



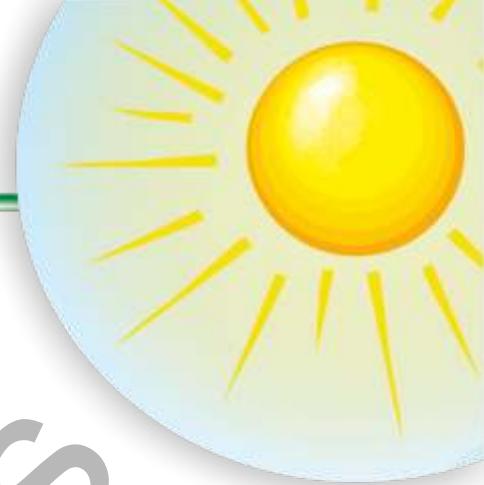
Crunchy English Reader

Main Course Book



VII

According to the National Education Policy (NEP)



Crunchy English Reader

An Integrated Course in English
Main Coursebook

VII



- By -

Mrs. Vinita Jain
MA (University of Delhi)
ELT Course Designer

Mrs. Harsh Ahuja
B.Ed (MD University)
ELT Course Designer



Import Export License No.: 330/002030 dt. Sept 27, 2001

© All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means including photocopying without the prior written permission of the publisher.

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)

Corporate Office : 516-517, Lane 16, Joshi Rd, Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110005, Mob. 09212111747

Regd. Office : 22, Jawahar Park, P.B. 36, Saharanpur-247 001 (U.P.)

Mob : 9027891426

Email : navprakashanbin@gmail.com ; salesnbpindia@gmail.com

Website : www.bansalpublishers.com

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



Contents...



S.No.	Chapter	Page No.
1.	Intelligent Monkey <i>Sacrifice</i>	05
2.	Freedom Fighter Bhagat Singh <i>Whales : An Innocent Death</i>	16
3.	A Precious Gift <i>We All Are Same</i>	19
4.	Disaster – An Unexpected Event <i>Lucy Gray</i>	27
5.	Shoeshine Boy and His Honesty <i>I keep Six Honest Serving Men (Poem)</i>	30
6.	Nepal - The Beautiful Country <i>After the Storm</i>	41
7.	Neeraj Chopra <i>A Bird Came Down the Walk</i>	44
8.	A Protection of Knowledge—Raja Bhoj <i>A Nation's Strength</i>	53
9.	Marine Life—A Part of Nature <i>The Ocean</i>	57
10.	Life of Workers <i>Climb 'Til Your Dream Comes True</i>	65
11.	The Boy with a Catapult <i>I Vow to Thee, My Country</i>	68
	Model Test Paper - I	76
	Model Test Paper - II	87
	Text For Listening Skills	90
		100
		103
		112
		115
		125
		128
		138
		141
		142
		143





Intelligent Monkey

Pre-Reading



Most of the animals live in groups to protect them from harsh climatic conditions, find food and defend themselves against enemies.

The groups of different animals are known by different names such as herds, pack and so on.
We also live in a group in our family.



Warm Up

Look at the different groups of animals and write the names of groups :



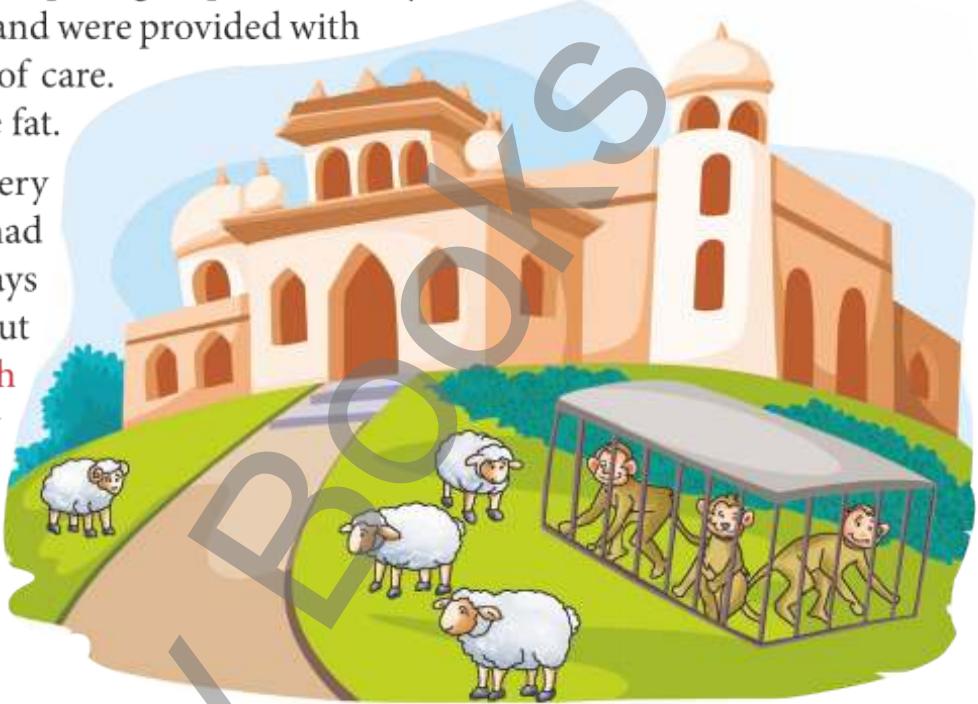


Read and Enjoy

Let's read the story of a group of monkeys and their chief, and find out how they take revenge from the king.

Chandra was a king, whose sons kept a group of monkeys. These monkeys were treated as royal pets, and were provided with the choicest of foods and the best of care. And because of this they all became fat.

The chief of these monkeys was very wise and a great philosopher and had learned many sciences. He always tried to teach the other monkeys, but they all were so busy in their **lavish** lives that they didn't have to follow much of his teachings. On the other hand, the princess also had two strong rams (billy goats), which used to draw the carriage used by the young princess.



Be Moral

We keep pets for our entertainment and other uses. Do you think we should take care of animals for our selfish needs only or we should serve them selflessly?

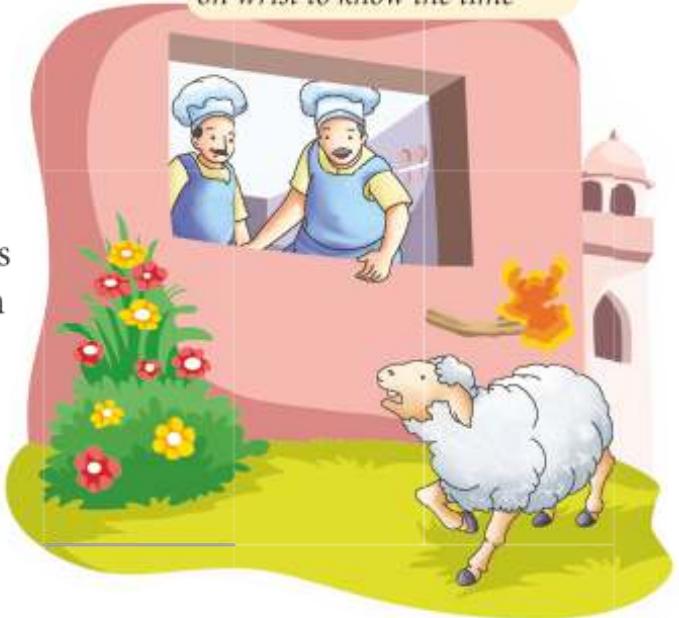
One of the rams was a glutton, and would creep into the kitchen whenever he could and eat whatever he could get there. This made the cooks very angry, and they would keep a watch. The cooks would throw anything in their hands to hit the ram.

Noticing the cooks trying to hit him with sticks, earthen pots, copper pans and anything they found handy, the chief of the monkeys thought, "This behaviour could lead to an accident. What if they threw something with fire?"

The chief of the monkeys summoned the other monkeys and said, "The behaviour of the cooks towards the ram can lead to some mishap any day. Let us get away from here, before some accident happens."

Homonyms

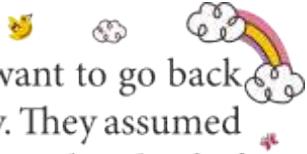
watch - to look on object worn on wrist to know the time



WORD-MEANING

lavish - luxurious





But, the other monkeys were enjoying their **lavish** treatment, and did not want to go back to the jungle. They refused to heed to the chief's warnings, and decided to stay. They assumed that the chief was getting old, and having all types of weird thoughts. Thus, the chief of monkeys decided to leave alone. He said, "You are mere fools and can't foresee the danger, but I value life more than the **abundant** foods served here!" After the chief of the monkeys had **departed** to the jungle alone, one day, the ram entered the kitchen and ate some food that was being organized to be served to the king.

One of the cooks got very angry, and unable to get anything handy, threw a half-burnt log from the oven. The log hit the ram. As the ram's body was covered with wool, it instantly caught fire. In the pain of fire on him, the ram ran to the stable. The dry grass for the horses caught fire, and in a moment the whole stable was **engulfed** in fire.

There was a **pandemonium**, and by the time, the fire was extinguished by the palace workers, the horses **suffered** grave burnings. When the news reached the king, he was very depressed that such a thing had happened to his favourite horses, and summoned veterinary doctors to prescribe the remedy. After referring many scriptures, the veterinary doctors advised, "O King, the **wounds** caused by fire will recover fast, if they are applied with monkey's fat."

Think Out of Box

Who are veterinary doctors? Have you ever visit any veterinary doctor? Tell your experience.

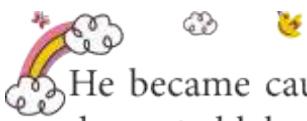
Thus, the king ordered all the pet monkeys to be brought, and killed immediately. The fat from their bodies was then used to treat the horses' wounds. When this news reached the chief of the monkeys, he was very sad. He thought, "The monkeys were foolish not to heed to the warnings, but the king is **wicked** for doing this to his pets. I will make him pay for his actions!"

He had not eaten food or drunk water for several days as he was heartbroken. Absent-mindedly, he came to a beautiful lotus lake. He was thirsty, and decided to drink some water. As he came near the lake, he noticed that there were many footprints of both men and animals, which led to the lake, but not a single footprint led away from the lake.

WORD-MEANING

abundant - many, **departed** - losted, **engulfed** - consumed, **pandemonium** - confusion, noise,
suffered - hurted, **wounds** - injuries, **wicked** - evil





He became cautious, and concluded there must be something wrong in this beautifully decorated lake. He **fetched** some hollow stems of lotus plants nearby, and using them as a pipe, drank water from a distance.

As he was doing so, a monster emerged from the lake. He had a necklace of jewels around his neck. He said, "I am a monster who lives in this lake.

Whoever enters this lake to bathe or drink water, ends up in my tummy. For so many years, I have not seen anybody as wise as as you! You drink water from the lake, but maintain a distance where I cannot touch you. I am so pleased with you, that I shall grant any wish you may want!"

The chief of the monkeys immediately remembered that he had a revenge to take, and said, "Tell me, how many men you can eat. I have a king as my enemy. If you give me your necklace, I shall use it to **persuade** the king and his men to enter the lake." The monster replied, "If they enter the lake, I can eat thousands of them. Go ahead and bring as many as you can!"

The chief of the monkeys wore the necklace in his neck and jumped from tree to tree to reach the palace as early as possible. He went straight into the king's court. When the king and everyone saw the chief of monkeys wearing a beautiful necklace of jewels, they became curious. They asked the chief of monkeys many questions.

From the Real World

Gauri Mauleki is an animal welfare activist in India. She is the Trustee of India's largest animal welfare organization 'People for Animals'. She lobbied in Nepal to end the huge mass religious animals slaughter at Gadhima festival. The event involves large-scale of ritual killing of animals with the goal of pleasing God.

Do you think one should please god by such type of inhuman activities?

Animals are also a creature of God. By killing them one should never achieve anything or make God or nature happy.

WORD-MEANING



fetched – go for and then bring back, **persuade** – convince



The chief of monkeys said to the king, "O king, while wandering in the jungle, I came across a large treasure that Kuber (God of treasures) has hidden. It is secretly hidden inside a lake. Anyone, who takes a bath in the lake on a Sunday, can have as much treasure as he can carry. This necklace is nothing compared to the other **treasures** there! The diamonds in the lake would even put the sun to shame!"

When the king heard this, he said, "Hey Monkey Chief, if this lake really exists, please take us to it. I want to see it myself, and even bring everybody in the palace along with me." It was decided, and in the early morning of the very next Sunday, the king and the chief of the monkeys set to travel inside the jungle. They were followed by the princes, queens, ministers, household workers and everybody else in the palace.

When they reached the place, everybody was awe-struck to see the lake full of lotus flowers. The chief of monkeys said, "Everybody should enter the lake at the same time, or only the first few will receive the blessings. As for you, my king, you should wait. I will show you a special place to enter the lake after they have gone into the lake."

The greedy king and everybody else followed his instructions and got into the lake. One by one, they started to disappear. The king kept **anxiously** waiting for them to return with treasures. When his people and relatives did not come out of the lake after a long time, the king asked, "O Monkey Chief, why are they not coming out? Why are they taking such a long time?"

The chief of the monkeys jumped to the top of a tree and replied, "O wicked king, a monster lives in this lake who has eaten all your court members, and relatives. I have now killed all your family as you have killed mine. The scriptures say, it is not a sin to return evil for evil deeds."



WORD-MEANING

treasures – gems, **anxiously** – worried or afraid





He continued, "I have saved you, for you were once my master! You may return to your palace, empty-handed and alone." Thus, the king returned to his palace after losing all his relatives and household members, while the chief of monkeys had his revenge. The wise man says that greed surely brings **disaster** and **destruction** in the end.

WORD-MEANING

disaster – an accident that causes great damage or loss of life, **destruction** – damage

Test Your Knowledge As per NEP 2020

A. Tick (✓) the correct answers :

1. Who were getting the royal treatment?

- a. goats
- b. elephants
- c. monkeys



2. The angry cook _____ the ram.

- a. fight
- b. run
- c. hit



3. The princess got _____ to draw the carriages.

- a. horse
- b. rams
- c. elephant



4. The lake was full of _____.

- a. rose
- b. tulip
- c. lotus



5. The chief wanted to take revenge from the _____.

- a. prince
- b. cook
- c. king



6. There was a/an _____ in lake.

- a. angel
- b. snake
- c. monster



B. Fill in the blanks by choosing suitable words given below :

royal stable ate wise lavish monster

1. The monkeys were living a _____ life.

2. The monster _____ all the kings relatives.





Freedom Fighter Bhagat Singh

Pre-Reading



Freedom fighters of India are the real heroes. How?

Because they sacrificed their lives for their motherland, India, without regard for their own safety. That's why they are called real heroes.



Warm Up

Write the names of these freedom fighters :





Read and Enjoy

Let's read the story of our freedom fighter Bhagat Singh, who died for the freedom and love of his motherland India.

Bhagat Singh was one of the most prominent faces of the Indian freedom struggle. He was a revolutionary ahead of his times. Bhagat Singh was born on 27 September, 1907, at Banga in Lyallpur district (now Pakistan) to Kishan Singh and Vidyavati. Bhagat Singh was the second of five children. His father was also a revolutionary, so **patriotism** flowed in his blood. Bhagat Singh was imbued with the family's spirit of patriotism. At the time of his birth, his father Kishan Singh was in jail. His uncle, Sardar Ajit Singh, was a great freedom fighter and established the Indian Patriots' Association. He was well-supported by his friend Syed Haidar Raza, in organizing the peasants against the Chenab Canal Colony Bill. Ajit Singh had 22 cases against him and was forced to flee to Iran. Bhagat Singh was considered to be one of the most influential revolutionaries of the Indian Nationalist Movement. He became involved with numerous revolutionary organizations.

Kishan Singh enrolled Bhagat Singh in Dayanand Anglo Vedic High School. While studying at D.A.V. School in Lahore, in 1916, young Bhagat Singh came into contact with some well-known political leaders like Lala Lajpat Rai and Ras Bihari Bose. Punjab was politically very charged in those days. In 1919, when Jallianwala Bagh massacre took place, Bhagat Singh was only 12 years old. The massacre deeply disturbed him. On the next day of the massacre the Bhagat Singh went to Jallianwala Bagh and collected soil from the spot and kept it as a memento for the rest of his life. The massacre strengthened his resolve to drive the British out from India.

At a very young age, Bhagat Singh started following the Non-Cooperation Movement called by Mahatma Gandhi. Bhagat Singh had openly defied the British and had followed Gandhi's wishes by burning the government-**sponsored** books. Following the violent incidents of "Chauri Chaura", Gandhi called for the **withdrawal** of the Non-Cooperation movement. His faith in non violence weakened and he came to the conclusion that armed revolution was the only practical way of winning freedom. To continue his studies, Bhagat Singh joined the National College in Lahore, founded by Lala Lajpat Rai. At this college, which was a centre of revolutionary activities, he came into contact with revolutionaries such as Bhagwati Charan, Sukhdev and others.



Let's Talk

What according to you is patriotism?

Antonym

defy - obey

WORD-MEANING

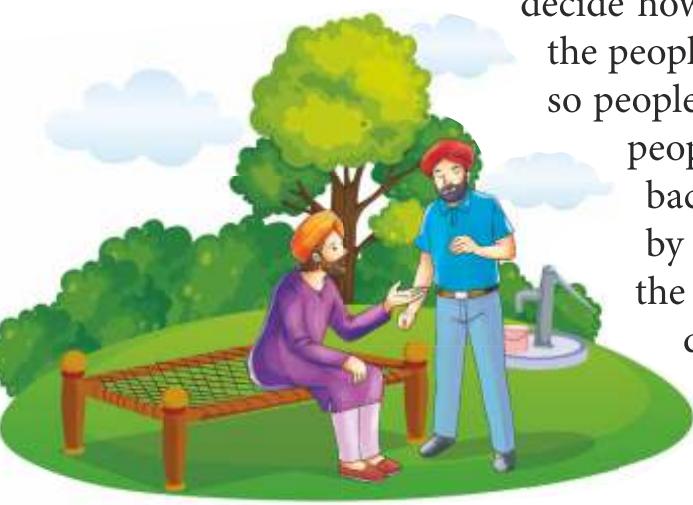
patriotism - love for and loyalty to one's country,
sponsored - financed, **withdrawal** - removal





He was pursuing the B.A. examination when his parents planned to have him married. He vehemently rejected the suggestion and said that, if his marriage was to take place in Slave-India, his bride shall be only death. Bhagat Singh later joined the Hindustan Republican Association, a radical group, later known as the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association. He returned to his home in Lahore after assurances from his parents that he would not be compelled to get married. He established contact with the members of the Kirti Kisan Party and started contributing regularly to its magazine, the "Kirti". In March 1926, the Naujawan Bharat Sabha was formed with Bhagat Singh, as its secretary.

In February 1928, the Simon Commission, headed by Sir John Simon, came to India to decide how much freedom and responsibility could be given to the people of India. But there was no Indian on the committee, so people decided to boycott it. Wherever the committee went,



people protested with black flags, shouting "Simon go back". One such procession that was lathi charged was led by Lala Lajpat Rai. A British police officer hit Lalaji on the chest. Lalaji died after some days. As a revenge to the death of Lala Lajpat Rai, Bhagat Singh and his associates plotted the assassination of Scott, the Superintendent of Police who was believed to have ordered the lathi charge. The revolutionaries, mistaking J.P. Saunders, an Assistant Superintendent of Police, as Scott, killed

him instead. Bhagat Singh quickly left Lahore to escape his arrest. To avoid recognition, he shaved his beard and cut his hair, a violation of the sacred tenets of Sikhism.

The party now entrusted Bhagat Singh and B.K. Dutt to throw a bomb in the Central Legislative Assembly in Delhi in order to demonstrate to the alien rulers the utter disgust and disaffection of the Indians against their autocratic rule. On April 8, 1929, Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt threw bombs in the Central Assembly Hall while the Assembly was in session. The bombs did not hurt anyone. After throwing the bombs, Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt, deliberately courted arrest by refusing to run away from the scene. During his trial, Bhagat Singh refused to employ any defense counsel. In jail, he went on a hunger strike to protest against the inhuman treatment of fellow-political prisoners by the jail authorities. On October 7, 1930, Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru were awarded the death sentence

Think Out of Box

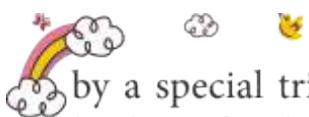
What do you know about Non-Cooperation movement and Simon Commission?

WORD-MEANING



slave - bondsman, assurances - guarantee, boycott - avoid, recognition - identification, violation - breach, tenets - principles, demonstrate - reveal, strike - observance





by a special tribunal. Despite great popular pressure and numerous appeals by political leaders of India, Bhagat Singh and his associates were hanged in the early hours of March 23, 1931. Their **corpses** were not handed over to their relatives but were cremated by the police at the night of death on the banks of the river Sutlej, near Ferozepur. He has rightfully been given the title of Shaheed-e-Azam (King of Martyrs).

Be Moral

What do you learn from the sacrifices of Bhagat Singh?

WORD MEANING

corpses - dead bodies

Test Your Knowledge As per NEP 2020

A. Tick (✓) the correct answers :

1. Who was given the title of Shaheed-e-Azam?
a. Batukeshwar Dutt b. Rajguru
c. Bhagat Singh
2. Who hit Lala ji on the chest?
a. British police officer b. An army officer
c. British soldier
3. The Simon Commission was headed by _____.
a. Smith Johnson b. Simon Smith
c. John Simon
4. Bhagat Singh was pursuing _____ when his parents wanted him to get married.
a. B.A. b. B.Com.
c. M.A.
5. Bhagat Singh and B.K. Dutt threw a _____ in the Central Legislative Assembly.
a. bomb b. sticks
c. stones
6. Bhagat Singh studied in _____.
a. Jalandhar b. Lahore
c. Amritsar





A Precious Gift

Pre-Reading



Sacrifice is a gesture of giving up something we love and possess for the sake of others happiness.

Just like, our parents, soldiers and freedom fighters made huge sacrifices to make a difference in our or someone's life.



Warm Up

Have you ever sacrifice anything in your life for others sake? Write down the incident in few lines.



Read and Enjoy



Let's read a story by Rabindranath Tagore, a story of a faithful, loyal servant who performs all his duties faithfully but something happens suddenly and everything is finished.

Raicharan was employed to take care of a child. The child was the son of Anukul Babu. The child would go out of the house by **crawling** on his knees and when Raicharan would rush to prevent the child from going away, the child would cry and beat Raicharan with his small hands. When the child would call out to Raicharan as Channa, it would fill Raicharan with happiness.

Anukul Babu was transferred to an area near river Parya. Before he left, from Calcutta he bought expensive jewellery and clothes for the child as well as a beautiful small car.

It had been raining for the past few days. It was evening and the child wanted to go out. Raicharan took him out in the car. The fields were filled with water and the child on seeing flowers insisted on having a bunch of them; Raicharan went inside the water and started plucking flowers for the child. The child sat quietly inside the car for some time and then his attention was caught by the river that was flowing. He quietly got off the car, picked up a stick that was lying nearby and went to the banks of the river which had taken a **dangerous** form and started playing with the waves.

When Raicharan returned with flowers in his hand, he was shocked to find the child missing from the car. He looked everywhere but couldn't find him.

It was growing dark and the child's mother was getting worried. She sent out a few men to the banks of the river with lanterns in search of him. Everyone felt that the river Parya had hidden the child in her folds but somewhere all of them in their hearts had their doubts. The mother felt that Raicharan must have sold her child. She took Raicharan into another room and **begged** in front of him - Raicharan you can take as much money as you want but return my child to me.

Raicharan could not say a word. He only remained silent.



The mother out of anger, kicked him out of the house. She kept on repeating- My child was wearing gold jewellery, I am sure he...

Let's Talk

Do you think due to carelessness of Raicharan the child got missing?

WORD-MEANING

crawling - creeping, **dangerous** - threatening,
begged - implored





Raicharan returned to his village. By the end of the year, a son was born to him whose mother passed away. When the child started crawling out of the house, Raicharan would rush to pick him up and the child would protest and beat his father with his tiny hands. This for Raicharan would bring back **memories** of his little master who was lost in the waves of river Parya.

When the child started speaking, he called Raicharan 'Baba' and his aunt 'Mama' in a tone which was reminiscent of the way the young master used to call out to Raicharan. Raicharan was shocked by this fact and believed that his master had been born in his house in the form of his child.

To confirm this he had three evidences. First of all, after the young master's death, the child was born. Secondly, his wife had passed away and there was no hope of a child being born and thirdly, the way this child used to talk and behave was exactly the way the young master used to be.

He used to take care of the child the whole time and feared that this child would not get lost like his young master. He bought a car for his child as well by selling off his wife's jewellery. He took the child out every day in the car.

As the days passed the child grew older and spoiled. He wouldn't talk to anyone in a straight manner and the boys of the village nicknamed him 'Laat Sahib'.

For his education Raicharan sold off his land and settled down in Calcutta. He worked hard to get a job for himself and admitted Phalan in a school. He believed that Phalan would later on grow up to become a judge.

Phalan turned twelve. He was always found looking at a mirror and taking care of his hair. The students at school would make fun of Raicharan for being illiterate and Phalan would join in making fun of him as well.

Be Moral

Do you think money can buy anyone's character or values?

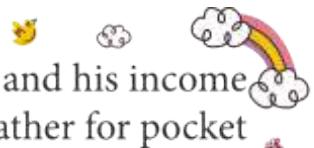


WORD-MEANING



memories - remembrance





Whatever money Raicharan had got after selling off his land, was finishing and his income was very less to meet Phalan's demands. He would regularly fight with his father for pocket money, for his pleasure as well as for buying good clothes.

Raicharan came up with an idea. He left his job, gave the remaining money to Phalan and said, "Phalan, I am going back to the village for an important work and will be back soon."

Raicharan reached the district where Anukul Babu was placed as a judge. He did not have any other children.

Anukul Babu had come back from the court. His wife was shocked to see Raicharan, her old servant after such a long time. Remembering his services she was filled with pity and asked- "Do you want to work here?" Raicharan smiled and said, "I touch my mistress's feet with respect."

Think Out of Box

What do you think one should follow right path to fulfill our desires or wrong path so that we don't need to work hard?

On hearing Raicharan's voice, Anukul Babu came out of his room. Seeing Raicharan, the old wound became fresh.

He said to Ankul Babu, "Master, your child was stolen not by river Parya but by me."

Anukul Babu was surprised and said- "What are you saying? My child is alive?"

His wife said, "Please tell me where my child is."

Raicharan said- "Don't worry, your child is with me."

Anukul Babu's wife begged him to tell where her child was.

Raicharan said, "I will bring him to you day after tomorrow."

It was Sunday and Anukul Babu was waiting impatiently. Around ten o' clock, Raicharan entered the room holding Phalan's hand.

On laying her eyes on the child, Aunkul's wife went crazy and rushed to take the child in her arms and held him tightly. Tears streaming out of her eyes. Phalan was a beautiful child and was dressed well. Anukul Babu's fatherly feelings got stirred but for some time were replaced by the legal responsibilities and he asked Raicharan, "What proof do you have that this is my child?"





Raicharan said, "How can I answer that master? No one but God can verify that I had stolen your child."

When Anukul Babu saw that his wife was holding the child close to her heart then to ask for proof was of no use. How could he ever find such a beautiful child and what was the point of lying about it now and said in a stern voice, "Raicharan you cannot stay here?"

Raicharan sighed and said, "Master where will I go now? I have grown old and no one will employ me. In the name of God, please let me stay here."

Anukul Babu's wife said, "Let him stay here, how will he harm us? And our child will be happy to have him around."

But Anukul Babu's sense of justice was **paramount**. He cannot be forgiven for the crime that he has **committed**.

From the Real World

Baby Halder is an Indian writer. She is a domestic worker in Delhi. After becoming a successful writer she still continues to work as a domestic help.

We should always work hard to achieve our goals and fulfill our dreams.

What do you learn from her?

Raicharan held Anukul Babu's feet and said, "Master, please don't send me away. Your child was **snatched** away by God not me."

Anukul Babu said, "I cannot trust you, you have **betrayed** me." Raicharan again said, "Master I have not committed any **crime**." Anukul Babu asked him in anger, "So who is to be blamed?" Raicharan said, "My fate."

When Phalan got to know that he was a wealthy man's son he was angry with Raicharan for what he had done, that he had been kept in discomfort for such a long time. But he was filled with **pity** for Raicharan and said to Anukul Babu, "Father, forgive him. If you don't want him to stay here, at least provide him with **pension**."

Hearing this Raicharan looked at his son for the last time, and left Anukul Babu's house without saying a word.

By the end of the month, Anukul Babu sent some money to Raicharan but the money order came back as there was no one living in the village by that name.

WORD-MEANING



paramount - of greatest importance, **committed** - made, **snatched** - grabbed, **betrayed** - deceived,
crime - offence, **pity** - sympathy, **pension** - annuity



Disaster – An Unexpected Event

Pre-Reading



Have you read a today's newspaper? Heavy flood in Bihar destroyed many villages and homes.

Dad says flood is a natural disaster.



Yes, natural disasters are natural events that cause loss of life and properties and sometimes disturb the ecosystem also.

Warm Up

Name these natural disasters :



Read and Enjoy



Let's read the story of a classroom in which the curious students get to know about floods. How can we get out of it, what are the causes and the precautions we should take?

On a rainy day, the **Headmaster** of a village school discuss the causes and effects of floods with his students. He begins to talk to the students.

Headmaster : It's raining cats and dogs.

Vinay : Sir, do you mean cats and dogs are falling from the sky?

Headmaster : No, no! I mean it's raining heavily. The idiom, 'Cats and Dogs' is used to indicate heavy rainfall.

Arjun : Oh! It's interesting.

Headmaster : Do you know the meaning of disaster?

Ashu : No, sir. I don't.

Headmaster : **Disaster** is an unexpected event, such as an accident, a flood or a fire. It kills or injures a lot of people and causes a lot of damage to property.

Sandeep : Sir, what causes floods?

Headmaster : Floods are caused by heavy rains, **bursting** of dams, or cloudburst.

Abu : Does it mean they are caused by natural forces only ?

Headmaster : No. Though floods are mostly caused by natural forces, we also play a role in causing them.

Mahendra : How, sir?

Headmaster : By deforestation, faulty dam construction and breaches in embankments.

Richa : Breaches in embankments? What is this?



Let's Talk

Discuss about other disasters than flood.



WORD MEANING



headmaster - in charge of a school, **disaster** - calamity, **bursting** - cracking





- Headmaster: Yes, nowadays pressure of transport like railway near river banks causes breach in the embankments. It is also a cause of flood.
- Mehak : Sir, what are the effects of floods on us?
- Headmaster: There are several ill effects, such as destruction of life and property. Epidemics can also occur after floods.
- Kapil : Sir, what are epidemics?
- Headmaster: Epidemics are **infectious** diseases which spread by means of contaminated water, food and air.
- Bhawna : Oh! That's why we have cholera, malaria and diarrhoea after the rains every year.
- Headmaster: Yes, and soil erosion is another ill effect of floods.
- Ashish : Sir, what should we do in a situation when floods **confront** us ?
- Headmaster: Always remember to keep an eye on the water level of the river or the stream, especially when it is raining heavily.
- Vijendra : Can we go near the river to see the water level?
- Headmaster: No, never do it. It is risky for children. The watchman or the person on duty should do that.
- Nisha : Sir, last year some children of the nearby village went near the stream and one of them was drowned.
- Headmaster : Yes, it was horrible. So always keep a safe distance from a flooded river or stream.
- Pappu : Sir, what should we do when the watchman informs us that the situation is getting **worse** or alarming?



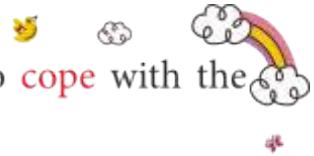
From the Real World

According to a study, melting of glaciers brought on by global warming, populations near water sources are at risk of flooding, that represent a major hazard and can result in significant loss of life. Discuss how human beings themselves become the cause of disasters.

WORD-MEANING

infectious - contagious, **confront** - face to face, **worse** - bad





- Headmaster : Now you have to make some necessary arrangements to **cope** with the situation.
- Rachna : What are they?
- Headmaster : First, don't **panic** in any **circumstance**.
- Ashoo : Yes, sir.
- Headmaster : And try to help your parents.
- Shubham : How can we help them?
- Headmaster : If your house is in danger, move out immediately to a safe distance.
- Nagina : Should we climb a tree?
- Headmaster : No, don't climb a tree. It can be dangerous.
Move towards a higher place. It is better to shift to a concrete house like a school building, a temple or a gram panchayat bhawan.
- Balwan : How can we save our cattle, sir?
- Headmaster : Free all of them and try to take them to a safer place.
- Abu : What else can we do?
- Headmaster : Take some eatables, clothes, a torch or candles, matchboxes and other essential items and leave your house for a safer place.
- Mahek : Yes, sir. What should we do after the flood?
- Headmaster : Try to clean and **disinfect** your house and surroundings as early as possible. Always remember, "Prevention is better than cure."
- Nisha : Sir, how can we disinfect our house?
- Headmaster : Spray some pesticides like D.D.T, lime water, kerosene, phenol, etc. in and around your house. But the most important measure is to take care of drinking water.
- Sajid : Sir, how can we purify drinking water?

Be Moral

*What do you mean by the statement 'prevention is better than cure'?
Do you agree with this?*

Think Out of Box

What precautions we should take when earthquake strikes.

WORD-MEANING

cope - survive, **panic** - nervousness, **circumstance** - situation, **disinfect** - sterilize





Headmaster : Use chlorine tablets for purifying the drinking water or boil it.

Abu : What else we can do, sir?

Headmaster : Take the members of your family to a hospital and the cattle to a veterinary hospital to get proper medical aid and vaccination against diseases.



Test Your Knowledge

As per NEP 2020

A. Tick (✓) the correct answers :

1. Floods are caused by :
a. earthquake b. drizzling
c. rain
2. To purify water _____ tablet is used.
a. chlorine b. sweet
c. pain killers
3. During floods don't go near a :
a. house b. tree
c. river
4. Raining like cats and dogs is a/an :
a. synonymous b. opposite
c. idiom
5. Prevention is better than _____.
a. disease b. cure
c. medicine
6. Disaster is an unexpected :
a. event b. party
c. both of these

B. Fill in the blanks by choosing suitable words given below :

idiom parents river disinfect concrete panic

1. Don't _____ in alarming situations.
2. It's raining cats and dogs' is an _____ .





Shoeshine Boy and His Honesty

Pre-Reading



We all know that honesty is the best policy. Honest people are praised and respected by everyone.

Honesty is shown in our deeds as well as in our words. Honest people are true to their heart.



Warm Up

Look at the picture of given story of honest woodcutter below and write a few lines how honesty pay off:





Read and Enjoy

Let's read a story of a boy who struggles in the beginning but his honesty pay off in the end.

It was hopeless to remain there in the small village. There was no food, no love and no future. So Saurabh decided to leave for a big city. May be afterwards, one by one, he could take his family also there. He just could not see the hunger and **torture** his family faced. So, one fine day, Saurabh simply ran away.



That was four years ago. He was only eleven then.

From the day he left his house, Saurabh had a difficult time. In the beginning, he had no food and no shelter. No one cared for him. He hated begging, so he cleaned cars and floors of shops and served at food stalls. He did whatever he could do honestly for his **survival**. He slept outside the railway station and made friends with orphan boys and stray dogs.

Slowly, he started borrowing shoepolish kits from his friends whenever they were sick or needed a holiday. Within a few weeks, he was

able to purchase his own kit. He started travelling in trains, getting paid by passengers to get their shoes polished.

At night, he always slept outside the railway station.

"You must search the empty **compartments** for leftover thing," his friends advised him. "Sometimes, if you are lucky, you get a bedsheets or a food bag."

The group decided which pair or trio would go on an inspection of which empty train. Usually, they found nothing except empty plastic bottles or **disposable** glasses, but sometimes, if they were lucky, they would come across some food item or a forgotten bag.

Let's Talk

Have you ever been to a village? If yes, describe the village life to your classmates.

Be Moral

Do you think children should be allowed to work to earn? Why?

Homonyms

except : not including
accept : to agree

WORD-MEANING

torture - to inflict severe pain, **survival** - to continue to live or exist, **compartments** - a separate section or part of a structure, **disposable** - intended to be thrown away after use



Saurabh did not like to take those things. His mother had taught him to earn money by working for it. "Only hard work can bring us success," she used to say. "Begging or stealing cannot open any magic door for us."

But his new friends had taught him otherwise; that accepting leftovers was not a theft and no sin at all. It would not harm anybody.

So, on that lucky night, Saurabh with Rohit and Shobhit was **scheduled** to be on the inspection tour of a train at the end of its run. Saurabh knew that Rohit was down with fever and Shobhit would be trying to get tickets for a new movie that was a **box office** hit. "May be he has got the train alone. His eyes searched for **leftover** things as he went from one compartment to another, when suddenly his eyes fell on a small briefcase lying on an upper berth, in a corner. "No one could have left that purposely," he thought, so it would be a theft if I take it away with me. Someone must have forgotten it, but another person will grab it if I leave it here. I must give the bag to a responsible person so that the owner will get it back. There may be something important in that bag."

Thinking thus, Saurabh took the bag but he was afraid to go to the police. He had seen them being rough to people. "They may accuse me of stealing it and then put me in jail," he thought, "Better I go to the station master. Atleast he knows that I am not a thief."

The station master knew him well. He had earned his good will by his honesty and good manners. He would definitely help him in a difficult situation. He was sure of that. So, he decided to listen to his inner voice. He took the bag and went to the station master's office. "I found this bag in an empty compartment, sir!" he said. "I wish to hand it over to the police, so that they can return it to its owner."

WORD-MEANING

scheduled - a plan that will happen at a particular time, **box office** - commercial success of a films,
leftover - that has not been eaten or used at the end



Think Out of Box

Think what would you do if you found a purse filled with money.





From the Real World

Oprah Winfrey, a well-known social personality was born in an extremely poor house. She worked hard with honesty and graduated college to become a news anchor. She started her own show and eventually became the first African American female billionaire in history.

Do you think with honesty and hardwork we can achieve our goals?

Yes, when we have an aim in our life and work hard towards it with honesty, we can achieve our goals and become successful.

It took a lot of courage to do that. But he decided to do what he believed to be correct.

His courage paid off. The owner of the briefcase came to **lodge** a complaint and was happy to get back his briefcase which contained a lot of money. He rewarded the boy handsomely. The railway people too collected some fund for Saurabh. The press published the story of the shoeshine boy and many welfare associations came forward to **felicitate** Saurabh on Children's Day.

Now, Saurabh stays in a hostel and studies in a good school. His dream is going to come true. In the near future, he will be able to get a decent job and look after his family.



WORD-MEANING

lodge - formally make complaint, **felicitate** - congratulate

Test Your Knowledge As per NEP 2020

A. Tick (✓) the correct answers :

1. Who taught Saurabh, "Begging or stealing cannot open any magic door"?
a. Saurabh's mother b. Saurabh's father
c. Saurabh's sister





Nepal - The Beautiful Country

Pre-Reading



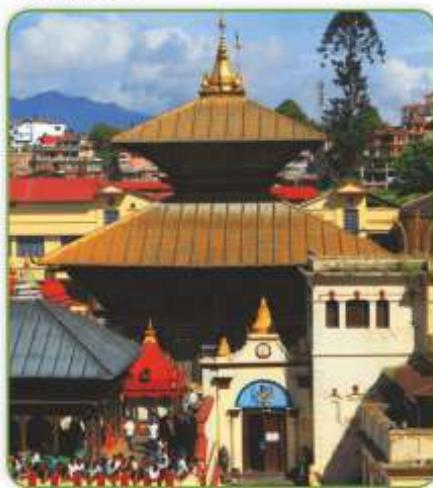
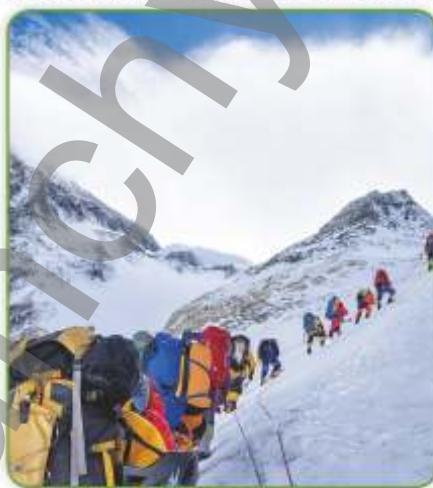
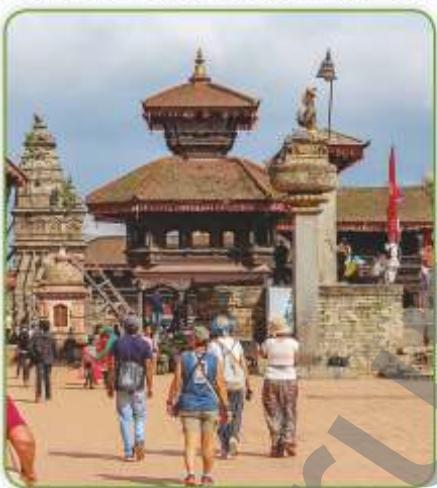
Lord Buddha born in Lumbini. Do you know in which country is it situated?

Yes, it is in Nepal. Nepal is one of the neighbouring countries of India.



Warm Up

Read the clues and complete the names of famous places in Nepal :



- It is the capital and largest city of Nepal.

K_T_M_N_U

- Highest mountain on earth.

M_U_T
E_E_E_T

- Famous temple of one of the incarnations of Shiva.

P_S_U_A_I_A_H
T_M_L_





Read and Enjoy

Let's read the story that will introduce us to Nepal, a beautiful country and its people. We will * get to know about their culture, their likings and about Sherpas.

"Good morning Geno, Namaste! Time to wake up and see the mountain!" "Namaste Tsering," I said. Tsering made it a habit to bring me black tea at 6 : 15, every morning on the trail. It was customary to say, "Namaste!" Namaste is a Nepalese expression that translates to, "I salute the God within you." When he opened the door to the hut, the bright sunlight seemed almost blinding.

Tsering was one of the Sherpas I hired to carry me up and down the mountains. A 'Sherpa' is a native of the Sherpa area of Nepal. The word Sherpa is sometimes mistakenly applied to all porters. I hired four Sherpas to take turns carrying me, one at a time, on their back. They put me in big wicker basket called a doko and carried me up and down steep mountains and across foot bridges like the kind you see in Indiana Jones movies. A doko is usually used to carry supplies or small children. It is light yet strong.

After I got some help getting dressed and into my wheelchair, I was treated to more black tea and some Tibetan bread. Tibetan bread is best described as a flat fried doughnut. It is served with jam or honey.

During breakfast we enjoyed looking at the mountains. The mountain that Tsering spoke of is Macchapuchhare (Fishtail), one of the most famous of the Himalayan Mountains. Nepal is famous for having seven of the eight tallest mountains in the world. The tallest mountain here in Nepal, in fact in the world, is Mount Everest. Because Everest is so tall, the peak is only visible from certain areas of Nepal and only when there is no cloud cover. After breakfast it was time to start trekking again. Trekking refers to hiking along the trails that link Nepal's isolated villages and settlements and is similar to backpacking. However, while people go backpacking to get away from people, in Nepal you are a visitor to peoples' homes and villages. Besides other trekkers, we shared the trails with pack animals (burros) and porters who carried supplies to the remote villages.

Think Out of Box

What is trekking? Who are trekkers?

WORD-MEANING

trail - a long line or series of marks, hired - to give somebody a job, porter - a person who carries people's bag and other loads, wicker - thin sticks of wood, trekker - a traveller





From the Real World

Bachendri Pal is the first Indian woman to climb the summit of world's highest peak Mount Everest. On her expedition her team almost met a disaster when an avalanche happened to their camp and left many of them injured. The injuries and the fatigue discouraged the members from going any further. But Pal wants to continue the summit. Due to her decision and dedication she achieved such a great success.

What happen if she decided not to continue her expedition? Will her achievement become an inspiration for others?

No, on our path of growth and success, we all encounter many difficulties. If we overcome these difficulties, we can achieve what we want.

The Sherpa put the strap of the doko on top of his head, with the other end of the leather strap wrapped around the lower part of the doko. He

Phrase

catlike grace - gracefully like a cat

stood up, with me still in the doko, and tested the weight and balance on his back. No sooner had I been seated in

the doko than I found myself mobile, on the back of a Sherpa. He walked hunched over, **dispersing** much of my weight on his back. The Sherpas were amazing! They walked and sometimes ran, with heavy loads on their backs, with catlike grace. They were as sure footed as mountain goats and never seemed to get tired.



They stepped over logs and up rock steps with amazing ease. Even the sun didn't bother them. High in the mountains there are few clouds to filter out the suns rays. Temperature on the trails got as high as 50° C (122°F) in the sun. Because of my spinal cord injury I was sensitive to hot weather. Thankfully, there were plenty of trees to provide shade. The Sherpas also fixed a **canopy** on the doko to provide shade where there were no trees. When I got too hot, I would shout "panny" (the Sherpa word for water). Since very few Sherpas speak English I had to learn some of their language. When I said "panny", they stopped, took my hat and soaked it in cold water coming out of one of the many pipes stuck in the mountain. They put the hat back on me to cool me off. There are many places where the Nepalese just insert a long bamboo shaft (that has holes in it) into the mountain. Often times that is all that is necessary to catch runoff water which filters through the mountains. Although all the Nepalese drink this water, we brought our own bottled water, that way we didn't need to worry about bacteria in the water. Sometimes when we stopped I would say, "Photo" point at something.

Let's Talk

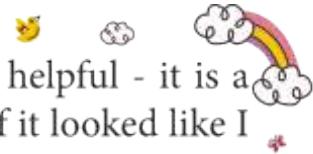
Discuss the famous things of Nepal.



WORD-MEANING

dispersing - scattering, **canopy** - a cover

They would take my camera and snap a picture. The Nepalese were very helpful - it is a part of their culture. Most didn't speak English but that didn't stop them. If it looked like I needed help eating or laying down or doing just about anything, the Sherpas were sure to offer their **assistance**. They are very kind and gentle people.



Be Moral

What qualities of the Nepalese people do you like?

Twice a day we would stop to eat. The main dish for the Nepalese is daal-bhaat which consists of white rice and lentil soup and usually plain or curried green vegetable. Other Nepalese foods include boiled potatoes, brown bread, fried potatoes, pasta (with onion, vegetable and/or cheese), instant noodle soup, pizza, and yak cheese. The village has electricity (over a third do), it will come on after dark and the lodges usually have only a single light bulb per room. There are no TVs, radios, electric stoves, washers, dryers, or computers in the mountains. The Nepalese generate electric power with **miniature** hydroelectric stations. As **glaciers** melt, their water runs down the mountains. There are many places where hydroelectric stations are set up to take advantage of this runoff.



When our trekking was over I was sorry to say goodbye to our Sherpa friends. Even though we didn't speak the same language we got along very well.

WORD MEANING

assistance - help or support, miniature - small scale, glaciers - a slow moving mass of ice

Test Your Knowledge | As per NEP 2020

A. Tick (✓) the correct answers.

1. Sherpas are :

- a. Nepalese
-
- c. Assamese
-

b. Chinese



2. Tibetan bread is :

- a. flat fried doughnut
-
- c. fried pakora
-

b. round fried chapati





7 Neeraj Chopra

Pre-Reading



If we talk about successful people, we will find one common trait in them that is dedication. A person who is dedicated towards his goal is extremely optimistic. In spite of many hurdles his dedication makes a way for him to achieve his goal.

Dedication leads to success no matter how difficult your goal is, if you are committed to your goal, you will definitely achieve it.



Warm Up

Identify these Indian Olympic winners and write their names :



Read and Enjoy

Let's read about the life of Neeraj Chopra who brought fame to India winning olympic gold medal in men's javelin throw.

Who does not know Indian Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra? Who in a very young age made the country proud of him by winning gold medal in Tokyo Olympics, 2020. He recognised his talent and followed it by his heart.



Neeraj Chopra was born on 24 December, 1997, in Panipat district, Haryana. He completed his early education in his hometown and graduation from Dayanand Anglo-Vedic College in Chandigarh.

His luck **favoured** him in the form of his family that played an **extensive** role behind his success.

He belongs to a joint family that is like a **boon** for him, The main occupation of his family is farming. His father

Satish Kumar is a farmer and, his mother Saroj Devi a housewife, they supported and encouraged Neeraj in every manner. Motivated by his family he did not stop inspite of many **obstacles** in his way. His father was confident about his success but he himself did not know that his son would aim gold medal.

In early age of eleven, Neeraj gained **obesity**. His weight was about 90 kg because of his favourite diet butter, ghee, etc. Many boys teased him because of his obesity so his father decided to enroll his name in a gymnasium in Shivaji Stadium.

One day he saw a **Javelin** thrower first time and thought he could do better than him.

This was the moment that brought a turning point in his life. Jaiveer Chaudhary his first coach recognized his hidden talent when he saw him throwing 40m throw without any training. He saw **potential** talent in Neeraj and had a discussion with his family for his further training.

They agreed inspite of having financial issues.

Let's Talk

Are you interested in any sport?
Why are you interested in this sport?

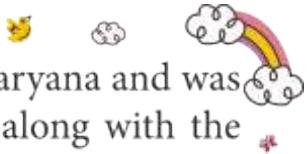


Antonym

potential – *impossible*

WORD-MEANING

favoured - support, **extensive** - major, **boon** - blessing, **obstacles** - a thing that blocks one's way,
obesity - the condition of being overweight, **javelin** - a light spear thrown in a competition sport or as a weapon,
potential - someone's ability to develop



In 2011, Neeraj came to the Tau Devi Lal Sports Complex in Panchkula, Haryana and was trained by Naseem Ahmad. He trained Neeraj in long distance running along with the javelin throw to build his **stamina** and strength.

Be Moral

Your friend belongs to a poor family. He is a good basketball player. How will you support him?

In 2013, he first time participated in international competition, the World Youth Championship held in Ukraine. Though he could not win any medal but achieved experiences.

From the Real World

Abhinav Bindra Indian shooter was the first gold medalist at the olympics. He won medal at Beijing in 2008 and received many medals at the Commonwealth games and Asian games.

Do you think participating in game bring success and name?

In 2014, at the Youth Olympics Qualification in Bangkok, he won his first International medal (silver) by a 70m throw.

He won his first medal in a National Senior Championship during the Inter-State event in Chennai in 2015 with a throw of 77.33 m. After few months, he won gold medal in the National Open Championships in Kolkata. In 2016, he won a gold medal at the South Asian Games with a throw of 82.23 m in Guwahati.

All those winning boosted Neeraj's confidence and he continued to winning medals.

Think Out of Box

Everyone has some hidden talents. How can one find it out?

In 2020, at Tokyo Olympic games, he gave his best throw of 87.58m and won gold medal. 23 years old Neeraj Chopra created history at Tokyo. Apart from being a gold-medal winner Neeraj is Junior Commissioned Officer in the Indian Army.

For his performance at the Asian Games in 2018 he received the Arjuna Award, in 2020 he received the Vishisht Seva Medal for his consistent achievements in sports. In 2021, he received Khel Ratna Award.

He is a very simple minded and humble person who believes in continuous hard work and dedication towards goal. He believes if someone has won one competition he must not stop but try for the next.

WORD-MEANING



stamina - the ability to sustain prolonged physical or mental effort, **designated** - appointed





A Protection of Knowledge- Raja Bhoj

Pre-Reading



Good education system is the foundation of a nation.
It plays a crucial role in the development of every field
that makes a nation a developed country.

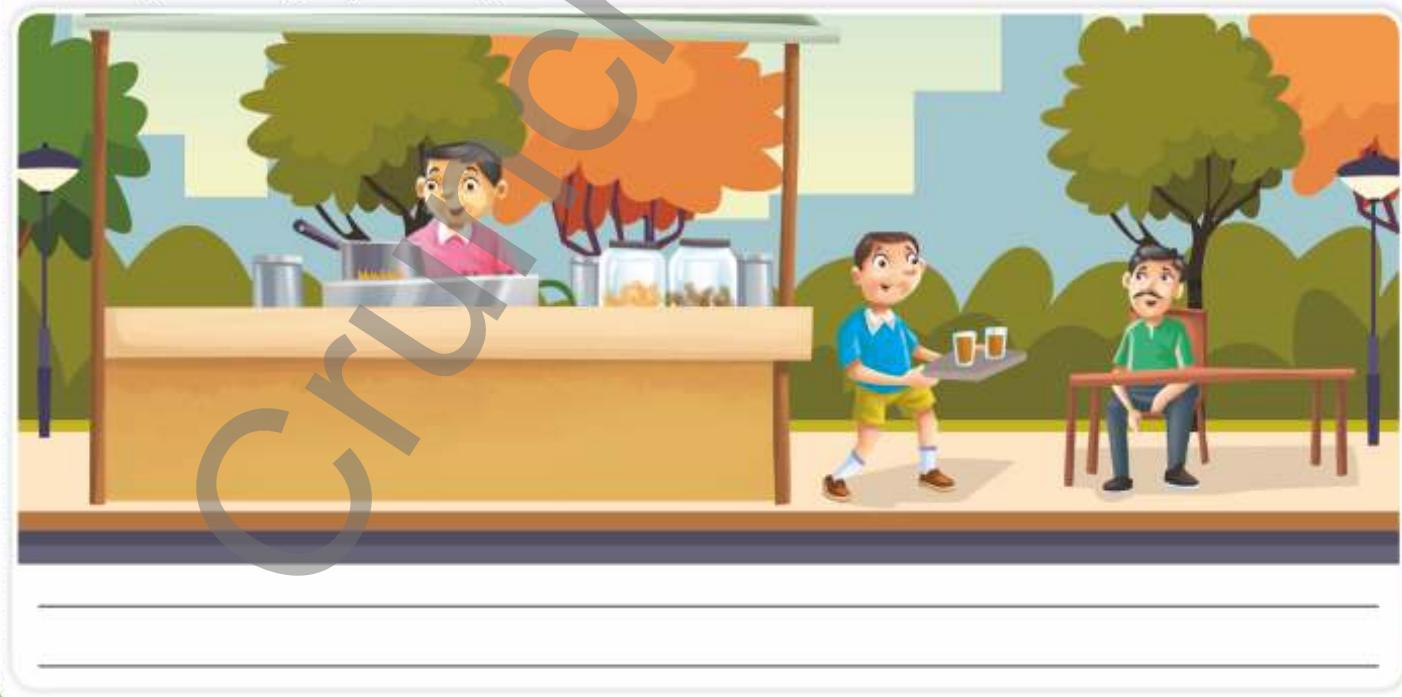
Education makes us understand the
importance of good and bad, right and wrong.
It is a fundamental rights for everyone.



Warm Up

Education leads to awareness and success in life, you may find many children who are still making at tea stall, construction place etc.

Write any two ways by which you can assist children.



Read and Enjoy



Let's read the story about the stretched of wisdom and education among the people during the reign Raja Bhoj .

Among many rulers who showed great regard for poets and scholars the name of Raja Bhoj comes at the top. He himself was a poet and scholar so he regarded and honored them with open heart.

Raja Bhoj ruled over Malwa with his capital located in a town named Dhara. He was born in Kshatriya **clan** called farmer. It is said that after Vikramaditya there has been no ruler whose charities and greatness are so well known as those of Raja Bhoj.

After attending to his daily routine he used to go to the court at particular time and distributed gifts to the needy. At his **generosity** his minister named Rohtak tried to make him understand indirectly because he had no courage to tell him directly to stop wasting **treasure**. He got **inscribed** this line on the gateway of the court 'One must save money for the rainy day.'

Next day, entering the court Raja Bhoj read it, but he could not find out who got it inscribed. Then he ordered this sentence to be inscribed.



Let's Talk

What do you do if a needy asks you for help?

'How can the fortune come to grief?'

The minister read this and had another sentence written below : 'Even fortune frowns sometimes.'

Next day, Raja read this and had another sentence written : 'When fortune frowns even the saved up treasures are destroyed.'

The minister could not reply the sentence and asked for forgiveness.

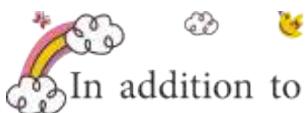
Besides being a scholar he was also a hero as he defeated many princes and extended his kingdom.

WORD-MEANING



clan - a family, **generosity** - a quality of being kind, **treasure** - valuable objects,
inscribed - words curved on an object





In addition to Bhoj he was given many other titles, for example – Parmeshwar, Maharajadhiraj and Malwa – Chakravarti. He had established a Sanskrit pathshala in his capital Dhara which was named as Bhojshala. Near this pathshala he had also built a well which was called Saraswati koop. It was said about the well that who even drank the water of this well got the favour of Saraswati. There was not a single person illiterate during his reign, even the poorest of the poor could read and recite Sanskrit.



Once, a scholar named Lakshmidhar, arrived Dhara. There was no spare house for the guest so Bhoj ordered one of his courtier Amatya to turn someone temporarily out of their dwelling and **accommodate** the guest.

Amatya enquired, many poor people but no one allowed him to even enter the house. He found a humble weaver and the icing on the cake was that he was illiterate who could easily be **persuaded** to leave his house.

Amatya made humble request to him to leave his dwelling for few days. Instead of giving any reply to Amatya, the weaver went to Raja Bhoj and prostrating before him he recited a poem in Sanskrit which went thus: “O king! I too write poetry, but it does not turn out beautiful. I am sure, with effort I could write beautiful verses. O Emperor! whose sandlas are adorned with the jewels from the crown of vanquished kings! Let one have your instruction – must I write poetry? Weave cloth? or leave my home and your kingdom?”

Be Moral

Your exam will start from next week but suddenly your mother falls sick. What will you do in this situation?

To see the literary **prowess** of a weaver Raja Bhoj as well as his courtiers were **stunned**. Raja Bhoj rewarded the weaver with lots of gold and ordered Amatya to make some other arrangements for the guest.

This story proves that at the time of Raja Bhoj the common people of his reign were well able to safeguard their rights.

One day Raja Bhoj was walking in the countryside with the scholar, deeply **immersed** in their literary and philosophical discussion.

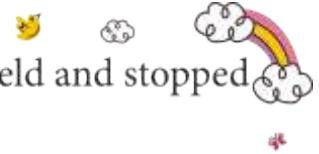
WORD-MEANING

accommodate - to provide a place to live, **persuaded** - to make somebody do something,

vanquished - defeated, **prowess** - higher skills, **stunned** - surprised, **immersed** - completely involved



This caused them to lose their way. They saw an old woman working in a field and stopped there to ask her the way to Dhara.



One word substitution

scholar – a person who has profound knowledge in particular subject



Raja Bhoj said, "Where does this road go?" "The road goes nowhere but the people who walk on it go somewhere," replied the woman. She said to them, "Who are you?" "We are travellers," said Raja Bhoj.

"Travellers are only two—the sun and the moon.
Now tell me who are you?"

"We are guest", said the scholar.

"Guests are the only two—wealth and youth."

"Tell me, who are you?"

"We are kings," said Raja Bhoj.

"You are not. Kings are only two—one is Indra and the other in Yama. Now tell me who are you?" said the old woman. "We are two great ability," said the scholar.

"Two great ability are – the earth and mother." Now Raja Bhoj and scholar were astonished at the wisdom of the old woman. The scholar collected courage and said "We are poor."

Be Moral

*What do you mean by the statement 'prevention is better than cure'?
Do you agree with this?*

Think Out of Box

Don't you think apart from bookish knowledge we also need some practical knowledge? Share your views on it.

"There are only two poor creatures – a tree born for being chopped and the other is an orphan forced to work. Now tell me who are you?"

At last Raja Bhoj told her the truth, I am Bhoj and he is my friend. We have lost our way to Dhara. You have defeated us by your wisdom.

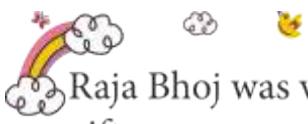
The old woman said, "I know from the beginning that you are king Bhoj and he is your guest. That is the way back to Dhara."

WORD-MEANING



conspiracy - a secret plan to do something harmful





Raja Bhoj was very happy with the lady and gave her lots of gifts.

Once the poet Shekhar tried a lot to enter the court and impress Raja by his poetry.

But due to the **conspiracy** by his courtiers he could not.

One day, Raja Bhoj was passing through that part of the city where Shekhar was collecting grain scattered over the earth. Raja Bhoj saw him and said in disdain, "A man who cannot even earn his daily bread lives in this world in vain."

Shekhar said, "He who is in a position to do good but does not do so is living in the world in vain."

Raja got angry and said, "O Mother Earth! Do not give birth to a beggar."

Shekhar said, "O Mother Earth! Do not allow on yourself those who do not pay any heed to the appeals of the needy."

Raja asked him who he was. Shekhar said, "I am a poet. Your courtiers did not allow me to meet you." Raja satisfied Shekhar with lots of money.



From the Real World

In India three education policies have been launched. First National Policy Education was implemented in India by late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1968, and second was implemented by Rajiv Gandhi in 1986. Third education policy was implemented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2020.

What changes do you find in National Education Policy 2020 from previous?

WORD-MEANING

vain - arrogant

Test Your Knowledge, As per NEP 2020

A. Tick (✓) the correct answers :

1. Raja Bhoj regarded the poets and scholars because :
 - a. he did not like other people





Marine Life — A Part of Nature

Pre-Reading



Oceans are essential part of the earth -a source of biodiversity, food and life. They generate oxygen we breathe. They also provide us with sea food and source of livelihood for millions of people.

We depend on oceans for many reasons but human activities are causing threat to. Many types of pollution caused by humans are disturbing oceans and marine life. This is the matter of concern.



Warm Up

Look at the pictures given below. Tick (✓) the marine animals :



Shark



Snake



Seal



Crab



Bird



Eel



Rabbit



Oyster

Read and Enjoy

Let's read the article about human impact on marine animals.

When we look at the ocean it looks deep and silent. But it is a home to diverse living things. These living things are in many forms from tiniest single celled plankton to biggest blue whale. These living things or marine animals have their own way of living.

The ocean is not silent, coughs and clicks of fish, cries of humpback whales all form a part of the natural soundscape of coastal waters. Marine animals produce sound to communicate, **navigate**, avoid **predators** find mates and **forage** for food. Dolphins and whales usually travel together in groups. To identify each other and stay in groups they click, moan and whistle. They have ability to recognize the sound made by their family members and other animals of the same species. The sound made by them travels through water. They are extremely sensitive to sounds, even low-frequency noise which is hardly **audible** to humans.

The life of marine animals is under threat because of human interference. Man-made noise is **disrupting** their lives. Commercial shipping, boat traffic, **sonars**, **seismic surveys** for mining, port construction, oil and gas exploration are responsible for the rising levels of noise pollution in the ocean and has a great **impact** on the marine ecosystem. Shipping noise is constant and major cause for communication and behavioural changes in marine animals.

Military operations are another serious issue that is creating disturbance to marine life. In January 2005, 34 whales, three different species became **stranded** and died along North Carolina's outer banks during nearly offshore Navy Sonar Training.

The recent-development in military activities and anti-submarine measures that generate very loud pulses of sound also cause problem to marine life.

Let's Talk

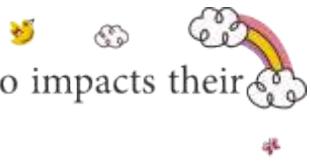
Will you tolerate any noise during your class?



WORD-MEANING

navigate – to find position, **predators** – animals that kill and eat other animals, **forage** – search for food, **audible** – able to be heard, **disrupting** – causing a disturbance, **sonar** – a system for finding objects underwater using sound waves, **seismic surveys** – surveys related to the vibrations of the earth, **impact** – powerful effect, **stranded** – unable to leave because of a problem





The noise pollution impacts marine mammals, reproduction cycle and also impacts their mortality rates.

The noise may damage some animals internal organs as brain and other tissues with hearing sound transmission and it also cause panic among them. It disturbs their regular communication too.

Their calling foraging and migration patterns are affected considerably.

Fishing is a food source for millions of people and especially for the people who live on coastal areas. Fish are captured at a faster rate than they can reproduce which is known as overfishing and it is one of the greatest threat to ocean ecosystem. Fishing is the most wide spread human exploitative activity for marine animals. Due to this problem several marine species are endangered. It has a **devastating** impact on marine animals and destroying food chain too.

In ancient time to catch fish fishermen used metal hooks **suspended** by nylon threads. They used boats and did not need to travel far. They started early morning and caught as much fish as they needed and kept some for their own food and other sold in the market for some money. Expenses were limited so were the demands.

But advanced fishing technology and an increased demand for fish have led to overfishing that has caused several marine species to become **extinct** or **endangered**. Big ships are used to capture and process extremely large amount of prey in short period of time that saves fishermen's time and effort. These ships use sonar instruments to trace large schools of fish.

The huge trawling ships use massive nets with a capacity to pull the weight of medium sized plane. The population that are mainly targeted are top predators in the ecosystem such as Salmon, Shark, Billfish and Tuna.

One more destructive fishing method is dynamite fishing. It is practiced using explosives to kill schools of fish. This method is also called blast fishing. Another destructive method is using cyanide to catch fish alive for aquarium and food trade. This practice is damaging the coral reefs irreversibly. In most countries cyanide fishing is illegal.

Think Out of Box

Do you know why seafood is the staple food of coastal areas?



WORD-MEANING

devastating – causing a lot of damage, **suspended** – attached, **extinct** – no longer in existence, **endangered** – at risk





Overfishing is disrupting not only the particular species that is **exploited** but also damaging other species of fish and local ecosystem. We are not aware but it also impacts the food security for people. On the other hand increased demand for seafood as a protein resource is also a factor.

Sea water is absorbing less sound as carbon dioxide from burning fossil-fuels seeps into the ocean and **acidifies** it.

In 2005, in the pacific northwest oyster larvae began dying in millions. It happened in 2006, 2007 and 2008 too, oceanographers and fisheries scientists tried to know the reason behind this **catastrophe**.

After a long research they found the answer.

The larvae died in a large number because the water of the Pacific Ocean has turned **corrosively** acidic.

Be Moral

We catch fish to keep them in aquarium.
Do you in favour of this act?

From the Real World

In 2014 the International Maritime Organisaton (IMO) issued several guidelines to reduce noise pollution in seas from commercial ships, military sonars or seismic surveys, propellers, off shore wind, farms, marine tourism, fishing and oil and gas exploration.

Discuss its importance with your friends.

Plastic pollution is another threat for marine animals. Thousands of sea creatures are killed each year after ingesting plastic or getting entangled in it. This problem is growing into crisis.

Rapid increase in offshore construction is also causing behavioural changes in marine animals. Particularly the construction of large wind farms, building of bridges and other structures which require prolonged underwater work and create noise during construction disturb animals hearing system that they use for several purposes. The balance of food chain is also disturbed as they depend largely on communication.

Synonym

prolonged- tedious



WORD-MEANING

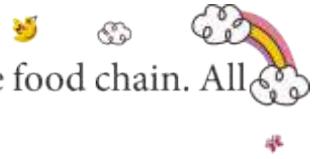
exploited – treated just for benefit,

acidifies – converts into acid,

catastrophe – an event causing great damage,

corrosively – in a way that is harmful





If predators diminish the population of smaller fish **escalate** that impacts the food chain. All marine animals are connected to each other.

We must know about marine life. Fish and other sea creatures are not only the source of food but they have their own way of living and ocean is their habitat.

The population of many sea animals such as whales, dolphins, sea birds, turtles, salmon, shark, etc are decreasing.

Due to the pollution created by humans, overfishing, etc marine animals are disappearing and losing their habitats.

WORD-MEANING

escalate – increase

Test Your Knowledge | As per NEP 2020

A. Tick (✓) the correct answers :

1. Marine animals produce sound to :
 - a. find mates and forage for food
 - b. search their family members
 - c. Both (a) and (b)

2. Which of the following ability do marine animals have?
 - a. They can protect themselves from pollution
 - b. They can have low frequency noise
 - c. They are sensitive towards human beings

3. Noise pollution impacts :
 - a. the whole marine ecosystem
 - b. only fish and whales
 - c. only seismic surveys for mining

4. Killing fish for food in a large number is :
 - a. need of the time and people
 - b. a kind of brutality towards marine animals
 - c. prohibited in all coastal areas





10 Life of Workers

Pre-Reading



Gender equality is a fundamental human right. Discrimination on the basis of gender drags women back that results into social and economic failure.

Yes, you are right. Most of the women have to sacrifice the career for the sake of the duties they have to perform at their homes for their families.



Warm Up

Here are the pictures of four inspirational women. Match them with their names :



Kalpana Chawla

Sudha Murty

PV Sindhu

Hima Das



Read and Enjoy

Let's read the story written by Munshi Premchand. In this story he presents how unfair treatment of an officer creates turmoil in the life of workers.

Munshi Khairat Ali Khan was the **Inspector of sanitation** and hundreds of sweeper women depended on him. He was good-hearted and well thought of—not the sort who cut their pay, **scolded** them or fined them. But he went on regularly **rebuking** and punishing Alarakkhi. She was not a **shirker**, nor **saucy** or **slovenly**; she was also not; at all bad-looking. During these chilly days she would be out with her broom before it was light and go on **assiduously** sweeping the road until nine. But all the same, she would be **penalized**. Huseni, her husband, would help her with the work too when he found the chance, but it was in Alarakkhi's fate that she was going to be fined. For others pay-day was an occasion to celebrate, for Alarakkhi it was a time to weep. On that day it was as though her heart had broken. Who could tell how much would be **deducted**! Like students awaiting the results of their examinations, over and over again she would **speculate** on the amount of the deduction.

Whenever she got so tired that she'd sit down a moment to catch her breath, precisely then the Inspector would arrive riding in his **ekka**. No matter how much she'd say, 'Please, Excellency, I'll go back to work again,' he would jot her name down in his book without listening. A few days later the very same thing would happen again. If she bought a few cents worth of candy from the sweets-vendor and started to eat it, just at that moment the Inspector would **drop in on** her from somewhere and once more write her name down in his book. Where could he have been hiding? The minute she began to rest, the least bit he was upon her like an evil spirit. If he wrote her name down on only two days, how much would the penalty be then! God knew. More than eight annas? If only it weren't a whole rupee!

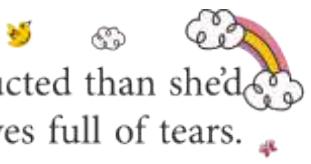
WORD-MEANING

inspector of sanitation - an inspector who checks sanitary condition of a place,
scolded - to speak angrily,
rebuking - speaking angrily to somebody,
shirker - a person who neglects work,
saucy - rude,
slovenly - careless, **assiduously** - with great care, **penalized** - punished,
deducted - to take away money from a total amount, **speculate** - guess,
ekka - a small vehicle with two wheels that is pulled by a horse, **drop in on** - to pay an informal visit to a person or place

Let's Talk

Sanitation workers work very hard.
How can we reduce there burden?





With her head bowed she'd go to collect her pay and find even more deducted than she'd **estimated**. Taking her money with trembling hands she'd go home, her eyes full of tears. There was no one to turn to, no one who'd listen.

Today was pay-day again. The past month her **unweaned** daughter had suffered from cough and fever. The weather had been exceptionally cold. Partly because of the cold, partly because of the little girl's crying, she was kept awake the whole night. Several times she'd come to work late. Khan Sahib had noted down her name, and this time she would be fined half her pay. It was impossible to say how much might be deducted. Early in the morning she picked up the baby, took her broom and went to the street. But the naughty creature wouldn't let herself be put down. Time after time Alarakkhi would **threaten** her with the arrival of the Inspector. 'He's on his way and he'll beat me and as for you, he'll cut off your nose and ears!' The child was willing to sacrifice her nose and ears but not to be put down. At last, when Alarakkhi had failed to get rid of her with threats and **coaxing** while she set her down and left her crying and **wailing** alike she started to sweep. But the little **wretch** wouldn't sit in one place to cry her heart out; she crawled after her mother time and time again, caught her sari **clung** to her legs, then **wallowed** around on the ground and a moment later sat up to start crying again.

'Shut up!' Alarakkhi said, **brandishing** the broom. 'If you don't, I'll hit you with the broom and that'll be the end of you. That bastard an inspector's going to show up at any moment.'

She had hardly got the words out of her mouth when inspector Khairat Ali Khan dismounted from his bicycle directly in front of her. She turned pale, her heart began to thump. 'Oh God, may my head fall off if he heard me! Right in front of me and I didn't see him. Who could tell he'd come on his bicycle today? He's always come in his ekka. The blood froze in her veins, she stood holding the broom as though paralyzed.'

Angrily the Inspector said, 'Why do you drag the kid after you to work! Why didn't you leave it at home!'

WORD-MEANING

estimated - roughly calculated,
unweaned - (an infant) not accustomed to take food, **threaten** - to warn,
coaxing - trying to persuade gently,
wailing - crying in pain,
wretch - unhappy or annoying person,
clung - held tightly,
wallowed - rolled about in mud,
brandishing - to hold or wave something in anger





'She's sick, Excellency' Alarakkhi said timidly 'Who's at home to leave her with?'

'What's the matter with her?'

'She has a fever, Huzoor'

'And you make her cry by leaving her? Don't you care if she lives?'

'How can I do my work if I carry her ?'

'Why don't you ask for leave?'

'If my pay is cut, Huzoor, what will we have to live on?'

'Pick her up and take her home.' When Huseni comes back send him here to finish the sweeping.'

She picked up the baby and was about to go when he asked,

'Why were you abusing me!'

Alarakkhi felt all her breath knocked out of her. If you'd cut her there wouldn't have been any blood. Trembling she said, 'No, Huzoor, may my head fall off if I was abusing you.'

And she burst into tears.

In the evening Huseni and Alarakkhi went to collect her pay. She was very downcast.

'Why so sad?' Huseni tried to **console** her. 'The pay's going to be cut, so let them cut it. I swear on your life from now on I won't touch another drop of **booze** or **toddy**.'

'I'm afraid, I'm fired. Damn my tongue! How could I

'If you're fired, then you're fired, but let Allah be merciful to him. Why go on crying about it?'

'You've made me come for nothing. Everyone of those women will laugh at me.'

'If he's fired you, won't we ask on what grounds! And who heard you abuse him? Can there be so much injustice that he can fire anyone he pleases! if I'm not heard, I'll complain to the panchayat, I'll beat my head on the headman's gate.'

'If our people stuck together like that, would Khan Sahib ever dare fine us so much?'

'No matter how serious the sickness, there's a medicine for it, silly.'

Be Moral

How will you respond if someone treats you badly?

WORD-MEANING

console - to give comfort or sympathy, **booze** - alcoholic drink, **toddy** - a drink made with a strong alcohol, sugar, etc.



118

From the Real World

To eradicate the roots of gender discrimination from India, our Prime Minister Narendra Modi started a campaign 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao'. The objectives of this campaign are to eliminate female foeticide to prevent discrimination against girls, to improve efficacy of welfare services for girls, etc.

Have you ever experienced any discrimination against your gender?

In India we still observe discrimination on the basis of gender, caste, race, religion, etc that must be eradicated from the society for better development of the country.

But Alarakkhi was not set at rest. **Dejection** covered her face like a cloud. When the inspector heard her abuse him, why didn't he even scold her? Why didn't he beat her on the spot! She wasn't able to work it out, he actually seemed kind. She couldn't manage to understand this mystery. She was afraid. He had decided to fire her – that must have been why he was so nice. She'd heard that a man about to be hanged is given a fine last meal, they have to give him anything he wants. So surely the Inspector was going to dismiss her. They reached the municipal office building. The pay began to be distributed. The sweeper women were first. Whoever's name was called, would go running and taking her money, call down undeserved blessings on the Inspector and go away. Alarakkhi's name was always called after Champa's. Today she was passed over. After Champa, Jahuran's name was called, and she always followed Alarakkhi.

Be Moral

If you see any kind of violence against any girl, whom would you inform first?

In despair she looked at Huseni. The women were watching her and beginning to whisper, One after another the names were called and Alarakkhi went on looking at the trees across the way.

Suddenly **startled**, she heard her name. Slowly she stood up and walked ahead with the slow tread of a new bride. The paymaster put the full amount of six rupees in her hand.

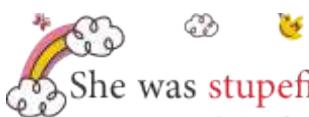
WORD-MEANING

dejection - a state of feeling sad,

startled - slightly shocked, stupefied - unable to

think clearly, **remorse** - deep regret





She was **stupefied**. Surely the paymaster was mistaken! In these three years she had never once got her full pay. And now to get even half would have been a windfall. She stood there for a second in case the paymaster should ask for the money back. When he asked her, 'Why are you standing here now, why don't you move along!'

She said softly,

'But it's the full amount.'

Puzzled the paymaster looked at her and said, 'What else do you want—do you want to get less!'

'There's no penalty deducted?'

'No, today there aren't any deductions.'

She came away but in her heart she was not content. She was full of **remorse** for having abused the Inspector.

Antonym
puzzled - sure

Test Your Knowledge

As per NEP 2020

A. Tick (✓) the correct answers :

1. For Alarakkhi pay-day was an occasion to :
 - a. celebrate with her family
 - b. weep because of deduction
 - c. have rebukes from the Inspector
2. Khan Sahib noted Alarakkhi's name because :
 - a. several times she'd come to work late
 - b. she did not attend work regularly
 - c. she was very dishonest worker
3. What is the meaning of this statement - 'The child was willing to sacrifice his nose and ears but not to be put down?'
 - a. The child was very naughty.
 - b. The child did not care about the Inspector.
 - c. The child was very little to understand all this.
4. Huseni tried to console Alarakkhi because :
 - a. she was worried about her child
 - b. she was not feeling well
 - c. she was worried about deduction in her pay





11

The Boy with a Catapult

Pre-Reading



Violent behaviour has negative effects on both the performer and receiver. When a person try to cause an injury to others, it directly effects his psychology.

To maintain peace everywhere it is essential to prevent violence. Each living being needs peace to live healthy life.



Warm Up

Tick (✓) the right and cross (✗) the wrong :



Read and Enjoy

Let's read this story to find out how a hunter changed his ways and become a protector.

Our class at school had an odd **assortment** of boys. But the oddest boy in the school was Bodh Raj. We were all afraid of him. If he pinched anyone's arm, the arm would swell up as if from snakebite. He was **utterly callous**. He would catch a wasp with his bare fingers, pull out its sting, tie a thread round it and fly it like a kite. He would **pounce** on a butterfly sitting on a flower and crush it between his fingers or else, stick a pin through it and pin it to his notebook.

It was said that if a scorpion stung Bodh Raj, the scorpion would fall dead. Bodh Raj's blood was believed to be so full of **venom** that even snakebite had no effect on him. He always had a **catapult** in his hand and was an excellent shot. His favourite targets were birds. He would stand under a tree, take aim and the next moment, bird cries would rend the air and the fluff of feathers would float down. Or else, he would climb up a tree, take away the eggs and destroy the nest.

He was **vindictive** and took pleasure in hurting others. All the boys were scared of him. Even his mother called him a **rakshasa**. His pockets **bulged** with strange things—a live parrot, an assortment of eggs or a prickly hedgehog. If Bodh Raj quarrelled with anyone, he would charge at him head-on like a bull or **viciously** kick and bite his/him. After school, we would return home, but Bodh Raj would be off on his wanderings.

My father was given a promotion in his job and we moved into a large bungalow. It was an old-style bungalow on the **outskirts** of the city. It had brick floors, high walls, a slanting roof and a garden full of trees and shrubs. Though comfortable, it seemed rather empty and big, and being far from the city, my friends seldom came to visit me.

WORD-MEANING

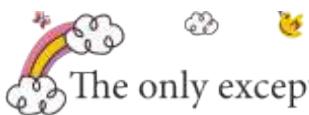
assortment - a collection of different types of things, **utterly callous** - very cruel, **pounce** - to attack or catch somebody, **venom** - poison, **catapult** - a device that is used to throw heavy stones, **vindictive** - having desire to harm somebody, **bulged** - completely full, **viciously** - in a cruel manner, **outskirts** - the part of a town or that are farthest from the centre



Let's Talk

What you do when you see someone treating animal badly?





The only exception was Bodh Raj. He found it a good hunting ground. The trees had many nests, monkeys **roamed** about and under the bushes lived a pair of mongooses. Behind the house, there was a big room where my mother stored our extra luggage. This room had become a **haunt** of pigeons. You could hear them cooing all day. Near the broken glass of the ventilator, there was a myna's nest. The floor of the room was littered with feathers, bird droppings, broken eggs and bits of straw from nests.

My mother did not approve of my friendship with Bodh Raj, but she realised that I was lonely and needed company. One day, my mother said to me, 'if your friend is so fond of destroying nests, tell him to clean our storeroom. The birds have made it very **filthy**.

Be Moral

Don't you think it is a cruel act to hurt others just for amusement?

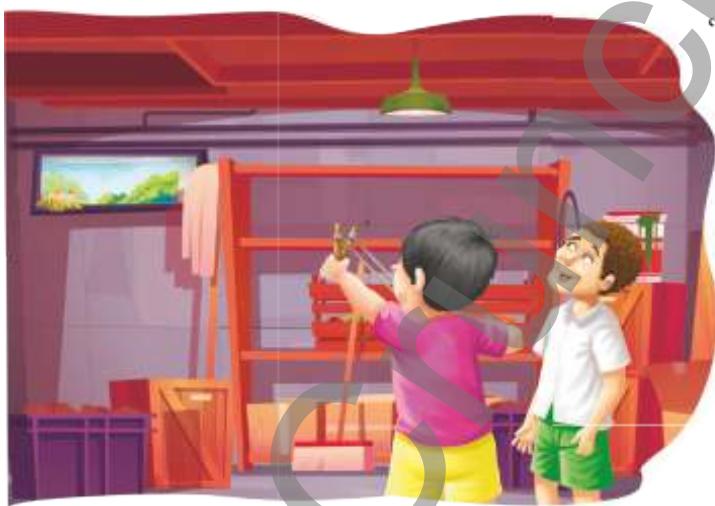
I protested, 'You said it's cruel to destroy nests.'

'I didn't suggest he should kill the birds. He can remove the nests without harming them.'

The next time Bodh Raj came, I took him to the godown. It was dark and smelly as though we had entered an animal's **lair**.

I confess I was somewhat worried. What if, true to form Bodh Raj destroyed the nests, pulled out the birds' feathers and broke their eggs?

Bodh Raj had brought his catapult. He studied the positions of the nests under the roof. Near the ventilator, was a myna's nest. I could see bits of cottons wool and rag hanging out. Some birds **strutted** up and down a beam cooing to one another.



'The myna's little ones are up there,' said Bodh Raj aiming with his catapult.

I noticed two tiny yellow beaks peeping out of the nest.

'Look!' Bodh Raj exclaimed, 'This is a Ganga Myna. It isn't usually found in these areas.'

'Where are the parents?' I asked.

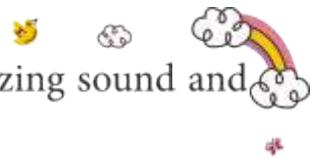
'Must have gone in search of food. They should be back soon.'

Bodh Raj raised his catapult.

WORD-MEANING

roamed - walked around, **haunt** - a place that is visited regularly, **filthy** - dirty, **lair** - a place where a wild animal sleeps or hides, **strutted** - walked in a very proud manner





I wanted to stop him, but before I could open my mouth, there was whizzing sound and then a loud clang as the pebble hit the iron-sheet on the roof.

The tiny beaks vanished. The cooing and tittering **ceased**. It seemed as if all the birds had been frightened into silence.

Bohd Raj let fly another pebble. This time it struck a beam. Bohd Raj was proud of his aim, but he had missed his target twice and was very angry with himself. When the chicks peeped over the rim of the nest, Bohd Raj had a third try. This time the pebble hit the side of the nest, a few straws and bits of cotton wool fell—but the nest has not **dislodged**.

Bohd Raj lifted his catapult again. Suddenly, a large shadow **flitted** across the room, blocking the light from the ventilator. Startled, we looked up. Gazing down at us **menacingly** was a large kite with its wings outstretched.

The myna chicks began fluttering their wings and shrieking loudly. What would the kite do?

The kite left the ventilator and perched on a **rafter**. It had folded back its wings. It shook its craggy neck, and peered to the right, and to the left.

The birds' frightened cries filled the air.

'The kite has been coming here every day,' said Bohd Raj.

I realised why broken wings, straw and bits of bird flesh littered the floor. The kite must have **ravaged** the nest often.

Bohd Raj had not taken his eyes off the kite which was slowly moving towards the nest. The cries became shriller.

I was a bundle of nerves. Bohd Raj raised his catapult and aimed at the kite.

'Don't hit the kite. It will attack you,' I shouted. But Bohd Raj paid no attention. The pebble missed the kite and hit the ceiling. The kite spread its wings wide and peered down.

Phrase

bundle of nerves - extremely anxious or tense

Think Out of Box

If you are asked to pet a bird which bird could you like to pet? Why?

'Let's get out of here,' I said, frightened.

'The kite will eat up the little ones.' This sounded rather strange coming from him.

WORD-MEANING

ceased - stopped, **dislodged** - removed from its position, **flitted** - moved lightly and quickly,
menacingly - in a way that seems likely to cause you harm, **rafter** - a beam that forms part of the framework of a roof, **ravaged** - severely damaged





Bodh Raj aimed again. The kite left the rafter and spreading its wings, flew in a semicircle and alighted on a beam. The chicks continued to **scream**.

Bodh Raj handed me the catapult and some pebbles from his pocket.

'Aim at the kite. Go on hitting it. Don't let it sit down,' he instructed. Then, he ran and pulled up a table standing against the wall to the middle of the room.

I didn't know how to use the catapult. I tried once, but the kite had left the beam and flown to another.

Bodh Raj brought the table right under the myna's nest. Then he picked up a broken chair and placed it on the table. He climbed on the chair, gently lifted the nest and slowly stepped down.



From the Real World

Wildlife Trust of India was formed in November 1969. It is nature construction organization. The main objections of WTI are to prevent wildlife crises, conserve their habitat and same the individual animal.

They have also recovered the cruelty towards animals or birds. What will you do?

'Let's get out of here,' he said, and ran towards the door. I followed. We went into the garage. It had only one door and a small window in the back wall.

'The kite can't get in here,' he said, and climbing on to a box, placed the nest on a beam.

The myna's young had quietened down. Standing on the box. Bodh Raj peeped into the nest. I thought he would pick them both up and put them in his pocket, as he usually did. But after looking at them for a long time he said. 'Bring some water, the chicks are thirsty. We'll put it, drop by drop into their mouths.'

I brought a glass of water. Both the chicks, beaks open, were panting. Bodh Raj fed them with drops of water. He told me not to touch them, nor did he touch them himself.



'How will their parents know they are here?' I asked.

'They will look for them.'

We stayed in the garage for a long time.

When Bodh Raj came the next day, he had neither catapult nor pebbles. He carried bag of seeds. We fed the myna's young and spent hours watching their **antics**.

WORD-MEANING

scream - make a loud sound, **antics** - behaviour which is silly



Crunchy English Reader

English Reader is a multi-skill course in English for primary school learners which offers such possibilities and aims to equip them with capabilities for self-learning. While retaining the pedagogic rigour of traditional learning, the course aims to develop learner's communication skills. It also caters for various types of learners, be it auditory, kinesthetic, visual or verbal. Integrated tasks and exercises with multiple levels of challenge together with lively illustrations that supplement reading passages, poems and tasks make **English Reader** unique and modern in its approach.

With a student friendly text and teacher friendly content, the series is sure to make learning English more effective, purposeful and a joy both for the learner and the teacher.



EXCLUSIVE FEATURES

