



Crunchy English Reader

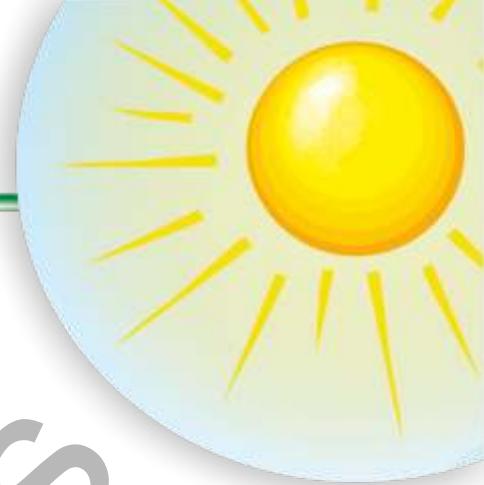
Main Course Book



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According to the National Education Policy (NEP)



Crunchy English Reader

An Integrated Course in English
Main Coursebook



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Our Editorial Board is highly thankful to the authors who worked hard for bringing out the book and to the teachers who offered valuable suggestions for its improvement.

Processed by :

Research & Development Department

First Edition 2024

CRUNCHY PUBLICATIONS (A UNIT OF BPPL)

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Preface...



Crunchy English Reader, *an Integrated Course in English* is a series of carefully graded text books intended to guide the students. It is a series of 8 books for classes I to VIII. In this series students are guided to work out language related problems in a practical manner through activities and writing after imagining. The book in this series mainly focus on interactive language. This series is innovative resource which will give them a sense of achievement and extend their English reading in as natural way as possible.

Key Features of Course books of the Series

- ◆ Text helps in enhancement of students' aptitude for language. A pre-reading before each text is intended to make the learner conscious of the theme concerned.
- ◆ **Warm up** to check the students eye-sense from the picture.
- ◆ **Test your knowledge** section contains objective type questions that forces the students to read between the lines, interpret, analyse and arrive at conclusion.
- ◆ The section '**Vocabulary**' as well as offering them opportunities for vocabulary expansion.
- ◆ Grammar under the section '**Grammar Skills**' has been presented in a systematic manner using the contexts in the texts. Abstract explanations have been kept to a minimum. Interesting and meaningful grammar practice help the learners to have a better command over English.
- ◆ The section '**Writing Skills**' is extremely important for learners. The tasks in this section are both interesting and challenging. These tasks provide learners guidance and prompts to produce a range of functional and imaginative written texts.
- ◆ The section '**Speaking Skills**' offers highly interesting classroom material by encouraging learners to do oral tasks that highlight the use of English in dynamic and functional contexts.
- ◆ The section '**Listening Skills**' helps children to add to their own ideas to increase social awareness and to become accustomed to correct usage and to listen for desired information.

We hope that **Crunchy English Reader**, *an Integrated Course in English* will encourage pupils to become more successful language learners by attempting extrapolatory questions and hence by becoming better thinkers. Not only this but a sense of self-worth will also be developed in learners. Besides this series will engage learners effectively as well as cognitively.

—Publisher



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The Story of Lazy Jack

Pre-Reading



Laziness can be very harmful for us. By being lazy we not only lose time but harm our health too.

Being lazy hinders our physical and mental growth.



Warm Up

Look at the picture below and describe it in a few lines.





Read and Enjoy

Let us read a story of a lazy boy who was also foolish.

There was once a boy who never did any work. Everyone called him Lazy Jack. Eventually he made his mother so angry she threatened to turn him out of the house. So Lazy Jack went to work for a farmer. At the end of a week the farmer gave him a penny. Not knowing about money, Jack was careless and lost his penny while crossing a stream on the way home.

'Silly boy,' said his mother. 'You should have put it carefully in your pocket.' 'I'll know better next time, Mother,' said Lazy Jack.

Let's Talk

- Do you get scolded by your parents? If yes, why do you get scolded usually? Discuss.

The following day he went to work for a dairyman. At the end of a week the dairyman gave him a jug of milk. Jack put the jug carefully in his pocket, but on the way home all the milk spilled out and ran down his trousers. 'Fool,' said his mother. 'You should have balanced it on your head.' 'I'll know better next time, Mother,' said Lazy Jack.

The following day he went to work for a cheeseman. At the end of a week the cheeseman gave Jack a soft cream cheese. He balanced the cheese on his head before he set off for home. By the time he arrived there, some of the cheese had fallen off, some had run down his cheeks and some had got stuck in his hair.

'Idiot!' cried his mother. 'You should have carried it in your hands.'

'I'll know better next time, Mother,' said Lazy Jack.

The following day he went to work for a baker. At the end of a week the baker gave him a cat. Jack picked up the cat and carried it in his hands. Before he had gone far, the cat scratched him so badly that Jack let it go.

Be Moral

What do you think are the benefits of an active lifestyle?



WORD-MEANING



threatened - to do something to buly,
cheeseman - one who makes cheese,
scratched - cut skin with nails



'You great **dunderhead**!' shouted his mother. 'You should have tied a string round it and pulled it along.'

'I'll know better next time, Mother,' said Lazy Jack.

The following day he went to work for a butcher. At the end of a week, the butcher gave him a fine leg of mutton. Jack tied a piece of string round the leg of mutton and **dragged** it along. By the time he came home, the mutton was all muddy and spoiled. 'You fool!' roared his mother. 'You should have carried it on your back.'

'I'll know better next time, Mother,' said Lazy Jack.

The following day he went to work for a herdsman. At the end of a week the herdsman gave him a donkey for his **labours**. With great difficulty Jack **hoisted** the donkey onto his back.

As he was **staggering** home, a splendid carriage passed him on the road. The carriage belonged to a rich man's daughter who had been deaf and dumb since birth. Doctors had said she would never be able to speak unless she learned how to laugh. When the rich man's daughter saw Jack walking with the donkey on his back, she burst into laughter. Then she began to speak. The rich man was so grateful that he gave Lazy Jack his daughter's hand in marriage. Jack became so rich that he never had to do another day's work in his life. It pleased everybody, especially his mother.

WORD-MEANING

dunderhead - a stupid person, **dragged** - to pull forcefully, **roared** - to make a loud, deep sound, **labours** - hard work, **hoisted** - to raise with ropes and pulley, **staggering** - deeply shocking

Think Out of Box

- Do you ever feel lazy after a lunch break in your school? Think of ways to overcome your laziness in school.





Alice in Wonderland

Pre-Reading



We all see dreams when we sleep. Some are sweet and sometimes they are scary.



We can be anything and do anything in our dreams like fly like birds or swim like fish.

Warm Up

Draw a dream that you remember in the space below and write a few lines on it.

A large dashed rectangular box for drawing and writing about a dream.

Read and Enjoy

Let's read story of Alice who goes to wonderland in her dreams.

Alice is quietly reading over her sister's shoulder when she sees a White Rabbit **dash across** the lawn and disappear into its hole. She jumps up to rush after him and finds herself falling down the rabbit hole. At the bottom, she sees the White Rabbit hurrying along a corridor ahead of her and **murmuring** that he will be late. He disappears around a corner, leaving Alice standing in front of several locked doors.



On a glass table, she finds a tiny golden key that unlocks a little door hidden behind a curtain. The door opens upon a lovely **miniature** garden, but Alice cannot get through the **doorway** because it is too small. She sadly replaces the key on the table. A little bottle **mysteriously** appears. Alice drinks the contents and immediately begins to grow smaller, so much, so that she can no longer reach the key on the table. Next, she eats a piece of cake she finds nearby, and soon she begins to grow to such an enormous size that she can only **squint** through the door. In despair, she begins to weep tears as big as raindrops. As she sits crying, the White Rabbit appears, **moaning** that the Duchess will be angry if he keeps her waiting. He drops his fan and gloves, and when Alice picks them up, she begins to grow smaller. Again she rushes to the garden door, but she finds it shut and the golden key once more on the table out of reach.

Then she falls into a pool of her own tears. Splashing along, she **encounters** a mouse who stumbled into the pool. Alice **tactlessly** begins a conversation about her cat Dinah,

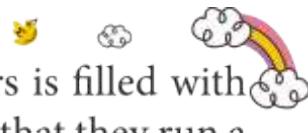
Let's Talk

- Have you been to an adventure park? If yes, share your experience in the class.

WORD-MEANING



dash across - to run quickly, **murmuring** - a low continuous sound , **miniature** - very small, **doorway**- an entrance to a room or building, **mysteriously** - difficult or impossible to understand, **squint** - to look at something with one or both eyes partly closed, **moaning** - a long, low sound, **encounters** - to meet some only unexpected, **tactlessly** - showing a lack of skill in dealing with others or difficult issues



and the mouse becomes speechless with terror. Soon the pool of tears is filled with living creatures—birds and animals of all kinds. An old Dodo suggests that they run a Caucus Race to get dry. Asking what a Caucus Race is, Alice is told that the best way to explain it is to do it, whereupon the animals run themselves quite breathless and finally become dry. Afterward, the mouse tells a “Tale” to match its own **appendage**. Alice is asked to tell something, but the only thing she can think of is her cat Dinah. Frightened, the other creatures go away, and Alice is left alone.

The White Rabbit appears once more, this time hunting for his gloves and fan. Catching sight of Alice, he sends her to his home to get him a fresh pair of gloves and another fan. In the Rabbit's house, she finds the fan and gloves and also takes a drink from a bottle. Instantly, she grows to be a giant size and is forced to put her leg up the chimney and her elbow out the window to keep from being squeezed to death.

She manages to eat a little cake and shrink herself again. As soon as she is small enough to get through the door, she runs into a nearby wood where she finds a caterpillar sitting on a mushroom. The caterpillar is very rude to Alice, and he **scornfully** asks her to prove her worth by reciting “You Are Old, Father William.” Alice does so, but the words sound very strange. Disgusted, he leaves her, after giving her some valuable information about increasing or decreasing her size. She breaks off pieces of the

mushroom and finds to her delight that she can become taller by eating from the piece in her left hand, shorter by eating from the piece in her right hand.

Think Out of Box

- Write a few lines on how would you feel if some day animals are able to talk like us.

She comes to a little house among the trees. Alice opens the door and finds



WORD-MEANING

appendage - a thing that is added or attached to something larger or more important,
scornfully - feeling or expressing something without respect





herself in the **chaotic** house of the Duchess. The cook is stirring a large pot of soup and pouring plenty of pepper into the mixture. Everyone is sneezing except the cook and a Cheshire cat, which sits on the hearth **grinning**. The Duchess holds a sneezing, **squalling** baby and sings a **blaring** lullaby to it. Alice, in sympathy with the poor child, picks it up and carries it out into the fresh air, whereupon the baby gradually turns into a pig, squirms out of her arms, and trots into the forest.

Standing in **bewilderment**, Alice sees the grinning Cheshire cat sitting in a tree. He is able to appear and disappear at will, and after exercising his talents, he advises Alice to go to a tea party given by the Mad Hatter. The cat vanishes, all but the grin. When that, too, finally disappears, Alice leaves for the party.

From the Real World

Humans spend more than 2 hours every night dreaming. Dreams can last from 5 minutes to 20 minutes. But what are dreams? Dreams are stories and images our brain creates while we sleep. They can be happy, sad or scary.

Have ever your dream come true?

Many times our dreams come true during the daytime when we are awake or sometimes what we had experienced while we were awake. Scientists are conducting research on dreams to find out why exactly do we dream.

There, Alice has to deal with the strangest people she has ever seen - a March Hare, a Mad Hatter, and a sleepy Dormouse. All are too lazy to set the table afresh, and dirty dishes from **preceding** meals lie next to clean ones. The Dormouse falls asleep in its teacup, the Mad Hatter tells Alice her hair needs cutting, and the March Hare offers her wine and then tells her there is none. They ask her foolish riddles that have no answers, and then they ignore her completely and carry on a **ridiculous** conversation among themselves. She escapes after the Dormouse falls asleep in the middle of a story he is telling.

Next, she finds herself in a garden of rose trees. Some gardeners appear with paintbrushes and begin to splash red paint on a white rose. Alice learns that the Queen ordered a red

WORD-MEANING

chaotic - without an order, **grinning** - smiling broadly, **squalling** - to cry continuously, **blaring** - to make a loud, harsh sound, **bewilderment** - a feeling of being confused, **preceding** - come before in time or position, **ridiculous** - funny



rose to be planted in that spot, and the gardeners are busily and fearfully trying to cover their error before the Queen arrives. The poor gardeners, however, are not swift enough. The Queen catches them in the act, and the wretched gardeners are led off to be **decapitated**. Alice saves them by **shoving** them down into a large flower pot, out of sight of the Queen.

A croquet game begins. The mallets are live flamingos, and the balls are hedgehogs which think nothing but **uncurling** themselves and running rapidly over the field. The Duchess corners Alice and leads her away to the seaside to introduce her to the Mock Turtle and the Gryphon. While engaged in a Lobster Quadrille, they hear the news of a trial. A thief stole some tarts. Rushing to the courtroom where a trial by jury is already in session, Alice is called upon to act as a witness before the King and Queen of Hearts, but the excited child upsets the jury box and spills out all of its occupants. After replacing all the animals in the box, Alice says she knows nothing of the matter. Her speech **infuriates** the Queen, who orders that Alice's head be cut off. The whole court rushes towards her, and Alice defiantly calls them nothing but a pack of cards. She awakens from her dream as her sister brushes away some dead leaves blowing over Alice's face.

WORD-MEANING

decapitated - having had the head cut off, **shoving** - push roughly, **uncurling** - straighten,
infuriates - to make somebody extremely angry



Test Your Knowledge

As per NEP 2020

A. Tick (✓) the correct answer.

1. On a glass, Alice finds a tiny
 - a. black way
 - b. golden key
 - c. silver key
2. Soon the pool of tears is filled with
 - a. non-living creatures
 - b. dead creatures
 - c. living creatures





Forest Fire

Pre-Reading



Every year during the summer time, forest fires occur due to heat and rising temperatures. Forest fires kill many animals and burn down many trees.

Sometimes forest fires take place due to human errors. Forest fires destroy anything that comes in its way.



Warm Up

Look at the picture below and describe the scene in a few lines.





Read and Enjoy

Let's read a story about forest fires and see how animals and humans alike are affected by it.

Paras was about to **mount** his bicycle. Suddenly, he spotted smoke rising from behind the distant line of trees.

'It looks like a forest fire,' said Somesh to his friend.

'It's nowhere near the road,' said Paras.

'There's a strong wind,' said Somesh, looking at the dry leaves **swirling** across the road. It was the middle of May, and it hadn't rained for several weeks.

The grass was brown and the leaves of the trees were covered with dust. Even though it was about six o' clock in the evening, the boys' shirts were damp with sweat.

'It will be getting dark soon,' said Somesh. 'You'd better spend the night at my house.'

'No, Somesh,' said Paras. 'I need to be home tonight. My father isn't keeping well. The doctor has given me some **pills** for him.'

'You'd better hurry, then. That fire seems to be spreading,' said Somesh.

'It will take me only forty minutes to ride through the forest. Bye, Somesh, see you tomorrow!'

Paras mounted his bicycle and set out. His village was about seven miles on the other side of the forest. He rode **swiftly** out of the village. Ahead of him, the smoke rose from the burning forest and the sky glowed red. He soon left the village far behind. He was now pedalling on the edge of the forest. This was the part Paras enjoyed the most. The wind was rushing past him, blowing his hair about his face and making his shirt **billow** out behind him. He burst into a song.

WORD-MEANING

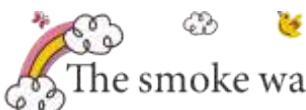
mount - to get on a bicycle, **swirling** - to make circular motion, **pills** - medicines, **swiftly** - quickly, **billow** - to fill with air and move with wind



Let's Talk

- Discuss with your classmates about how you feel during the summer season and what you like to do during the hot summer days.





The smoke was thicker now, and Paras caught the smell of burning **timber**. But ahead of him the road was clear. He rode on. It was a rough, dusty road through the forest. Tall trees grew on either side. But the spreading glow of the fire on the right lit up the road.

Usually the road was **deserted**. But this evening wild creatures were fleeing from the forest fire. The first animal that Paraas saw was a hare, **leaping** across the road in front of him. It was followed by several more hares. Then, a band of monkeys ran across, **chattering** excitedly.

They'll be safe on the other side, thought Paras. The fire won't cross the road. But it was coming closer. Paras **pedalled** harder. He thought, in half an hour he should be out of the forest.

Be Moral

Do you think forest fires are good for environment? Why

Think Out of Box

- Write a few lines on what you would do if a fire breaks in your neighbour's house.



Suddenly, from the side of the road, several **pheasants** rose in the air, and with a whoosh, landed just in front of the oncoming bicycle. Taken by surprise, Paras fell off the bicycle. He got up and saw that his knee was bleeding. It wasn't a deep cut. He took out his handkerchief and bandaged his knee. Then, he mounted the bicycle again.

He rode a bit slower now, because birds and animals kept coming out of the bushes. Smaller birds too were rushing across the road – parrots, jungle crows, owls, magpies and the air was filled with their cries.

Paras could see the flames from behind the trees on his right, and he could hear the crackling as dry leaves caught fire. The air was hot on his face.

A herd of deer crossed the road and Paras had to stop until they had passed. Then he rode on; but, now he was feeling afraid.

WORD MEANING

timber - a large piece of wood, **deserted** - empty, **leaping** - to jump high, **chattering** - to speak quickly, **pedalled** - to pedal a cycle, **pheasants** - a type of bird with a long tail

From the Real World

Forest fires are a regular phenomenon across the world. Between November 2020 and June 2021 around 50 thousand forest fires were detected. Reports say that humans are responsible for 75% of wild fires due to their activities such as burning dried leaves and cutting trees for timber.

Do you think humans should start wildfires for their interest?

No, forest fires are very dangerous for the nature and animals. Many animals die due to forest fires and lots of harmful gases are emitted during forest fires. Apart from this, many trees are burned down.

From ahead came a faint **clanging** sound. A fire engine? There were no fire engines within fifty miles. Soon Paras discovered that the noise came from a small boy who was running along the forest path with two milk cans clattering at his side.

'Nikhil!' called Paras, recognizing the boy.

'What are you doing here?'

'Trying to get home, of course,' said Nikhil, **panting** along beside the bicycle.

'Jump on,' said Paras, stopping for him.

Nikhil was only eight or nine – a couple of years younger than Paras. He had come to deliver milk to some road workers, but the workers had left at the first sign of the fire, and Nikhil was hurrying home with his cans still full of milk.

He got up on the carrier of the bicycle, and Paras moved on again.

'I will keep beating your milk cans so that the animals will be known we are coming,' said Paras. 'My bell doesn't make enough noise.'

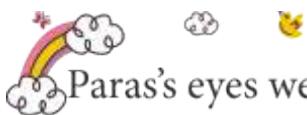
The fire was much closer now. Flames shot up. Smoke billowed out above the forest.

WORD-MEANING



clanging - to make a loud ringing sound, **panting** - to breathe quickly





Paras's eyes were burning but he couldn't stop now. Another fifteen minutes of steady riding would get them to the small wooden bridge on the river that separated the forest from the sugar cane fields. Once across the river, they would be safe. Clang, clang, clang, went Nikhil's milk cans. But the sounds of the fire grew louder too.

'Oh. Look!' exclaimed Paras, bringing the bicycle to a sudden stop.

An elephant was standing in the middle of the road. It moved about **restlessly**, its big ears flapping, wondering which way to go. From the left, where the forest was still untouched by fire, a herd of elephants moved towards the river. The leader of the herd raised his trunk and trumpeted a call. Hearing it, the elephants on the road raised its own trunk and **trumped** a reply. Then it walked off into the forest, in the direction of the herd.

'Come, Nikhil, jump on!' urged Paras. 'We can't stay here much longer'!

Nikhil sat on the crossbar. Paras pedalled swiftly.

'We're nearly there!' said Nikhil.

On their way they saw a jackal in the middle of the path. It was either dead or **unconscious** because of the heat and smoke. Paras rode at top speed. They were close to the river.

Paras and Nikhil went into the water. The water was only knee deep but it was very cold. Together they pulled the bicycle through the water.

The river was quite swift in the middle. They kicked off their shoes, knowing that the shoes would be lost.

Then, gripping the smooth stones of the river bed with their toes, they reached the opposite bank and sank down on the grass.

'We can rest now,' said Paras.

They watched the fire as it continued to spread. It had crossed the road down which they had come. The sky was bright red, and the river reflected the colour of the sky.

Several elephants had found their way down to the river. They were cooling off by spraying water on each other with their trunks. Further **downstream**, there were deer and other animals.

Paras and Nikhil looked at each other in the glow of the fire. They hadn't known each other very well before. But now they felt they had been friends for years.

WORD-MEANING



restlessly - without quickly, **trumped** - the sound elephants make, **unconscious** - in a state of deep sleep, **downstream** - in the direction in which the river or stream flow





A Little Brave Boy

Pre-Reading



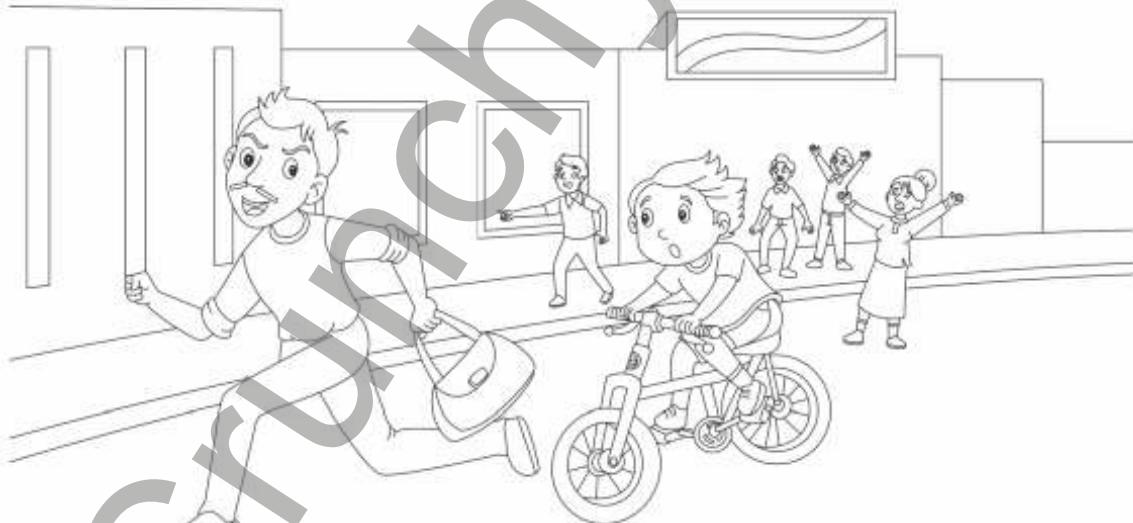
Bravery and courage are essential qualities that are appreciated by everyone. During critical situations, we should be alert and brave.

When we are alert we can avert many dangers to others and ourselves.



Warm Up

Colour the picture given below and describe the scene.





Read and Enjoy

Let's read a story of a young brave boy who saved his country with his courage and bravery.

Many years ago, there lived a bright, friendly boy named Hans Brinker, in Haarlem. His father worked at the **dyke**. His job was to open and close the large gates at the entrances of the **canals** to control the flow of water. He had to close the gates carefully at night, else the water would soon overflow and flood the place.

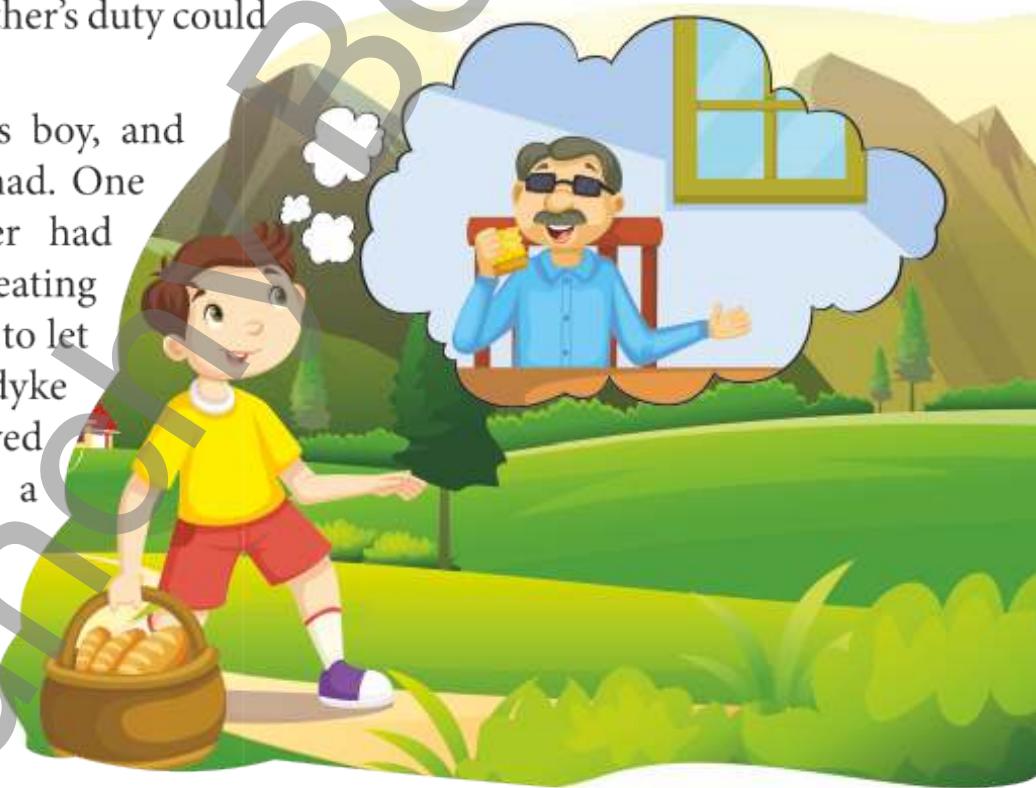
Hans's father had told him that a big part of their country lay lower than the level of the sea. For a very long time, in the past, **Hollanders** used **mounds** of earth to save their land from tides. Now, they had learnt to construct dykes or barriers. Hans knew that a moment's neglect of his father's duty could cause **destruction** and death.

Hans was a caring and selfless boy, and always wanted to share all he had. One bright spring day, his mother had made his favourite cake. After eating his share, he begged his mother to let him go to the other side of the dyke to see a poor blind man who lived there. He wanted to give him a portion of the delicious cake.

His mother was pleased that her little boy had thought of the poor old man. She at once brought a basket and filled it with cakes for him to carry to the man. Hans's father made his eight-year-old son promise not to stay out too late.

Let's Talk

- Do you know your parent's occupation? If yes, explain their occupation in the class.



WORD MEANING

dyke - a long wall built to prevent flooding, **canal** - a waterways constructed for boats and ships, **Hollanders** - people of the Netherlands, **mounds** - a large pile of stones, **destruction** - damage



Soon the boy was on his way, thinking how happy the old man would be. The little fellow was not mistaken. The old man was **delighted** to have the cake. After spending an hour with him, Hans said goodbye and started for his home.

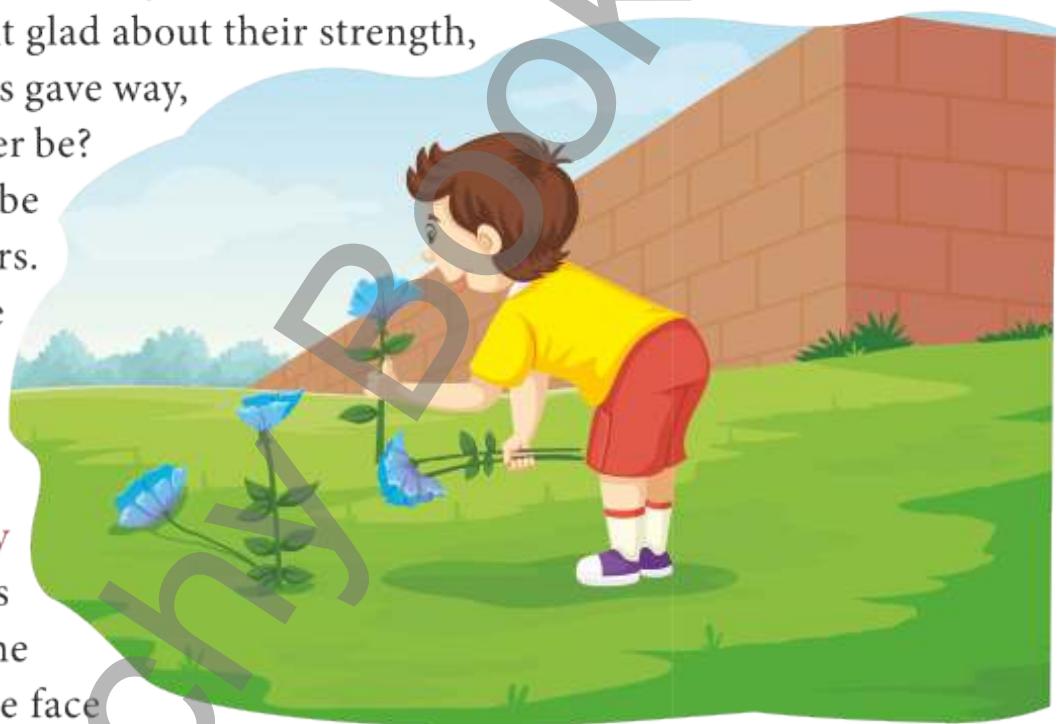
His path lay beside the dyke. Along its grassy banks grew beautiful wild flowers, so attractive that Hans picked a bunch of them for his mother. He walked home, **humming** a happy song. As he was walking along the canal, he thought of his father's brave old gates and felt glad about their strength, for, thought Hans, 'If the dykes gave way, where would father and mother be?

These pretty fields would all be covered with the angry waters. Father always calls them the "angry" waters. I suppose he thinks they are mad at him for keeping them out so long.' He also listened to the **stealthy** sound of a rabbit in the grass and smiled as he recalled the happy light he had seen on the face of his blind old friend.

Suddenly, he noticed that the sun was setting and he was still some distance from home. It was growing dark and even the blue flowers had turned to grey. But just as he began to walk quickly, he heard the sound of **trickling** water. Where did it come from? He looked up and saw a small hole in the dyke through which a tiny stream was flowing. Any child in Holland would be filled with fear at the thought of a leak in the dyke. Hans understood the danger. That little hole would soon become a large one and result in a **terrible** flood.

Be Moral

Do you think we must help our parents in their work? How do you help your parents or grandparents?



WORD-MEANING

delighted - great pleasure, **humming** - low, steady sound like that of a bee, **stealthy** - hidden, **trickling** - flow in a small stream, **terrible** - extremely bad





Quick as a flash, he saw his duty. Throwing away his flowers, the boy **clambered** up the heights until he reached the hole. He saw the leak could be stopped with one finger. So, he **thrust** his chubby little finger in the hole. The flow stopped! ‘Ah!’ he thought. ‘Haarlem shall not be drowned while I am here!’

The night was falling rapidly. Chilly **vapours** filled the air. Our little hero began to **tremble** with cold and fear. He shouted loudly, ‘Come here! Come here! Come here!’ but no one came. The cold grew more severe. His tired little finger began to become numb. The ache spread to his arm, and soon his whole body was paining.

He shouted again, ‘Will no one come? Mother! Mother!’ At home, his mother had already locked the doors and had resolved to scold him, when he returned, for keeping out of the house for long. Han tried to whistle but his teeth chattered with cold, so, it was impossible. Yet, he was determined. He thought, ‘I will stay here till morning.’

Think Out of Box

While going back home from your school, you see an old lady stuck in a house on fire. Discuss what would you do to save the old lady.

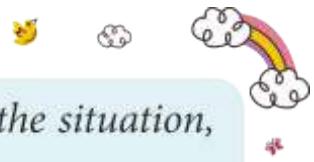
From the Real World

Shivampet Ruchitha became the youngest person to receive the National Bravery Award at the age of eight. Ruchita saved two of her schoolmates when a train hit her school bus in 2014.

WORD-MEANING

clambered - climb with both hands and feet, **thrust** - push suddenly, **vapours** - mist, **tremble** - to shake with fear or cold,





Do you think Ruchitha should have saved herself and run away from the situation, leaving other schoolmates injured in the bus?

No, we must help others in a challenging situation. If we are fine and can help others then we should help people in trouble.

The midnight moon looked down upon that small boy sitting alone upon a stone, halfway up the dyke. His head was bent but he was not asleep. He waited for someone to come.

He knew if he drew away his finger, the angry waters would rush forth over the town.

No, he would hold it there till daylight—if he lived!

At daybreak, he saw a man with a lantern in his hand. He was a labourer returning after work all night. The man thought he heard groans as he walked along on the top of the dyke. Bending, he saw, far down on the side, a child **writhing** with pain.

‘In the name of wonder, boy,’ he exclaimed, ‘what are you doing there?’

‘I am keeping the water from running out,’ was the simple answer of the little hero.
‘Tell them to come quick.’

It is needless to add that they did come quickly. The town of Haarlem and a great part of Holland was saved!

Years passed, many things were forgotten but the country is still grateful to the little hero who kept his finger in the dyke.

WORD-MEANING

writhing : to twist/more in pain

Test Your Knowledge

As per NEP 2020

A. Fill in the blanks.

1. Hans Brinker lived in _____.
2. His father worked at the _____.
3. _____ used _____ of earth to save their land from tides.
4. Hans was a _____ and _____ boy, and always wanted to share all he had.
5. Hans wanted to give the poor blind man a _____ of the _____ cake.





King Dushyanta and Shakuntala

Pre-Reading



Sometimes we get so lost in our thoughts that we forget where we are and who is around us.



Yes, we even forget to respect our elders and greet them when we meet them.

Warm Up

Look at the picture given below. Identify the animals and write their names in the space provided.





Read and Enjoy

Let's read a story of how King Dushyanta forgot his wife Shakuntala after a sage cursed her for being lost in her thoughts.

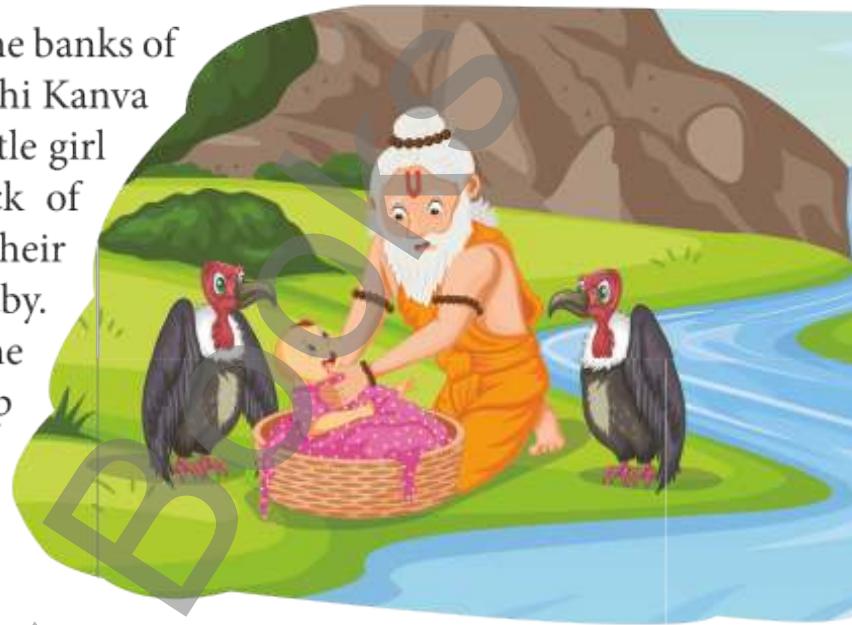
Once there lived a great and wise sage by the name Kanya.

His ashram was in the heart of a forest on the banks of the River Malini. One hot summer day, Rishi Kanya went to take a dip in the river. He saw a little girl lying all alone on the **riverbank**. A pack of vultures was sitting around the child with their wings spread out trying to protect the baby. The sage bent down to see the little girl. She was very beautiful. Kanya gently picked up the baby and took her to the ashram. There at the ashram, the sage handed over the baby to his sister Gautami. Gautami named the baby, Shakuntala.

Shakuntala grew up to be a beautiful young woman. All the ashram people loved her. Anasuya and Priyamvada were Shakuntala's best friends and **attendants**. Shakuntala helped Gautami in her daily work and also watered the plants.

One day Kanya decided to go on a **pilgrimage**. He called Shakuntala and her **companions** and told them to take care of the ashram and receive the guests in his absence.

One day, the girls were busy in their work. Shakuntala was patting her pet deer in her lap. It was then that she found a handsome young man **gazing** at her.



Let's Talk

- Have you ever visited a holy place? If yes, then describe your visit.

Be Moral

Do you greet your elders when you meet them? How do you show respect and greet them? Discuss.

WORD MEANING

riverbank - the land on the edge of a river, **attendants** - persons who provide service assistant, **pilgrimage** - religious journey, **companions** - partners, **gazing** - to look steadily



The stranger asked the girls if they could direct him towards Kanva's ashram. He desired to pay his respects to the great sage.

Shakuntala invited the guest to the ashram. She soon realised that the visitor was the great King Dushyanta. Dushyanta was attracted by Shakuntala's charm and beauty.

Dushyanta wanted to marry Shakuntala and make her his queen. Shakuntala was **unwilling** to marry without the **consent** of Kanva, her foster father. But Dushyanta was not in a position to stay there longer as it was not known when Kanva was returning.

So, Dushyanta and Shakuntala got married and the King returned to the palace after a few days. Before leaving, the King gave her a ring, which had his name over it. He promised Shakuntala that he would be back soon to take her along.

After Dushyanta left, a change came over Shakuntala. The cheerful young woman became quiet and **thoughtful**. She spent hours in thoughts. Her friends realised that she was thinking about her husband.

A few days passed. One day the most **hot-headed** sage Durvasa paid a visit to the ashram. Shakuntala did not see the sage as she was lost in her thoughts.

He was greatly **annoyed** and in his anger he cursed Shakuntala, 'The man who has made you forget your duty will himself forget you. He will not remember you even when he sees you.' Shakuntala heard this. So did Anasuya and Priyamvada. They fell at Durvasa's feet and begged for forgiveness. At last, Durvasa took pity and said, 'I cannot take back my curse. But Dushyanta will remember you as soon as he sees the ring he had presented to you.'

WORD-MEANING

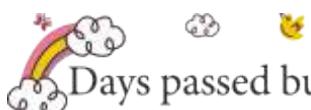
unwilling - not ready, **consent** - permission, **thoughtful** - thinking deeply, **hot headed** - hot-tempered, **annoyed** - irritated, **eagerly** - keenly



Think Out of Box

- What would you do if someone annoys you? Would you become angry and shout or stay calm and politely ask them to change their behaviour.





Days passed but Dushyanta did not come. Nor did he send any messenger. Shortly afterwards, Kanva came back. He was very happy to hear of Shakuntala's marriage.

Shakuntala was **eagerly** waiting for Dushyanta's messenger to come and take her. But no one came and Shakuntala was sad. She now decided to go to the palace of Dushyanta.

It was a very long journey. Shakuntala and her servants had to cross several rivers and mountains. On the way they decided to bathe in a river.

Unfortunately, while bathing, Shakuntala lost the ring which the King had given her. The ring was the only proof of their marriage. Besides, Durvasa Muni had told her that the King would remember her only if he saw the ring. So, she and her servants searched for the ring everywhere. But they could not find it. She feared that the King would forget her due to Muni Durvasa's curse. So she presented herself before the King with a heavy heart.

From the Real World

Roopa, a ten year old girl, is hot-tempered child who gets annoyed easily. One day, she was annoyed about her bad performance in a class test. When her best friend asked her to come and play with her, she angrily replied to her. This made her best friend very unhappy. Roopa felt sad as her best friend stopped talking to her.

Do you think Roopa's behaviour was not correct? What should Roopa do now?

Roopa's behaviour was incorrect as we should not be rude to anyone even when we are annoyed. Roopa must apologise to her best friend for her behaviour.



She said to the King, 'I am Shakuntala, your dear wife whom you married in the ashram of Kanva Muni.'

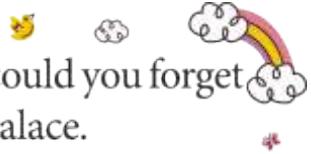
Dushyanta was **puzzled**. He could not remember that he married any girl in the ashram.

WORD-MEANING

puzzled - to feel confused



Shakuntala tried to remind him of their meeting and their marriage. 'How could you forget everything?' Shakuntala asked with tears in her eyes. Finally, she left the palace.



After a few days, the soldiers caught a fisherman who was trying to sell the ring which had Dushyanta's name. The fisherman had got the ring when he cut a fish he had caught from the river.

The soldiers **presented** the fisherman and the ring to the King. On seeing the ring, Dushyanta remembered everything. His mind was filled with **guilt**. He wanted to see Shakuntala at once. Messengers were sent everywhere but nobody could trace Shakuntala. Dushyanta spent days in great sorrow.

One day the King was wandering in the mountains. He came across a handsome and brave boy who was playing with a lion cub. The King asked his name. The boy replied, 'My name is Sarvadaman. I am the son of King Dushyanta.' Dushyanta came to know that he was his own son and picked him up. He wanted to ask the boy about his mother. Just then he saw Shakuntala coming.

Dushyanta told her how he had got the ring and how he remembered everything. Shakuntala forgave the King because she knew that it was not his **fault**.

Dushyanta asked Shakuntala and Sarvadaman to return to the palace.

Just then they heard a voice from heaven. It spoke to Dushyanta, 'Take your faithful wife and son with you. Your son shall be the greatest ruler of all the times; call him Bharat.'

WORD-MEANING



presented - handed over, **guilt** - a feeling of worry or unhappiness, **fault** - responsibility for a mistake

Test Your Knowledge

As per NEP 2020

A. Write T for true or F for false statement.

1. Shakuntala was the daughter of Rishi Kanva.
2. Dushyanta was attracted by Shakuntala's charm and beauty.
3. Kanva was angry after hearing about Shakuntala's marriage.
4. Shakuntala forgot about her marriage with king Dushyanta.
5. Sarvadaman was the son of king Dushyanta and Shakuntala.





Hard Work Leads to Success

Pre-Reading



Sometimes children at a young age start stammering due to low confidence or fear. Children stutter and be afraid of speaking in public.



We can help these children overcome their problem by boosting their confidence and helping with speech therapy.

Warm Up

Look at the picture given below and describe the scene in a few lines.





Read and Enjoy

Let us read the story of a boy who stammered while speaking and how he overcame his problem.

Prashant is a student of class four. He is a very bright student. Prashant also plays in the sub-junior basketball team of his school. He is good at drawings too. Prashant has won many prizes in the drawing competitions in his school. All the teachers liked him and he is liked by his classmates too. He is a very gentle and helpful boy.

However, there is one problem with Prashant. He lacks clear speech.

He **stammers** while speaking. His stammering problem often **disheartens** him. Prashant is trying hard to **overcome** it and he is confident about it.

His parents always support him and **encourage** him.

Prashant visits Dr Verma with his mother everyday. Dr Verma is a speech **therapist** and many children visit his clinic for speech related problems. Prashant is also taking speech therapy with Dr Verma.

Let's Talk

- Do you know any child who has speech problem?
- How do you think we can help stammering children overcome the problem?

He is working very hard. Many times he feels tired. He has to prepare for class tests or practice for his matches, but he makes sure that he never misses his speech therapy session with Dr Verma.

Dr Verma has been guiding very patiently and helping Prashant to overcome his problem with speech.

WORD MEANING

stammers - to speak with a stutter, **disheartens** - to lose hope or confidence, **overcome** - to succeed in dealing with or controlling a problem, **encourage** - persuade, **therapist** - a person skilled in a particular therapy





His parents are also working very hard to boost his confidence. Prashant's class teacher, Mrs Renu, is also aware of his efforts and has been observing the improvement he has been making.

Be Moral

Do you think is it okay to make fun of children with speech impairments? Why?

One day, Mrs Renu made an announcement in the class, "Students willing to participate in the **extempore** competition may raise their hands." Among the several raised hands, was Prashant's hand too.

Mrs Renu noted down their names and on finding Prashant's name she smiled and said, "Good Prashant." Prashant also replied confidently, "Thank you ma'am!" Prashant's friends encouraged him and some also gave him a thumbs up sound. They were confident that Prashant would do it. However some of them were **skeptical**. Mrs Renu explained the rule of the competition, "You have to speak for about 3 minutes extempore on a topic given to you."

Think Out of Box

- Have you participated in a competition on a stage? Do you have stage fear? Think of ways you can overcome stage fear.

Prashant listened everything carefully.

He knew that it was an extempore competition. He was confident that he could come up with great ideas and arguments at a moments notice.

He knew that he was fast enough in gathering information into a perfect presentation.

That evening he announced this to his parents.

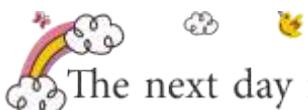
"I have given my name for the competition." His father said happily, "That is absolutely **marvellous**." His elder sister Preeti offered help to Prashant in his practice for the competition.

That night Prashant practised with Preeti and was able to speak with hardly any **stuttering**. She gave him confidence by saying, "You will definitely do well."

WORD-MEANING

improvement - an act of making something better, **extempore** - spoken without preparation, **skeptical** - having doubt, **marvellous** - extraordinary, **stuttering** - to speak in irregular way





The next day in the school everyone was present in the hall. Among the choice of subjects Prashant chose “Try your Best to Win.” As Prashant began his speech, he stammered a little but later on he became more and more confident.

From the Real World

Hritik Roshan, an Indian movie star, is a very famous and popular actor. He used to stammer as a child and went for speech therapy to overcome his impairment. He said that he was teased as a child for stammering. But he always dreamt of becoming an actor and worked hard to improve his speech exercise.

Do you think we can overcome our limitations?

Yes, with perseverance, will power and determination we can overcome any problem.



He got **stuck** on the word ‘perseverance’ but did not give up and ended his speech with full confidence. Everyone **applauded** for his speech. He was given a special prize by the Principal for trying too hard. The Principal said, “You have come a long way Prashant. It proves that if you practice well, you can achieve anything. Keep it up.”

That evening Prashant got a pat on his back from his father. His father said, “Prashant if you keep trying, one day you will become a great speaker. Hard work always bears fruit.”

WORD-MEANING

stuck - unable to move, **applauded** - clapped





Chatrapati Shivaji

Pre-Reading



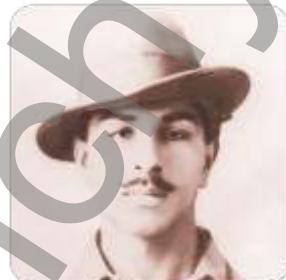
India has seen many great heroes and warriors. They have fought for the freedom of country from outside and within our country.



Great leaders have shown the right direction to the people of our country and made it great.

Warm Up

Identify the following freedom fighters and write their names below.



Read and Enjoy

Let us read about the story of Chhatrapati Shivaji who proved that he was a great warrior.

India is a country of great heroes and leaders. They play an important part in making **community** living happier. They face hardships and dangers and even sacrifice their lives for the good of the people.

Chhatrapati Shivaji was one of the noblest sons of India. Shivaji was born in 1627 at the hill-Fort of Shivneri in Maharashtra. His mother, Jijabai, **moulded** his character very carefully. She told him the stories of great heroes of our epics, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. She set for him the noble idea of a free **sovereign** state for the people of Maharashtra. Dadoji Konddev trained him in the use of arms.

Thanks to the teachings and guidance of Jijabai and Dadoji Konddev, Shivaji came to cherish the idea of swaraj. He also got the blessings of the great saint poets like Swami Ramdas and Tukaram. They helped him by bringing about a great **awakening** and a sense of unity among the people.



Let's Talk

- Have you heard stories of our great freedom fighters? Discuss about your favourite freedom fighter.

Be Moral

Why do you think it is important to have a free country than being ruled by a monarch?

WORD-MEANING

community - a group of people living in the same place, **moulded** - to try to change or influence someone, **sovereign** - a monarch, ruler, **awakening** - to become aware

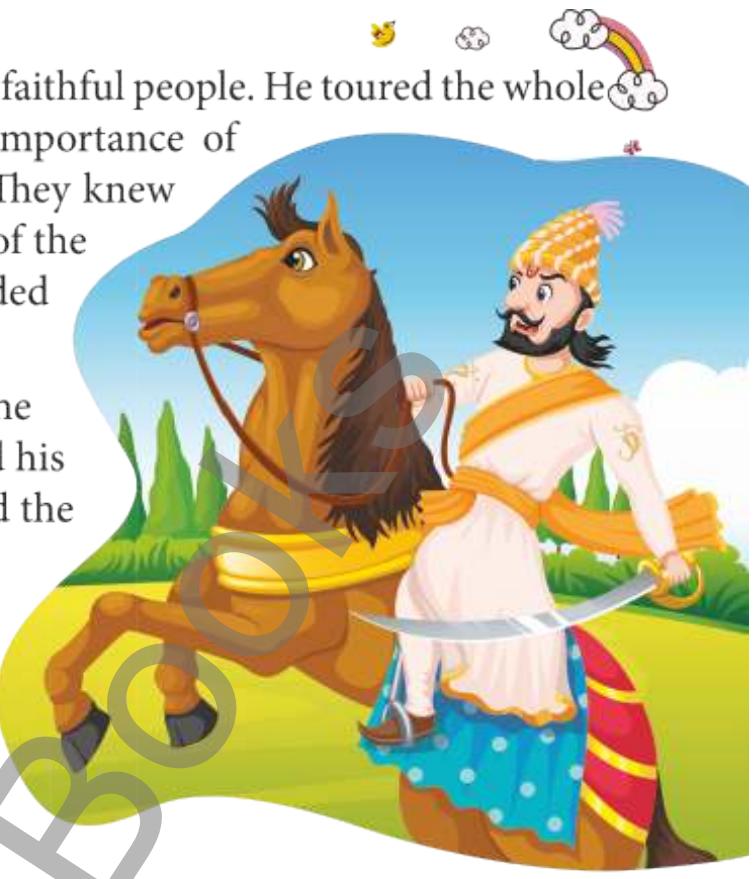


Shivaji began organising an army of the brave and faithful people. He toured the whole Maharashtra explaining the people about the importance of swaraj. The people readily flocked around him. They knew that Shivaji would free them from the cruel rule of the Sultans of Delhi and Bijapur. Shivaji soon succeeded in raising an army of devoted freedom fighters.

Shivaji then launched a **campaign** for capturing the hill forts and the surrounding regions. He trained his soldiers in **guerilla warfare**; harassed and defeated the massive armies of the enemy, again and again.

Shivaji inspired every soldier to fight with all his might.

He continued to deal blow after blow at the enemy. At last, he succeeded in establishing swaraj. He made Raigarh the capital of his kingdom.



Think Out of Box

- Discuss a few international as well as Indian martial art forms (for example Karate, Judo, Kalaripayattu, etc.)

Shivaji was a brave and fearless warrior. Due to his **expertise** in mountain warfare, he has been given the title of the 'The Mountain Rat'. He was also an able **administrator** and a **far-sighted** statesman. His **defence** organization was superb. He was the only ruler of his time who had built a powerful navy. In his swaraj, every person had freedom of worship. He respected other religions as much as his own.

Shivaji was an **obedient** and loving son. He was crowned Chhatrapati in 1674, and dedicated his whole life to the well-being of the community. Shivaji was great in every sense of the word.

WORD-MEANING



campaign - a series of military operation to achieve, **guerilla warfare** - techniques used in war fought by small groups against large forces, **expertise** - expert skills, **administrator** - manager, **far-sighted** - who can imagine the future, **defence** - shielding, **obedient** - respectful





How World Got Wisdom

Pre-Reading



Wisdom is the knowledge of doing things the right way. People who have wisdom are called wise.

We must share our wisdom with everyone. By sharing wisdom we share knowledge with everyone.



Warm Up

*Identify the Hindu Goddess of knowledge and wisdom and write her name.
Also colour the picture.*



Handwriting practice lines for writing the name of the goddess.



Read and Enjoy

Let us read the story of greedy Anansi who has all his wisdom but at last he spreads his wisdom in the four corners of the world.

Anansi is one of the most popular characters in folk tales from Ghana, Africa. He often takes the shape of a spider and is believed to be the spirit of all knowledge related to stories.

Long long ago people didn't know anything. They didn't know how to plant crops or how to weave clothes or how to make iron tools. And the god Nyame up in the sky had all the wisdom of the world. He kept all the wisdom stored up in a clay pot. One day Nyame gave the pot with all wisdom to Anansi.

Every time Anansi looked into the clay pot, he learned something new and he answered a hundred other such questions of people everyday. People paid him for all his wisdom, and he grew rich and his family was never hungry. It was so exciting! But greedy Anansi thought, "I will keep all this wisdom to myself. I don't want to share it with anyone." Anansi thought it would be a good idea to keep the pot with the wisdom safe at the top of a tall tree, where nobody else could get it.

Now, Anansi's son, Kweku Tsin, was as smart and tricky as his father. He suspected that Anansi had some secret pot. He decided to follow. He walked behind his father and his big pot, until the old man came to the tallest tree in the forest.

Anansi strapped the pot in front of his body, and tried to climb the tree. But try as he might, he could not get beyond the first branch but he fell down to the ground.

WORD-MEANING

folk - A story or legend in popular culture
suspected - have an idea or impression.

strapped - tied



Let's Talk

- Do you know any Indian folk tales about wisdom and knowledge. Share in the class with your classmates.

Be Moral

Do you think its true that 'wisdom and knowledge increase when shared with others'? Discuss.





‘Ouch!’ He stood up and rubbed a bruise on his back. Not one to give up easily, he started to climb again. This time he reached the second branch before falling back to the ground.

‘Ooooh, ouch!’

The third time, Anansi tried to climb the tree, and on this occasion he just managed to grab the third branch before he tumbled back onto the ground.

‘Oooh, oooh, ouch!’

His son stepped out from behind the bush where he had been hiding. ‘Father’, he said, ‘I have seen you try three times to climb the tree with the pot **drooping** in front of you. Thank you for this **amusing** comedy. My sides hurt because I have been laughing so much. But let me tell you how to do this. Put the pot on your back, and then you will find it so much easier to climb the tree.’



From the Real World

Savitribai Phule was an Indian foremost social reformer who opened the first school for girls in India with the help of her husband. Jyotirao Phule, and Savitribai opened the school for girls in pune in 1848. Her husband taught her to read and write and she became India's first female teacher and the first Indian head mistress.

Do you think we can help others by sharing knowledge and teaching the underprivileged?

Yes, with wisdom and knowledge we can help others learn to read and write as well as teach them other skills that can help them in their life.

Anansi immediately grew angry and threw the pot down onto the ground. ‘What is the point of all this wisdom,’ he demanded to know, ‘my son knows how to do this simple thing better than I do?’

WORD-MEANING

drooping - bend or hang downwards limply, **amusing** - to find something funny





As he spoke, all the wisdom flew out of the pot and **scattered** around the four corners of the world. That is why there is so much wisdom in the world today. People know how to take care of things, how to make things work, and how to get things done. All that wisdom is due to the bad temper of Father Anansi, who threw down the pot of wisdom in an **outburst**.

WORD-MEANING

scattered - to throw in various random directions, **outburst** - a sudden release of strong emotion

Test Your Knowledge

As per NEP 2020

A. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statement.

1. Anansi is one of the most popular characters in folk tales from Ghana, Africa.
2. Anansi wanted to share the wisdom with everyone.
3. Anansi climbed the tree in his first attempt.
4. His son had been hiding behind the bush.
5. Anansi threw the pot down onto the ground in outburst.

B. Answer the following questions.

1. Who is Anansi? Who had all the wisdom of the world and whom did he give it to?

2. How did Anansi become rich?

3. What was Anansi afraid of? What did he decide to do?





Pratibha Patil

Pre-Reading



Do you know the President of India is the highest post in the government? The President is the head of the state of the Republic of India.

The President is the commander-in-chief of the Indian Armed Forces. The primary duty of the President is to protect and defend the constitution and the law of India.



Warm Up

Identify the following picture and write a few lines about the person given below.







Read and Enjoy

Let us read about India's first woman President Pratibha Patil who worked a lot for the welfare of women and children.

Pratibha Patil was born on December 19, 1934 in Nadgaon village in Maharashtra. She was elected as the 12th President of India on July 25, 2007. Pratibha Patil was the first woman President of India. Her parents Ganga Bai and Nana Saheb had six children, while Pratibha was the third child. Her mother died when Pratibha was just 12 years old. Her father had promised Pratibha's mother that he would **educate** their only girl child with proper education. Pratibha earned double Masters degree in Political Science and Economics. Later, she also **aquired** a Bachelor of Law degree. Her broad education helped her to grow **intellectually** in her work as the minister of various state departments and several **constitutional** positions. At college, Pratibha took interest in several **co-curricular** activities, **especially** table tennis where she won several district level championships. Pratibha Patil joined the Indian National Congress and entered in politics in 1962. She became the member of the **legislative** assembly. In 1962, Pratibha Patil married Dr. Devisingh R. Shekhawat who is a renowned **educationist** and a **socio-political** leader. He was elected as the first mayor of Amravati in 1992.



Let's Talk

Why do you think it is important to have education. Discuss?

Be Moral

Do you think girls should have proper district education? Why?

Think Out of Box

- Think of ways to improve your city/neighbourhood if you become a political leader.

WORD-MEANING

educate - to touch somebody, **aquired** - to learn or develop skill, **intellectually** - related to intelligence, **constitutional** - related to the constitution of a country, **co-curricular** - an activity in school or college persuaded in addition to normal course, **especially** - mainly, **legislative** - the act of making and passing laws, **renowned** - famous, **educationist** - a person with special knowledge of methods of teaching, **socio-political** - combining social and political factors,





They had two children—Rajendra and Jyoti. Pratibha was contentiously elected four times as MLA from the Muktinagar (earlier Edlabad) constituency until 1990. Later, she served as a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha from 1985 to 1990. Pratibha Patil was appointed as the Governor of Rajasthan in 1996. In 2007, Pratibha Patil was nominated by Sonia Gandhi the Congress Party leader for role of India's president. Pratibha Patil who assumed office on 25 July, 2007 held the position of the 12th President of India until 2012.

From the Real World

Ram Nath Kovind the 14th President of India was born into extreme poverty in remote village in Uttar Pradesh. His father was a small farmer and ran a shop. As a child, he walked 8 km to attend the school. Later he worked hard and earned a Bachelor's degree in Commerce and Bachelor of Law from Kanpur University.

Do you think hard work can help you overcome difficulties in life?

Yes, with hardwork and dedication we can overcome any hurdles in life like education and poverty etc.

Pratibha Patil worked for the welfare of women, children and underprivileged. She set up hostels for working women and opened various engineering colleges and training schools for usually handicapped and poor children.

WORD-MEANING

constituency - an area whose voters elect its own leader, nominated - formally enter as a candidate for election, assumed - begin to have responsibility, underprivileged - poor

Test Your Knowledge

As per NEP 2020

A. Fill in the blanks.

1. Pratibha Patil was the _____ woman President of India.
2. At college, Pratibha took interest in several _____ activities.
3. Dr. Devisingh was elected as the first mayor of _____ in 1992.
4. Pratibha Patil was nominated by _____, the Congress Party leader for role of India's President.

B. Write T for true and F for false statement.

1. Pratibha's mother died when she was only 15 years old.





Indian Women at the Olympics

Pre-Reading



Women have been performing extraordinary in various sports. They have been competing and winning medals at various games great sports events such as Olympics.

Indian sports women's performance at the 2021 Olympics was commendable.



Warm Up

Identify the sports, persons given below and write their names and sports they play.



Read and Enjoy

Let us read the lesson about India's best sports women—Mirabai Chanu and P.V. Sindhu who performed extra ordinary at Tokyo Olympics 2020.

The Olympic Games are considered as the world's premier sports competition with more than 200 participating nations. Men and women participate and enjoy the competition. The participation of women has always been less than men. However, it has risen more than the previous century. These days all participating countries in the world try to boost the morale of their women participants and our country also follows that. The present lesson acquaints you with the highly commendable performance of women at the Olympics.

Many athletes from India participated in the 2020 Summer Olympics in Japan. More than 100 men and women were selected to participated at the 2020 Olympics held in Tokyo, Japan among them, many won various medals and accolades at various events. Indian sports women—Mirabai Chanu and P.V. Sindu made India proud by winning Silver and Bronze medals respectively.

Saikhom Mirabai Chanu is an Indian weight lifter who won a silver medal at 2020 Olympics held in Tokyo, Japan, in women's 49 kg category.

She has also won world championships and various medals at Commonwealth Games. Mirabai was born on August 8, 1994, in Nongpeak Kakching about 30 km away from Imphal city, Manipur. Her family understood her potential when she was only 12 years old she could easily pick up big bundles of firewood when her big brother could hardly manage to pick it up. Mirabai got her training at the Sports Academy in Manipur. In 2017, Mirabai won the gold medal in the women's 48 Kg category by lifting a competition record 194 Kg in total at the World weight lifting Championships held in Anaheim, California, US.

Let's Talk

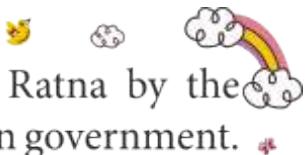
- Who is your favourite Indian sportsperson? Why?



WORD-MEANING

participated - to take part, **accolades** - an award granted, **respectively** - separately or individually





After 2020 Olympics, she was awarded Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna by the Government of India. She was also awarded the Padma Shri by the Indian government.

Be Moral

Do you think it is important to learn to focus on sports as well as on your studies? Why?

Another Indian sportsperson who added feathers to the Indian Olympics is P.V. Sindhu (Pusarla Venkata Sindhu) was born on July 5, 1995, she is an Indian badminton player who won a bronze medal at the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics. P.V. Sindhu is one of the most successful sportsperson in India.

Her parents were also sportsperson. Her father P.V. Ramana and her mother P. Vijaya were volleyball players. Her father received the Arjuna Award in 2000 for his contribution to the sport.



Think Out of Box

- There are many sports that you play in your school. Write the names of your favourite sport and how you will become a champion in it.

P.V. Sindhu started playing badminton from the age of eight. She first learned from Mehboob Ali and then she joined Pullela Gopichand's Badminton Academy in Hyderabad. Sindhu started her professional career at the age of 14 in 2009. She won a bronze medal at 2009 Sub-Junior Asian Badminton Championship in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Sindhu won many championships and was awarded various honors like Padma Bhushan in 2020, Padma Sri in 2015 and Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna in 2016.

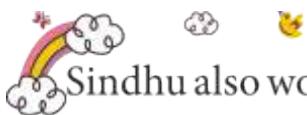
Do you think loosing by 0.01 of a second means she is not a champion?

PT Usha won many championships after loosing the bronze medal in 1984 Olympics. However, she will always be a winner and a role model for many aspiring athletes.

WORD-MEANING

contribution - the part played by a person in bringing about results, **professional** - relating to a profession





Sindhu also won a silver medal at the Brazil Summer Olympics in 2016. She is employed as an assistant sports manager with Bharat Petroleum. She was appointed as Deputy Collector by the Andhra Pradesh government in July 2017.

From the Real World

Pilavullakandi Thekkерaparambil Usha or famously known as PT Usha, is an Indian athlete, often known as the Queen of Indian track and field. She has won 4 Asian Gold medals and 7 Silver medals. In 1984 Olympics, in Los Angeles, she lost bronze medal (at the 400-metre hurdle race by only 0.01 seconds).

WORD-MEANING

employed - having a paid job

Test Your Knowledge

As per NEP 2020

A. Tick (✓) the correct answer.

1. More than _____ athletes participated in 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics.
a. 50 b. 100 c. 200
2. _____ won a silver medal for 49Kg weightlifting in 2020 Olympics.
a. P.T. Usha b. Mirabai Chanu c. P.V. Sindhu
3. Mirabai Chanu won a _____ medal in 2017 in California, US.
a. silver b. gold c. bronze
4. P.V. Sindhu started playing badminton from the age of _____
a. two b. seven c. eight
5. Sindhu won a _____ medal in 2016 in Brazil Summer Olympic.
a. gold b. bronze c. silver

B. Answer the following questions.

1. Who won a silver medal in weightlifting at 2021, Tokyo Summer Olympics?

2. Who won a bronze medal in badminton in 2021, Tokyo Summer Olympics?





11

The Tale of Black Beauty

Pre-Reading



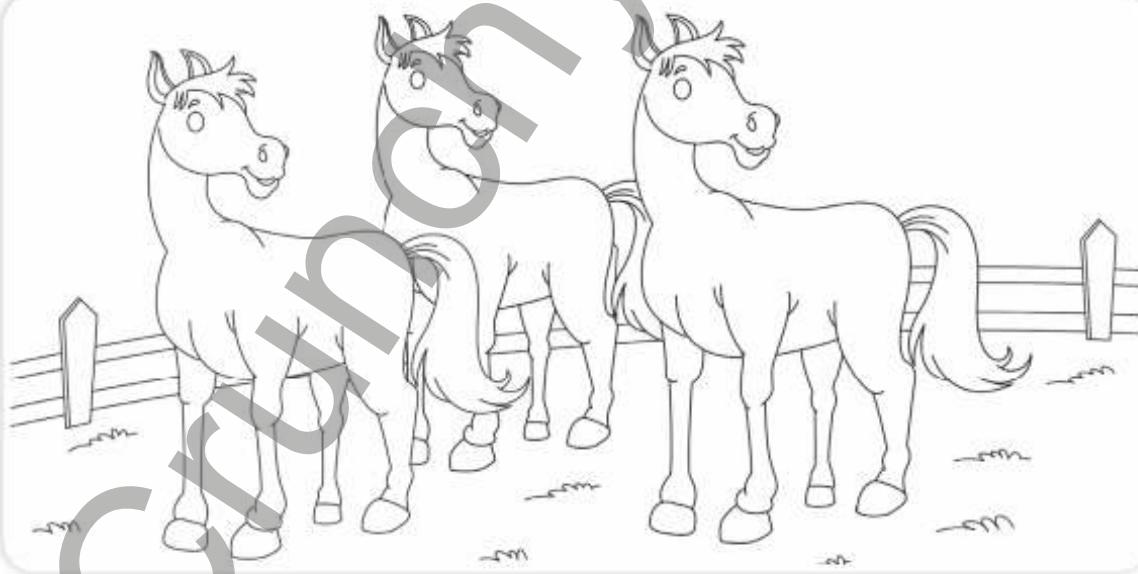
Animals and birds are innocent creatures. They understand the language of love and hate. But we enslave them for our pleasure.

We domesticate animals for their milk, fur and transportation but they love us as their family.



Warm Up

Colour the following picture and write a few lines describing it.







Read and Enjoy

Let's read a story of a horse named Black Beauty who faced difficulties due to his owners.

Black Beauty starts with Beauty's birth. Beauty's story is set in Victorian England, a time when horses were **crucial** since they were the main mode of transportation for humans. Raised by his mother, Duchess, under the kind care of Farmer Grey, Beauty learns from a young age that humans can be either a horse's greatest **ally** or their worst enemy. Beauty spends the early part of his life with thoughtful, caring people who know how to keep horses healthy and happy, but he is always aware that other horses aren't so lucky. After this coming-of-age training, he is ready to leave the meadow of his youth. He is sold to Squire Gordon, a man who takes a liking to this strong, young, beautifully dark coated horse. Squire Gordon's residence, Birtwick Park, thus becomes Beauty's new home. There he's cared for by John Manly, a wise and perceptive groom, and makes friends with the other Birtwick horses, including spunky and feisty Ginger, who learns to chill out under John's care, and sweet Merrylegs, a pony who **adores** the young children on the estate. But Beauty's life isn't all rainbows and sunshine, since he often hears the stories from other horses that have been **mistreated** by their masters.

As time passes, Black Beauty becomes a more trusted member of the estate. This is mostly due to the fact that one day, Beauty trusted his intuition in an emergency



WORD MEANING

crucial - important, **ally** - who help or support, **adores** - love and respect, **mistreated** - to treat badly





situation and saved the life of his master and driver. So he became a loved member of the hall, especially for John and James Howard his groom. Soon though, James receives word that a friend of Squire Gordon's is looking for a skilled groom to work for him; the pay and prospect is considerable so with Gordon's suggestion and John's advice, James moves on to this new job, but not before another adventure with Beauty where James saves horses from a burning barn, further earning the praise and **commendation** of Squire Gordon.

Let's Talk

- *Animals on farms provide us many useful things. Discuss the various domestic animals and the various products we get from them.*

Joe Green is his replacement, a young, gentle fellow who does not know much about grooming but is eager to learn. One day, Beauty and John dash to a distant town to find a doctor that can treat the Squire's wife, who has taken ill. Beauty performs **splendidly** and it is likely that his speed in going and coming saves the lady's life. However, in the **aftermath** of that he becomes ill when the well-intentioned Joe is unable to care for the **exhausted** horse properly. John becomes **furious** and when Joe's father attempts to defend his son by saying it was just the boy's ignorance and he meant no harm, John utters one of the key themes of the book: **ignorance** is as harmful as cruelty, despite whatever intentions the person has. But John eventually calms down, forgives Joe and becomes his mentor. Joe learns quickly and-after a touching experience of standing up for oppressed horses-he matures quite quickly. Life continues happily until the Squire's wife becomes ill again and the doctor advises them to leave the country for a healthier climate. Squire Gordon and his family thus leave and sell Merrylegs to one buyer and Ginger and Black Beauty to another buyer. From this point onward, Beauty's story becomes a struggle as he falls victim to ignorant treatment and **negligence** from a series of new owners. One night,

Be Moral

We sometime encage many birds and animals in zoos and at homes. Do you think animals should be kept in cages for display or pleasure?

WORD-MEANING

commendation - to praise, **splendidly** - in an impressive manner, **aftermath** - after results, **exhausted** - very tired, **furious** - extremely angry, **ignorance** - lack of knowledge, **negligence** - failure to take proper care of something

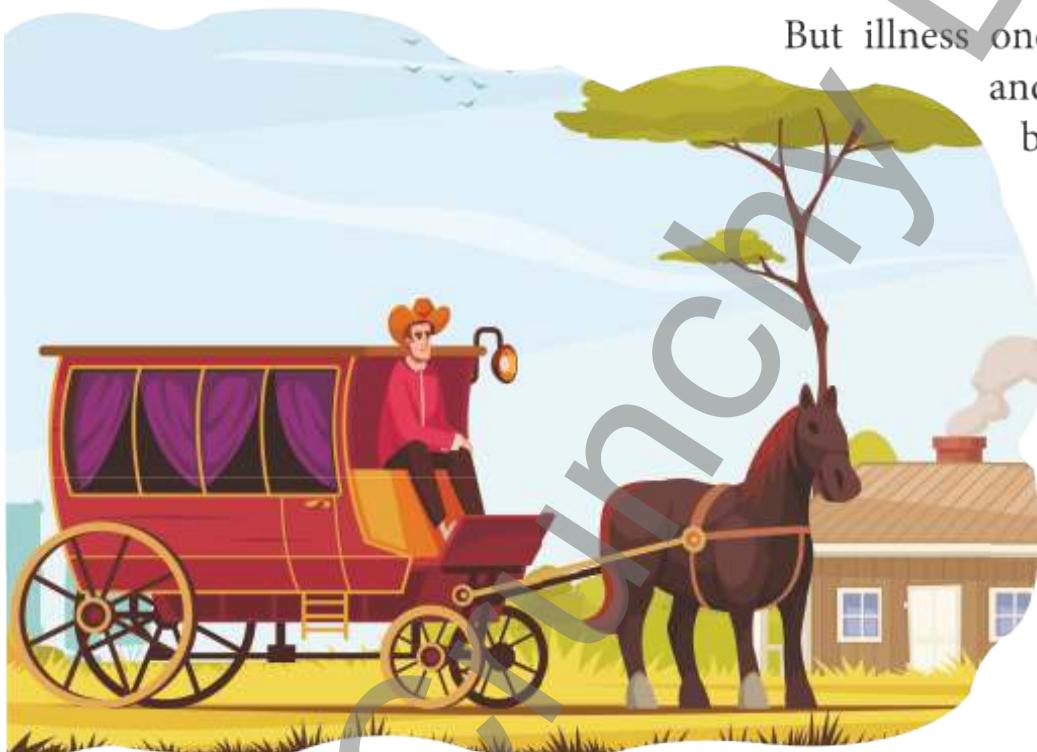


a drunk groom causes Beauty to fall, an unlucky incident that kills the groom and permanently scars Beauty, turning him from a fashionable carriage horse to a horse-for-hire. The groom decides he cannot keep a horse in such a **scarred** state so he sells Beauty; Beauty goes through a number of buyers until he ends up a job horse to be rented out by drivers. Here for the first time he meets bad drivers, and, because these drivers often do not know how to properly drive or take care of horses, he receives long-term physical harm.

When Beauty is finally sold to London cab driver Jerry Barker, it looks like maybe he'll be okay. Jerry is basically the Horse Whisperer of London **cabbies**, and Beauty adores him. Even though the work is hard, Beauty grows to love his life with Jerry and the Barker family.

Think Out of Box

- How would you feel if you were an animal and were encaged for others pleasure?



But illness once again changes Beauty's fate, and after a near-deadly round of bronchitis, Jerry gives up his London cab and moves to the country with his family. After that, Beauty suffers at the hands of brutal owners who work him until he literally drops. Along the way, he meets his old friend Ginger, who's been treated so cruelly that Beauty eventually sees her carted away, dead.

WORD MEANING

scarred - to be marked with a scar, **cabbies** - a taxidriver or horse cart rider



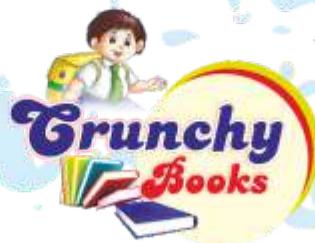
Crunchy English Reader

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