



## 1.6 Into the Wild

### ICE BREAKERS

- Narrate in your class any of the incidents of your life when you were extremely terrified or awestruck.
- Complete the given table regarding the factors/situations/reasons - why you sometimes get scared and the factors that add to it. Give possible solutions.

Sr. no	Reasons	Factors which add to it	Solutions
1.	While discussing about strange creatures	At midnight/In the absence of parents	Avoid such discussions/stories as they are baseless
2.			
3.			

- Given below are various activities which you can pursue as your hobby, passion, or profession. Complete the table accordingly.

Sr. no.	Activities	Hobby	Passion	Profession	Reason /Challenge/Both
1.	Painting	✓	✓	✓	(R) I can express myself well through the strokes of brush
2.	Travelling	✓	✓	✓	(R) In tourism, there is great demand for professional tourist guides.
3.	Wild life photography				(C) In the age of computers limited professional scope
4.	Conserving environment				
5.	Bird-Watching				

- Match the following 'Wild-Life Sanctuaries' with their locations.

Wild Life Sanctuary	Location
1. Bandipur National Park	(a) Uttarakhand
2. Kaziranga National Park	(b) Madhya Pradesh
3. Jim Corbet National Park	(c) Karnataka
4. Ranthambore National Park	(d) Assam
5. Kanha National Park	(e) Rajasthan

**Kiran Purandare (born 1961)** After B.Com, he studied Environmental Studies at Jordanhill College of Education in Scotland. He is a recipient of the 'Sahitya Puraskar'. Pune's Bhai Madhav Bagal Award and Best Literature Award given by Cultural Department of Maharashtra State for his 'Sakha Nagzira'. He spent 400 days inside Nagzira and nearby forest areas and wrote this award winning book. This excerpt has been taken from the same. He is a wild-life expert, a bird watcher, a writer and honorary wild life warden in Maharashtra. He is also the founder of Nisarg Wedh Organisation, which works for nature conservation and community work around Nagzira, Navegaon, a Tiger Reserve in Bhandara and Gondia districts. He also founded Kika's Bird Club in order to spread bird farming which is very popular among school-going children of Maharashtra.



(Part I) As the name suggests, the excerpt is an amazing experience of the writer where Kiran Purandare, the solitary traveller, is completely lost in the jungles of Umbarzara. He narrates how he lost his way at the fall of the dusk and the terrifying turmoil he underwent thereafter. Shouting for help would literally mean 'crying in the wilderness'. He also gives a detailed description of how he found his way towards the Pitezari.

(Part II) This part has been extracted from CN Traveller Magazine published by Land Rover India. It is about Shaaz Jung, known for his wild life photography. It briefs us about his entry into this world of wild life photography, the insight that he received during this journey regarding the loss of the habitat of those heroes of the jungle and the genuine efforts that he took by establishing BCRTI, for the conservation of forests by educating the local rural folks and providing them with a sound reliable source of income.

**hide :** a place built to look like its surrounding

**avifauna :** birds of a particular region, habitat or geological period

**camouflaged :** disguised by covering it to make it blend in with the surroundings

**Explain:**  
**I was alone here like a fox.**

## Into the Wild

### (Part – I) Lost in the Jungle

The eight-and-a-half-hour-long day inside the **hide** was as fruitful as the *Jambha* tree standing tall on the edge of Umbarzara. Before wrapping up my day at this natural waterhole, I took entries of the **avifauna** in my field notes. Since I was alone, I rushed to Pitezari village where I was stationed. I **camouflaged** the hide, took my essentials, came out of the hide and stretched out to my heart's content. I lifted my camera bag and took the familiar trail to Pitezari. Negotiating the webbed leaves of Teakwood and *Moha* trees, trying to make minimal sound, I was treading cautiously among the woods. Walking alone in a jungle needs more alertness than walking with a companion. **I was alone here like a fox.** Following the trail silently, watching with wide-open eyes, my ears were grasping a variety of sounds just when a familiar sound stunned me...

'Khyak! Khyak! KhyakoSS Khyak!'

It was a *Langur* alarm call. The leader of the gang of *Langurs* was sitting on the tall tree making alarm calls



out of fear for life. Rest of the *Langur* brigade continued raising the alarm calls. The network of alarm calls was expanding its range as the **petrified** *Langurs* speeded to the trees near and far and secured their places on treetops. All this **upheaval** was created by only one animal's presence—a Leopard. Many animals make alarm calls when they see a **predator**—Tiger or Leopard nearby. The *Langur* is most reliable when it comes to finding clues about the presence of the **apex** predators in the jungle. The mighty elusive Leopard of Umbarzara was out of its **lair**. He was on the prowl. The stealthily moving figure in spotted gold-black cloak was spied by these *Langurs*. Even the small ones from the **legion** of *Langurs* were giving alarm calls.

‘Chyak! Chyak!’

I stayed put. Gauged the leader *Langur*'s target sight and scanned the area visually. Took some steps. Stopped again. A fresh **scat** was lying before me on the trail. The bluish-purple flies were **hovering** over it. I was sure that the Leopard was somewhere near. The distant alarm call of four-horned **antelope** was adding to the chaos. I barely walked around 15 metres and stopped. I had apparently entered in the **sanctum sanctorum** of a miracle called Leopard. But the big cat was not visible. It is an elusive animal. The surroundings were reminding me that I was all alone time and again. As I moved forward on the trail to Pitezari, the fading alarm calls were still heard in the background. I could tell **instinctively** that the Leopard had moved away.

Meanwhile, I saw a man standing at a distance with a stick in his hand. As I approached, he appeared **spooked** due to alarm calls of the Leopard. We greeted each other. He was Raju Iskape from Pitezari. He had come to collect logs but retreated due to the Leopard's movement. Raju was amazed at my regular solitary visits to Umbarzara, the **haven** for Tigers, Leopards and Sloth Bears. We stopped under a *Kusum* tree to take a break. We both felt a bit relaxed. Now we were four eyes, four hands with a stick. Then we both resumed our walking tour.

There was one tiny track that broke out of the main trail. “I will take this route, you go straight,” said Raju and turned right. I kept walking straight until I climbed a familiar hillock. I crossed the cement pillar and stones **stacked** by Forest Development Corporation to mark the boundary of the forest compartment. Took another trail

**petrified** : very frightened

**Guess the meaning :**

- upheaval
- predator

**apex** : topmost

**lair** : den, secret place

**legion** : a great number of people or things

**scat** : here, it means animal droppings

**Guess the meaning :**

- hovering
- antelope

**sanctum sanctorum** : the holy of holies, a place, region where few are allowed as the secret / important work is done

**instinctively** : without conscious thought, by natural response


**Choose the correct option.**

**spooked** :

- (1) frightened
- (2) happy
- (3) angry

**haven** : a place of safety or refuge

**stacked** : Find the contextual meaning from the dictionary



**gorge** : a narrow gully between hillocks

**deciduous** : having trees that shed leaves in the dry season

**tropical** : of the tropics

**to one's heart's content**: to the fullest level of satisfaction

**frantic**: hurried and excited

*What is called 'silver lining' of the trail by the writer? Why?*

**Guess the meaning :**  
• In a jiffy



after climbing down. Walked across a beautiful *Mahua* tree loaded with reddish-brown leaves. The ground under the tree was cleaned very well. The thought instantly flashed in my mind— 'I'd lost my way'. Next moment, I found another dusky trail. Hastily I took that trail which took me from a narrow **gorge** to an open field. The area was surrounded by hillocks of dry **deciduous tropical** forest. I turned back to spot the sun. Now, the geographical west was set. The dusky trail had vanished. Good Heavens! I was lost. Completely lost in this jungle, That too at a very dreadful time! The sun was melting down like a fleeting runner.

Soaked in my own sweat, I felt like shouting to my **heart's content**. But there was no other soul to listen to my sound in this wilderness. I had two bags with me. The *Shabnam* bag having the camera and the other was a small colourful hand-made bag used in villages to carry tiffin. The tiffin still had some stuff, but I didn't feel like having it. The blossoming Boxwood trees, the *Bhoop Bhoop* sound of Coucal bird, the song of Robin bird, all appeared alien to me.

It was more than an hour and I was still there searching for a suitable tree to climb and get secured. "Turn back to the trail you left," my mind was telling me. But there were no signs of the trail. I had no other way to climb the hillock before me. There were more hillocks, and some more around the one I was standing. Near my feet were the dried-up droppings of Sloth Bear. "The Sloth Bear of Umbarzara must be out in open sniffing for food," I cautioned myself. Thinking of averting all sorts of eventuality, I made a move. I ran down the hillock that I had climbed up at a **frantic** speed. The west was to my right-hand side now. The evening breeze flew through my wet curled hair. My stomach was aching. I kept walking in hope.

After around 50 steps I found a bright red soil trail. I found my silver lining on this trail. There were marks of bicycle wheel on this trail. That was a big consolation for me. "There must be a village nearby," I reassured myself. More questions resurfaced, "How far is the village? And where? In which direction?"

I climbed one more hillock and tried to locate signs of human civilisation. My legs were trembling. As I reached the top of the hill, I jumped with joy. I heard the sounds of people talking in the loudspeaker. **In a jiffy**, I ran down



the hill, towards the sound with full vigour. I stumbled and fell down. Saw droppings of Blue Bulls nearby. Struggled, stood up and decided which direction to move on. The signs of civilisation were visible. The tiny sleepy village of Pitezari was visible through the green woods. The lantern of Rajiram Bhalavi's farm, the loudspeaker installed for Keshav Bhalavi's marriage, all were in clear sight. Turned left to spot the village lake and familiar hillock '*Suihudaki*'. The dog barked to welcome me to the village.

The first thing I did was to take a bath. The shaking of limbs had lessened a bit. The stomach ache started again. Ate to the full and then **slumped** onto the cot. Lying awake looking at the star-studded sky, I spoke to myself, "There still exists a jungle where we can get lost, isn't this our good luck?"

Taken from '*Sakha Nagzira*' - by Kiran Purandare

### (Part – II) Tracking the Panther of Nagarhole

Shaaz Jung is a wildlife photographer, cinematographer, big cat tracker, man-animal conflict resolution seeker and lodge owner— all rolled into one. When he's away from the jungles of Nagarhole, officially called The Rajiv Gandhi National Park, he's leading photography safaris in Africa or showcasing his work at Art Galleries in capital cities and speaking to those interested in conserving the planet's riches.

Shaaz recalls with great clarity the incident that ultimately leads to his answering the call of the **felines** over a career dedicated to finance. "It was somewhere around sunset. We were at a junction. The deer were calling," he says, "we went around a blind turn," he continues, "and up ahead on the path was this old leopard. You could tell he was past his prime. The jungle had taken a toll on him. He only had three canines. His eyes were **sagging**. Close to this leopard was another very young, good looking male who was soon to come into his prime. It was like looking at the past and the present. It was clear that there was going to be a fight. Unfortunately, the sun was setting, and we had to leave. But the next morning, I went back to the spot. Sitting on a high rock was that young leopard. Blood was dripping from a **gash** across his face. He sat there like he was 'king of the jungle'. I knew right then that he had taken over, that it was the beginning of a new journey for him. And for me."

**slumped** : fell heavily

**Guess the meaning :**

- felines

**sagging** : drooping lags

**gash** : long, deep cut

**Guess the meaning :**

• *chronicler*

**piece together :** create something by joining the separate parts of it together

**Shaaz named the leopards**

(1) .....

(2) .....

(3) .....

**incursions:** attacks

**The visitors are welcomed because** .....

.....

...

**Find :**

The Bison is .....

.....

Photographs of that leopard, the victor, Scarface, as Shaaz named him, not only made Shaaz famous among India's wildlife community, but also led to Shaaz's enviable reputation as a **chronicler** of the wild. "Through my journey of photographing Scarface, I have discovered other leopards, his mates and discovered his nemises— tigers. I also discovered the current protagonist of my work—*Saya*—while tracking Scarface. This is the world's first black panther, the behaviour of which is being documented so intimately on camera, by tracking its movements. So far all the research on the animal has been done through camera traps." Through many months of toil, Shaaz has managed to collect precious footage, including that of the animal mating, to **piece together** the incredible landscape of a black panther's life.

*Saya*, *Scarface* and *Pardus*, the leopard that lost to *Scarface*, have also led Shaaz down a different path of discovery. Learning about them and the loss to their habitat has led Shaaz to create the Buffer Conflict Resolution Trust of India (BCRTI). It's an agency that educates villagers who live on the fringe of the forest on the importance of conservation. "We are in the heart of the man-animal conflict zone," explains Shaaz. "There is no specific buffer zone here around Nagarhole. The core area of the forest ends where the fields begin. In dry season elephant and wild boar **incursions** into fields are very common. Older leopards, like *Pardus*, who have lost territory in the forest often carry away livestock from villages." This creates resentment among locals towards the animals on occasions leading to unpleasant situations.

Putting tourist currency to good use, under the BCRTI umbrella, Shaaz provides locals with vocational training, with the aim of educating locals on the merits of conservation and to help them benefit from tourist currency. The visitors at the resort are welcome to volunteer to teach a skills training class of their choice. The acquired skills enable locals to find employment with any of the numerous wildlife resorts in the region, if not in a faraway city.

Madegowda is one such local agriculturist who is trained at BCRTI and is now a certified naturalist employed by 'The Bison'. "In the past, I've lost almost 80 percent of a season's yield of sugarcane to such animal attacks. I used to hate them. But now I've learnt how

important these animals are and the value of protecting them,” he says. “I have known these jungles for 35 years. I know where the animals are and I realise I can guide visitors and get paid for it. In a way, the animals are paying me back.”

“The forests have taught me many things. For instance, listening is a sense far more important than sight. You have to switch off your vehicle, sit and listen, for the forest is constantly communicating— through the voices of birds and animals,” he explains. “Tracking an animal also teaches you life lessons. The black panther has taught me patience. But, above all, it has taught me to never stop discovering. There are just so many amazing experiences to learn and share with the world.”

*- CN Traveller Magazine published by Land Rover India*

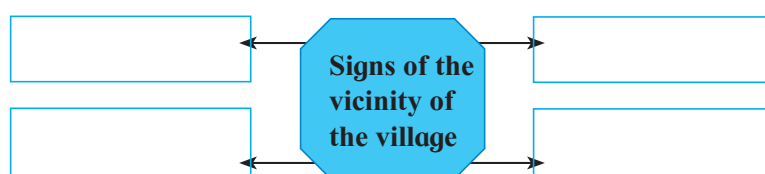


## BRAINSTORMING

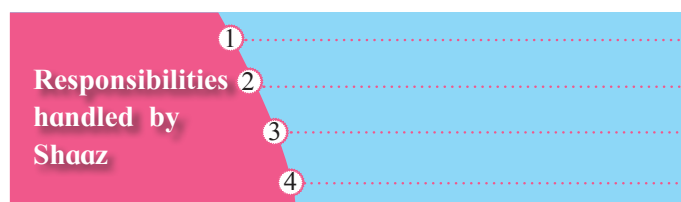
- (A1) (i) In pairs, discuss the professions and challenges one can take happily if one is really passionate about the job.
- (ii) In groups, organize a role play activity associated with ‘Wild Life Expert’/ ‘Wild Life Photographer’/ ‘Wild Life Conservator’, explaining the differences and similarities involved in their profession.
- (A2) (i) Arrange the following incidents in a proper sequential order as they have occurred in Part-I:
- (a) Writer realized that he was lost in the woods.
  - (b) The *Langurs* saw the leopard.
  - (c) The author was moving from the jungle as quietly as possible, finding his way through the thicket.
  - (d) The author met a villager.
- (ii) Correct the False statements. (Part-II)
- (a) Earlier Shaaz was in the field of finance.
  - (b) BCRTI was founded out of the genuine urge to conserve the habitat of the wild life.
  - (c) Shaaz failed to utilize the finance incurred out of tourism.
  - (d) According to the local agriculturist seeing is more essential than listening.



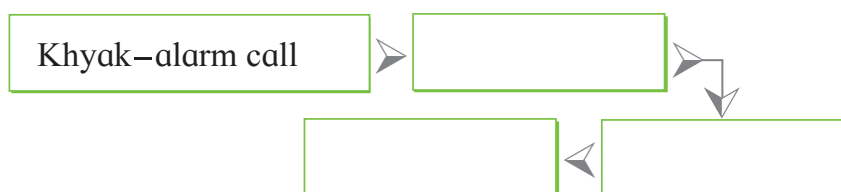
(iii) Complete the given web (Part-I).



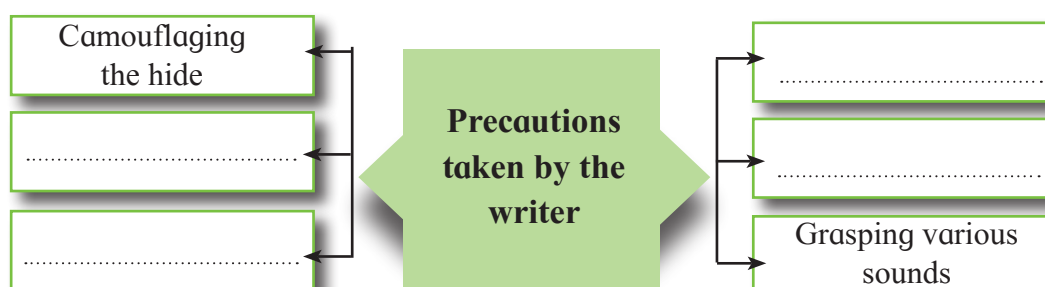
(iv) Complete the following (Part-II).



(v) Complete the flow-chart stating the reactions of the petrified *Langurs* due to the presence of the Leopard.



(vi) Complete the web, describing each step taken by the writer as a solitary traveller while moving in the jungle with great precaution:



(vii) Complete the table explaining the qualities that you would like to imbibe from Nature within yourself and provide the reasons for the same:

From	Quality	Reasons
Trees		
Streams		

(A3) (i) Choose appropriate phrases/expressions from the extract given in the brackets. (time and again, to one's heart's content, frantic speed, in a jiffy)

(a) I was on diet for some days but today I am going to eat .....

(b) Every mother scolds her children ..... for the overuse of the mobile phone.



- (c) All their educational problems were sorted out ..... because of the funds given by an NGO.
- (d) Raj ran at a ..... to catch the train.

**(A4) (i) Begin the following sentences with the words given in the brackets.**

- (a) I can guide visitors.  
(Visitors) .....
- (b) Animals are paying me back.  
(I) .....
- (c) The behaviour of the first black panther is being documented.  
(They) .....
- (d) All the research on the animal has been done through camera traps.  
(They) .....
- (e) Madegowda is employed by The Bison.  
(The Bison) .....
- (f) The surroundings were reminding me.  
(I) .....
- (g) Raju was amazed at my solitary visits to Umbarzara.  
(My solitary) .....
- (h) I found a bright red soil trial.  
(A) .....
- (i) Older leopards like *Pardus* carry away livestock from villages.  
(Livestock) .....
- (j) I have lost almost 80 percent of a season's yield of sugarcane.  
(80 percent) .....
- (k) Tracking an animal also teaches you life lessons.  
(Life lessons) .....
- (l) Many things have been taught to me by the forests.  
(The forests) .....
- (m) Resentment among locals towards the animals is created by this.  
(This) .....

**(ii) Rewrite the sentences by using 'not only....but also':**

- (a) The petrified *Langurs* speeded to the trees near and far and secured their places on the tree tops.
- (b) Umbarzara is the haven for Tigers, Leopards and Sloth Bears.

(c) I crossed the cement pillar and stones stacked by the Forest Development Corporation.

(A5) (i) Your college has decided to celebrate the World Environment Day. Mr Kiran Purandare has been invited as the 'Chief Guest' for the event. Imagine you are the Secretary of the 'Nature Club' of your college and you have to conduct an interview of Mr Kiran Purandare. Frame 8/10 questions for the same.

(ii) Imagine you have visited the jungles of Nagarhole. Write a report, to be published in your college magazine / in a local newspaper.

(iii) Shaaz has contributed towards conserving the wild animals and their habitat. Your college has decided to spread the message in the society and arrange a rally. Prepare an 'Appeal' to ensure maximum participation informing about the day, date and other relevant details.

(iv) Nature is a great teacher and a guide.

Complete the mind map as instructed as per the titled concept:



(A6) (i) Surf the net and obtain more information about the conservation work done by Shaaz. Prepare posters to inspire others and display them on your college noticeboard.

(ii) Find out the information about the qualification and eligibility required in the professions related to wild life such as ...

- Forest officer / Ranger
- Wildlife photographer
- Environmentalist
- Geologist
- Tour Manager

□□□