



For a long time, Tulsi Ram, the postman, walked through the mist. It was dark all around him. To guide him on the way, he kept one hand on the hillside to his left. He knew it was no use turning back to Shimla town because the mist was everywhere. Instead, if he kept going forward, he would soon join the main road. From there, his own place was not so far away.

Suddenly he stumbled against a boulder that had rolled over the hillside and lay in the middle of the road. As he steadied himself, fear filled his soul. He had heard of a girl who was lost in a snow storm in Shimla. Her ghost was said to be wandering on these very hills. Tulsi Ram shivered but he kept on walking.

He came to a mail box. He didn't see the lock but felt it. With trembling hands he opened the door, picked up the letters inside, stuffed them into his bag and closed and locked the mail box. A fresh swirl of mist rolled in, thicker than ever. Terrified, Tulsi Ram decided to run but found himself rooted to the spot.

Something had caught him by the throat and was choking him! Tulsi Ram screamed hoarsely and fainted.

When he gained consciousness, he was in a hospital bed with a kindly nurse in attendance. She said, "Two men carried you here. They said they were walking down Sanjauli Road in east Shimla when they heard a scream and found you lying in a heap in front of a mailbox. What happened? Why did you scream?"

"I ... I couldn't move," said Tulsi Ram.

"No wonder," smiled the nurse. "You had closed the door of the mail box firmly on one end of your muffler!"



A. Comprehension



Start Easy

1. Tick the correct answer.
 - a. The action of the story takes place in
 - i. Ooty. ☐
 - ii. Darjeeling. ☐
 - iii. Shimla. ☐
 - iv. Manali. ☐
 - b. Where did the two men who rescued Tulsi Ram find him?
 - i. on the hillside ☐
 - ii. in the hospital ☐
 - iii. in a valley ☐
 - iv. in front of a mailbox ☐
2. Why was it dark all around Tulsi Ram?
.....
3. What did Tulsi Ram stumble against?
.....
4. Why did fear fill Tulsi Ram's soul?
.....
5. Why did Tulsi Ram feel the lock rather than see it?
.....
.....
6. Why do you think Tulsi Ram closed the door of the mailbox on one end of his muffler?
.....
7. Fill in the blanks with the given words.

swirl decided trembling carried stumbled

- a. Ramu was so nervous that his hands were
- b. The mist rolled in a from the mountains.
- c. We our shopping home.
- d. He to go for a walk in the rain.
- e. The old man against a stone.



Level Up

B. Composition

Suppose Tulsi Ram were to tell a friend what happened to him that day. Write in 4–5 sentences what he might have narrated.

