drawn by bullocks passed, the cart-man **humming** a low tune. It was some fifteen minutes past sunset and there was a soft red in the West. 'The water runs very deep here, doesn't it?' Mani asked. 'Yes, why?' 'I am going to bring Rajam here, **bundle** him up, and throw him into the river.'

Activity Questions

- Guess the meaning of these words from the context and replace them with simple vocabulary.

(a) Dangle (b) Bough (c) Grove
(d) Hum (e) Bundle

(Check with the dictionary if your guess is right).

- Have you heard of

(a) Herd of cattle (b) Murder of crows (c) Parade of elephants?

- Are you interested to know more about the group names of animals? Look up on the internet and find the collective name of 10 common animals and birds around us.

Activity Questions - Answers

- Guess the meaning of these words from the context and replace them with simple vocabulary.
 - (a) Dangle- hang / swing loosely (b) Bough- branch (c) Grove – woods / group of trees (d) Hum – make a low, continuous sound/sing /tune (e) Bundle – tie / roll up/carry
- (b) Look up on the internet and find the collective name of 10 common animals and birds around us.

(1) a colony of bats	(2) a swarm of bees	(3) a flock of birds	(4) a pounce of cats
(5) a pack of dogs	(6) a school of fish	(7) a business of flies	(8) a brood of hens
(9) a team of horses	(10) a pride of lions	(11) a plague of locusts	(12) a nest of mice
(13) a troop of monkeys	(14) a parliament of owls	(15) a muster of peacocks	(16) a bed of snakes
(17) a mischief of rats	(18) an ambush of tigers	(19) a cluster of spiders	(20) a gam of whales

Read out aloud at a slow tempo

Rajam was a fresh arrival in the First A. He had **sauntered** into the class on the reopening day of the Second Term, walked up to the last bench, sat beside Mani, and felt very comfortable indeed till Mani gave him a **jab** in the ribs, which he returned. He had impressed the whole class on the very first day. He was a new-comer; he dressed very well—he was the only boy in the class who wore socks and shoes, fur cap and tie, and a wonderful coat and **knickers**. He came to the school in a car. As well as all this, he proved to be a very good student too. There were **vague rumours** that he had come from some English boys' school somewhere in Madras. He spoke very good English, 'Exactly like a "European"'; which meant that few in the school could make out what he said. Many of his class-mates could not trust themselves to speak to him, their fund of broken English being small. Only Sankar, the **genius** of the class, had the courage to face him, though his English sounded **halting** and weak before that of Rajam. This Rajam was a **rival** to Mani. In his manner to Mani he assumed a certain **nonchalance** to which Mani was not **accustomed**. If Mani jabbed, Rajam jabbed; if Mani **clouted**, he clouted; if Mani kicked, he kicked. If Mani was the overlord of the class, Rajam seemed to be nothing less. And add to all this the fact that Rajam was a regular seventy percenter, second only to Sankar. There were sure indications that Rajam was the new power in the class.

Activity Questions

- Guess the meaning of these words from the context and replace them with simpler vocabulary.
a) Vague b) Rumour c) Halt d) Accustom e) Jab f) Rival g) Saunter h) Knickers i) Nonchalance
j) Clout. Check with the dictionary if your guess is right.
- Do you know them? Guess the antonyms (opposite) of these words from the context :
a) Vague b) Genius c) Halt d) Rival e) Nonchalance

Activity Questions - Answers

Guess the meaning of these words from the context and replace them with simpler vocabulary.

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| (a) vague - unclear | (b) rumour – gossip | (c) halt - stop |
| (d) accustom – adapt/used to | (e) jab - blow / strike | (f) rival - opponent |
| (g) saunter – stroll | (h) knickers – trousers | (i) nonchalance – calm |
| (j) clout – hit | | |

Do you know them? Guess the antonyms (opposite) of these words from the context:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| (a) vague – clear/ precise | (b) genius - fool | (c) halt - start |
| d) rival - friend | (e) nonchalance – uncool/stressed | |

Read out aloud at a slow tempo

Day by day as Mani looked on, **it** was becoming increasingly clear **that** a new menace had appeared in his life. All this lay behind his decision on **the** river-step to bundle up Rajam and throw him into the river. Swaminathan expressed a slight fear: "You forget that his father is the police superintendent." Mani remained silent for a while and said, What **do** I care? Some night I am going to crack his shoulders with my clubs.' 'If I were you, I would keep out of the way **of** policemen. They are an awful lot,' said Swaminathan. 'If you were me! Huh! But thank God I am not you, a milk-toothed coward like you.' Swaminathan bit his lips and sighed. 'And that reminds me,' said the other, **'you are in need of a little warning. I find you hanging about that Rajam a bit too much.'** Well, have a care for your limbs. That is all I can say.' Swaminathan broke into loud protestations. Did Mani think that Swaminathan could respect anyone but him, Mani the dear old friend and guide? What made him think so? As far as Swaminathan could remember, he had never been within three yards of Rajam. Oh, how he hated him! That vile upstart! When had Mani seen him with Rajam? Oh, yes, it must have been during the drawing period on Monday.

Activity Questions

- What are the different punctuation marks with which sentences end? How do you read a sentence that ends with :
 - a period/full stop (.),
 - an exclamation mark (!),
 - and a question mark (?) ?
- Notice the two words; find the commonality between them and fill up the blanks by picking similar words from the passage

(1) Are (2) Doubts (3) -----

(1) Going (2) Thinking (3) -----

(1) Looked (2) Sauntered (3) -----

- What are the different tense markers added to their root words?
- He stood very stiff and said: 'Here I am, ready.' 'You are late.' 'Yes.' 'We will start.' Notice the sentences with inverted commas, given above .They are taken from the passage given above. What are inverted commas and when do you use them? Guess from the context of the passage.

Activity Questions - Answers

- What are the different punctuation marks with which sentences end? How do you read a sentence that ends with :
 - a period/full stop (.) - Swaminathan broke into loud protestations.
 - an exclamation mark (!) - Oh, how he hated him! That vile upstart!
 - and a question mark (?) - When had Mani seen him with Rajam?
- Notice the two words; find the commonality between them and fill up the blanks by picking similar words from the passage – The commonality between the two given words is the tense. The first row indicates present tense, the second row indicates continuous tense and third row indicates the past tense.

(1) are - be	(2) doubts - doubt	(3) reminds - remind
(1) going - go	(2) thinking - think	(3) becoming - become
(1) Looked - look	(2) appeared - appear	(3) expressed - express

- He stood very stiff and said: 'Here I am, ready.' 'You are late.' 'Yes.' 'We will start.' Notice the sentences with inverted commas, given above. They are taken from the passage given above. What are inverted commas and when do you use them? Guess from the context of the passage- The inverted comma is mostly used when you quote someone.

Find it out!

Read the sentences given below:

Rajam tells Swami 'you are in need of a little **warning**. I find you **hanging** about that Rajam a bit too much.'

Do the words 'warning' and 'hanging' (in the context of the above lines) have continuous marker on them? Why or why not?