

A book on values & life skills

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Preface

Our life is simply the creation of mind. Once we make our mind beautiful, our life will definitely transform into a beautiful reality. A mind, which is filled with positive thinking, creativity and virtues such as integrity of character and love, is always the source of peace and happiness all around. This is the sole purpose of **Right is Right**- a series of moral education books for class Intro to VIII.

Right is Right series has been written with the point of view of opening the mind of the students and make them receptive to all the goodness, love and beauty which surround them. The basic focus of books of this series is instilling our young learners with a positive attitude and thinking, virtues, a creative mind and an appreciation for the Nature we have been so abundantly blessed with and concern enough to care for it. When students will sincerely imbibe these qualities, they will definitely find the path to a happy and very successful life.

Right is Right is a series of books which focuses on situational and experimental learning through inspirational stories, heart-touching anecdotes, thought-provoking activities, self-assessment tasks and real-life examples.

We are sure that the series will help our young learners to become better future citizens and achieve their ambitions in life following all the necessary ethical principles which will surely make them mentally and physically strong and valued individuals of the society.

Suggestions for improvement of this series are always welcome from our valued teachers and students and will be incorporated in the future edition.

Fr. Dabre Joseph

Contents

1. Faith in God	5
2. Good Behaviour	8
3. Alexander's Horse	12
4. The Wily Jackal	16
5. The Snake Bite	20
6. Real Friendship	25
7. Commitment.....	30
8. Truth of Life	34
9. Generosity	37
10. Thankless Goldsmith.....	41
11. Be Polite	46
12. The Disloyal King	50
13. Unity is Strength.....	54
14. Choose Your Company	58



Faith in God



A man prayed to god with his heart's content. The Almighty became pleased and appeared. He blessed the man and asked, "My child what doubts do you have that I may remove?" The man was highly pleased to have the Almighty in front of him. He said, "My Lord!, during a dream, I saw my past life. There are a few things that I failed to understand."

The Almighty nodded and gestured to the man to continue. The man said, "My Lord, during my past I could see two pair of footprints on the path of my life. I think one pair of footprints belongs to me but whose was the other pair of footprints?" The Lord explained, "Those were my footprints. I'm always there with my children."

The man continued, "My Lord, when I had happy days and good times, your footprints were behind mine." The Lord explained, "My son, whenever you are happy and well off, I walk silently behind to allow you to enjoy the fruits of your good deeds."

"And Lord," asked the man, "When I was in trouble, I saw your footprints beside mine?" The Lord explained, "My child, in troubled times I walk beside you, guiding you and holding your hand through the troubles of life."

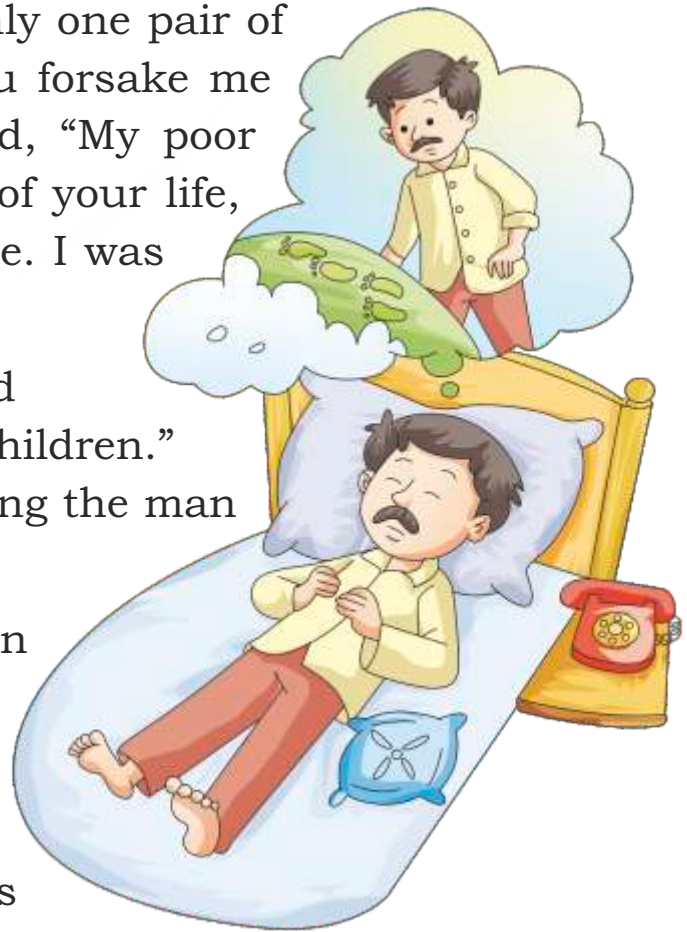
The man looked highly satisfied but then said, "But God, when I was

in the worst of troubles, I saw only one pair of footprints. Why my Lord, did you forsake me then?" The Lord smiled and said, "My poor child, during the worst troubles of your life, the footprints you saw, were mine. I was carrying you on my shoulders."

"Always remember," the Lord continued, "I never forsake my children." Saying this, He disappeared leaving the man to realize the ultimate truth.

Never lose faith in God especially in worst of troubles.

Sometimes we feel that God has left us alone in our difficult times and He is not offering His blessings and helping hand when we need Him most. It is never so. We must have faith in God and believe in Him, then we can face our difficulties easily.



Exercises

A. Answer the following questions:

1. What was the man doing?

2. What did the God ask the man?

3. Whose were the two pairs of footprints that the man saw in his dream?

4. Where were the footprints of the Almighty when the man had happy days?

5. Why was the man not happy to see only one pair of footprints?

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. The Almighty _____ and gestured to the man to continue.
2. God walks silently behind us in our _____ days.
3. When we are in trouble, God walks _____ us to guide and hold our hand.
4. We must have _____ in God.

C. Write T for 'True' and F for 'False':

1. The man was highly pleased to have the Almighty in front of him.
2. The man saw two pairs of footprints on the path of his life.
3. God never forsakes his children.
4. We should never lose faith in God.

☐☐☐☐



Good Behaviour

Every child wants everyone to love him or her. This can happen only by good behavior. This lesson tells you how to behave well.

First of all, you should talk very politely. Your soft voice would please everyone. You should speak politely to your family members, friends, teachers, servants, and to unknown people also.



Secondly, respect your elders. Always wish your parents, neighbours, teachers and guests 'good morning' or 'good evening'. You should wish your elderly servants and those people who help you in your daily life also.



Be helpful to your parents at home. You can help them in cleaning the house. Help your younger brother or sister, your friends and the needy and the poor people. You should do all your work yourself.

Do not shout or quarrel while at home, in the classroom or in the playground. Do not tear or steal others' books or notebooks. Do not give trouble to others. Be helpful to everyone. Be humble to those who are younger to you.

When you are in the classroom, listen to your teachers attentively. Do not



talk while your teacher is explaining a lesson. Do not throw rubbish in the classroom. Ask your teacher's questions only when they allow for it.

Do your work on time. Be punctual in school. Follow the 'Early to bed and early to rise' rule. Make it a habit to do all your work on its fixed time. Time is precious, don't waste it.



Do not put unnecessary demands on your parents, which they are unable to fulfil. Share your things with others. Keep yourself and your surroundings clean.

Follow the above points in your daily routine. You will be loved by all.

Everybody will help you. You will get success in your life.

Exercises

A. Answer the following questions:

1. Do you want to be loved by all?

2. How should you talk to others?

3. Do you wish your elders?

4. Is it good to make noise in the class?

5. Do you think you behave well with others?

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. Your soft _____ would please everyone.

2. Be helpful to your _____ at home.

3. Do not give _____ to others.

4. _____ is precious, don't waste it.

C. Write T for 'True' and F for 'False':

1. We should talk very politely.

☐

2. We should do all our work ourselves.

☐

3. We can shout at home.

☐

4. We should throw rubbish in the dustbin only.

☐

1. Write five things you can do to be polite and respectful towards your friends.

-
-
- 2. Make a 'Sorry' card for someone you have been rude to. Give the card to that person. If required, take help from your parents.**



3. What would you say in the following situations?

- a. You accidentally bump hard against your classmate while playing in the recess.

I'll say _____

- b. Your gardener brings new potted plants for your garden.

I'll _____

- c. An old lady thanks you for giving up your seat for her in the bus.

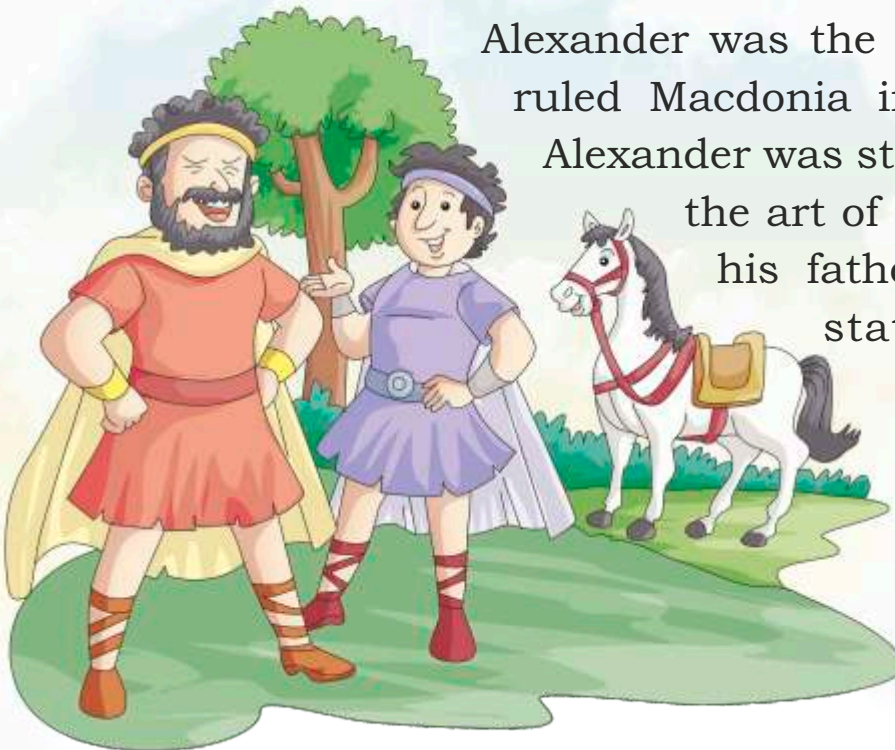
I'll say _____



Alexander's Horse

Bravery is one of the most important virtue. It is the way to get name and fame. With bravery are attached all kinds of virtues. A brave person is never scared of indulging in heroic deeds and taking risk. He never stops at trying out something difficult. A brave person is truthful because he is not scared of telling the truth. He knows that even if he is going to be punished for his act now, it is always better to tell the truth. He knows that if you try to hide the truth now, it may be revealed at some later time. To hide one lie, one has to speak a hundred lies.

A brave person believes in determination, perseverance and hard work. He is not scared of working hard or losing. He creates opportunities for himself. He never stops till he achieves his goal. He is not scared to struggle in life's battle. A brave person is not scared to own up his mistakes and is self-disciplined and wise.



Alexander was the son of King Phillip who ruled Macdonia in the north of Greece.

Alexander was strong and bold. He learnt the art of fighting and ruling from his father, a great soldier and statesman. Aristotle, the great philosopher, taught him philosophy and science.

He ruled the largest kingdom in human history and came to be



known as, 'Alexander the Great' because of his courage and wisdom. Alexander loved sports and games. But most of all, he loved horses. One day, a man brought a beautiful black horse to King Phillip. It had a white star on its forehead. The owner of the horse praised, "There is no horse which is as fast and as brave as this one." The horse looked wild and fierce.

The king's men tried to ride the horse but the horse did not allow anyone to sit on its back. The king said angrily to the man, "Take this beast away. He is not disciplined. He is throwing off everyone who is trying to ride him."

Alexander, who was eagerly watching the wild horse, came forward and said, "Father, please don't send him away, it will be a pity to lose such a fine horse. I think, I can tame this beautiful horse."

King Phillip laughed loudly, "Do you think you can discipline this horse? But, you are only a boy."

Alexander said confidently, "That's true father, but let me try. I can tame him if you leave him to me."

"Very well, you may try", said the king impressed by his son's determination and confidence.

Alexander, who had been watching the horse carefully observed that the horse was afraid of its own shadow. Alexander moved quietly towards the horse. He began speaking gently to him and took the bridle into his hand. Then stroking him gently, he slowly turned the horse so



that he faced the sun and his shadow was behind him. He mounted lightly onto the horse's back and galloped wildly towards the end of the field. Alexander held on tightly and kept talking to the horse.

The king closed his eyes, worried that Alexander was going to be thrown down and killed. On hearing the sound of the horse's trotting, King Phillip slowly opened his eyes. There was Alexander, to his surprise sitting safely on the beautiful horse and leading it towards the king.

The people present and watching the whole thing there, shouted loudly, "Long live Prince Alexander!"

Exercises

A. Answer the following questions:

1. Who was Alexander?

2. Why was he called 'Alexander the Great'?

3. What did Alexander observe about the horse?

4. Why did King Phillip close his eyes?



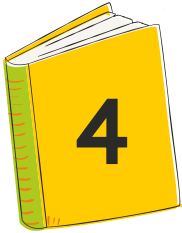
5. Who tried first to ride the horse?

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. _____ is the way to name and fame.
2. A brave person believes in _____ , _____ and _____.
3. A brave person creates _____ for himself.
4. _____ was a great philosopher.
5. Phillip was the king of _____ in Greece.

C. Write T for 'True' and F for 'False':

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. A brave person never stops at trying out something difficult. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. A brave person never admits his mistakes. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Alexander loved sports and games. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. The horse had a white star on its forehead. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Alexander had courage and wisdom. | <input type="checkbox"/> |



The Wily Jackal

Once upon a time, a wily jackal lived in a jungle. He was very fond of eating fresh crabs. Everyday, he used to go to the nearby river, where he ate crabs to his heart's content.

One day, as usual, he put his paw into the water to pick up a crab. Suddenly, he found that his paw was gripped tightly in the jaws of a crocodile. He had not seen the crocodile floating just below the surface of the water. He got frightened.

But the jackal was very cunning, he cried out, “Oh you silly crocodile! You look so foolish with your jaws around a piece of wood.”

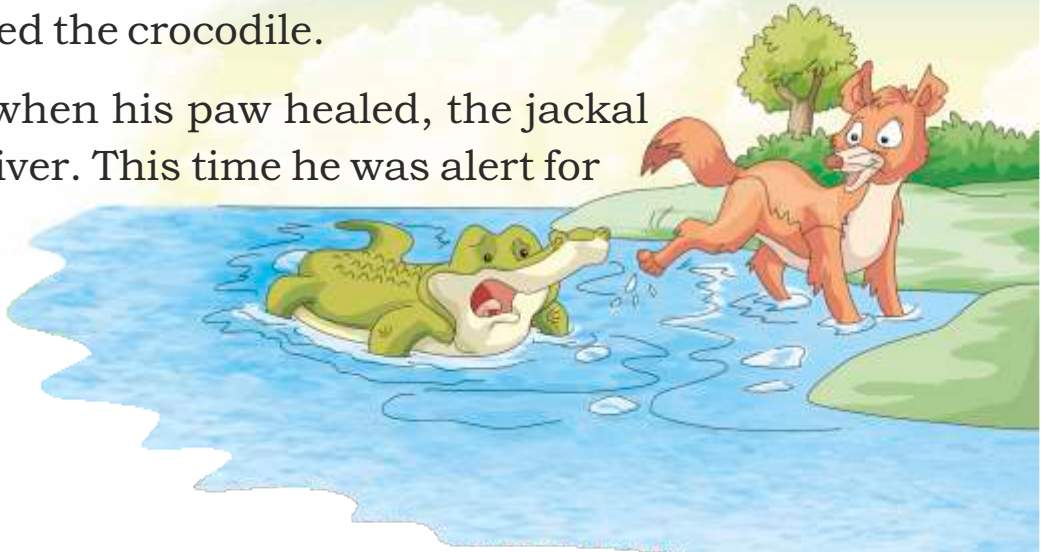
The crocodile quickly let go off the jackal's paw.

“What will other crocodiles think of me when they see me with this bit of wood?” he said to himself.

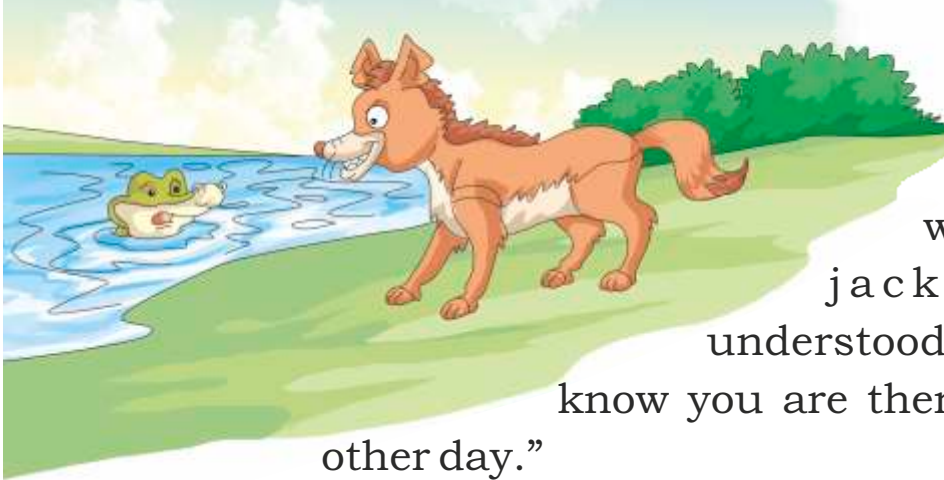
The jackal jumped away quickly and laughed loudly. “Thank you, for letting my paw go. I'll catch crabs some other day.” He went away singing.

“Oh! That wily jackal. I'll catch him and teach him a lesson. He befooled me,” fumed the crocodile.

Some days later, when his paw healed, the jackal went back to the river. This time he was alert for the crocodile. He called out, “No crabs are to be seen. I will have to step into the water.”



Hearing this, the crocodile was delighted. He thought, “Now I’ll catch and punish this stupid jackal.”



The water around moved. Seeing the movement in the water, the cunning jackal immediately understood. He said loudly, “I know you are there. I shall come some other day.”

The crocodile was very angry to be tricked by the jackal a second time. He said, “I’ll not spare you the next time.”

For a long time the jackal had not eaten crabs. He was very hungry. He made his way to the river but he returned when he felt the presence of the crocodile. The crocodile saw him going back and decided to follow him. He saw the jackal entering a grove of trees. He watched him from a distance. The jackal was eating ripe, juicy figs.

The crocodile was tired as he was not used to move on land. He said to himself, “I’ll set a trap for him tomorrow.”

Next day the jackal went out to eat figs. He was amazed to see a big heap of ripe figs in front of his house. He understood that the crocodile must be inside the heap. Just to make sure, he spoke loudly, “The juiciest figs move in the breeze. I’ll pick the ones which move.” Hearing this the crocodile wriggled slightly. The jackal laughed loudly. He said, “I knew you were there. Now, I’ll go to catch some crabs in the river.”



The crocodile could not move as fast as the jackal. He now thought of another way to trap the jackal. He went to the jackal's house but the door was narrow. He could not move in. He broke through the door and waited there for the jackal to return. He was very angry.

Later, when the jackal returned to his house after having his meal of crabs, he noticed the door was broken. "The crocodile must be inside", he thought, "Once again let me trick him."

"House, house, why haven't you greeted me like you usually do?" the jackal called out.

The crocodile thought quickly that everything should look normal to the jackal. He said, "Welcome home, my master."

The jackal thought that he must get rid of this crocodile for once and all. He gathered wood and piled it around the house. He then lit a match and set the wood on fire.

He spoke loudly, "Roasted crocodile is a feast indeed. I'll make a new house for myself on the river bank and eat crabs to my heart's content."

The crocodile died in the fire. The wily jackal then lived in his new house near the river. He enjoyed eating fresh crabs everyday.

Children, when in danger, we should think calmly to save ourselves as well as others by using our common sense.

Exercises

A. Answer the following questions:

1. What was the jackal fond of eating?



2. Who gripped the jackal's paw tightly?

3. What was the jackal eating in the grove of trees?

4. Why was the crocodile tired while following the jackal on land?

5. What happened to the crocodile at the end of the story?

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. Everyday the jackal went to the nearby _____ .

2. A _____ gripped tightly the jackal's paw.

3. The crocodile saw the _____ entering a grove of trees.

4. The jackal was _____ to see a big heap of ripe figs in front to his house.

C. Write T for 'True' and F for 'False':

1. The jackal was very fond of eating fish.

☐

2. The jackal saved his life with his common sense.

☐

3. The crocodile could move as fast as the jackal.

☐

4. The jackal set his own house on fire.

☐



The Snake Bite

You should not fear anything. The knowledge of your surrounding can keep you away from fear. Fear will stop you from daring to go out into new fields. Fear makes you lose all sense of reasoning and you start behaving in an unreasonable manner. Fear is a natural, emotional reaction to uncertain or unknown pain or pleasure. The secret of success is learning how to use pain and pleasure instead of having fear using you. If you do that, you can control your life. If you don't, life controls you.

Once, there lived a poor woodcutter in a village near a forest. His name was Birju. He lived in a small hut made of grass. He was a very poor man. He had to wake up early in the morning and go to the forest to collect wood to earn his living. He worked very hard the whole day. But, he got very little money for selling the logs of wood.

One evening, he came home very tired. Winds were blowing hard, clouds had covered the sky, there were flashes of lightning every minute. A heavy rain was expected.



When Birju entered the house, his wife asked him to tighten the roof grass. She said that if he did not tighten the grass, it may tear up due to the fierce wind blowing at such a high speed.

It had become dark due to black clouds all around. Birju was so tired that he did not want to do anything, but since it was very important to tighten the grass he decided to go and mend it.

It had started raining. He went out quietly and tightened the roof grass with a rope which was lying on the roof. During the process, he suddenly felt a sharp pricking pain in his finger but he did not bother about it.

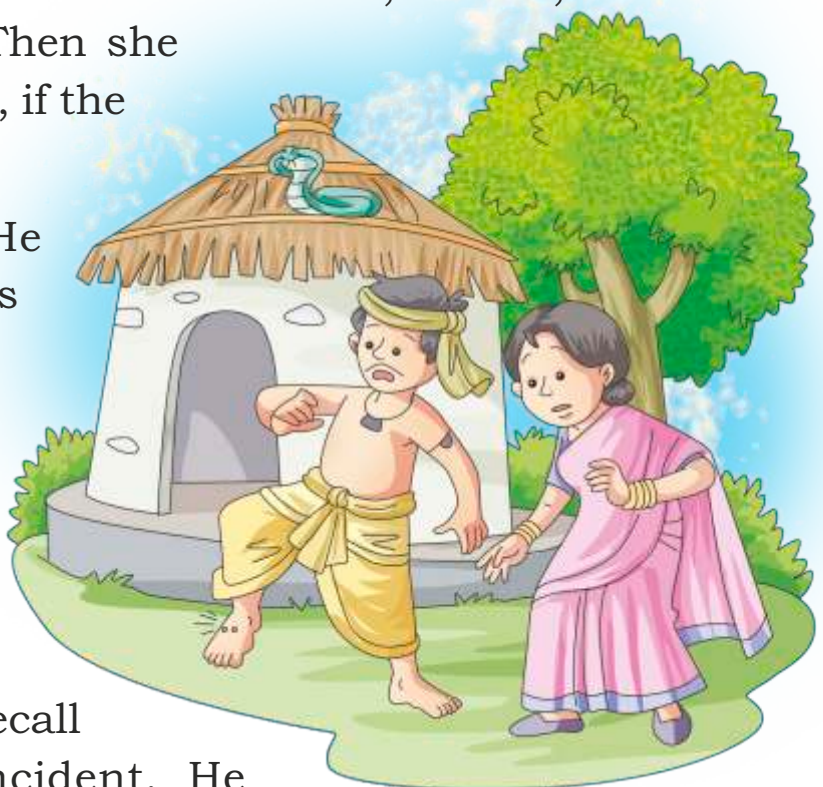
In the night, the whole family slept comfortably. Although, there was heavy rain outside, they slept undisturbed in the hut.

Next morning, by the time Birju woke up, the sun had risen high. His son, Ramu, was ready to go to school. Ramu went out of the hut but came back shouting in excitement, “Mother, mother, see there is a large snake on the roof of our hut.”

His mother was busy in the kitchen. She said, “Ramu, don't waste your time. Go to school.” Then she asked Birju to go and check, if the snake was really there.

Birju got alarmed. He suddenly jumped from his bed and came out quickly. He was speechless to realize that he, instead of using a rope for tying the grass had used a snake, the previous evening.

Now, he began trying to recall the previous evening's incident. He



immediately checked his finger in which he had felt the prick last evening. It had become slightly bluish and also there was a little swelling at the tip of the finger. Earlier, the previous evening he had ignored it thinking that some nail or thorn might have pricked. He remembered that the pain also did not last long. He had a comfortable sleep.

But, now he realised that things were altogether different. It was not just an ordinary prick, it was a snake bite. He thought that by now the venom of the snake must have spread all over his body. This feeling gave him such a profound shock that he began rolling on the ground, frothing at the mouth.

He was taken to the hospital in a serious condition. The doctor admitted him and started his treatment. After one week, he could recover and come back home.

Only few snakes are poisonous, but the fear of a snake's bite may kill a person.

Exercises

A. Answer the following questions:

1. What did Birju do to earn his living?

2. How was the weather one evening?

3. What did his wife ask Birju to do?



4. Why did Birju get alarmed?

5. When Birju realised he had been bitten by a snake, how did he react?

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. The _____ of your surrounding can keep you away from _____.
2. Fear makes you _____ all sense of _____.
3. Birju lived in a small _____ made of _____.
4. It had become dark due to _____ all around.
5. There was heavy _____ outside that night.

C. Write T for 'True' and F for 'False':

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Fear is a good thing. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. You should not fear anything. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Birju was a lazy man. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Birju realised that he had tighten the grass using a snake, instead of a rope. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. The feeling of fear makes us nervous. | <input type="checkbox"/> |



Make a list of all that you fear and try to over come it.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____



Real Friendship

All of us have friends. We need friends to make our life happy. Without friends we cannot lead a happy life. We talk to our friends. We play with our friends. We fight with our friends. We share what we have with our friends. Friends share our sorrows and joys. Friends are a part and parcel of life. It is difficult to think of a life without friends.

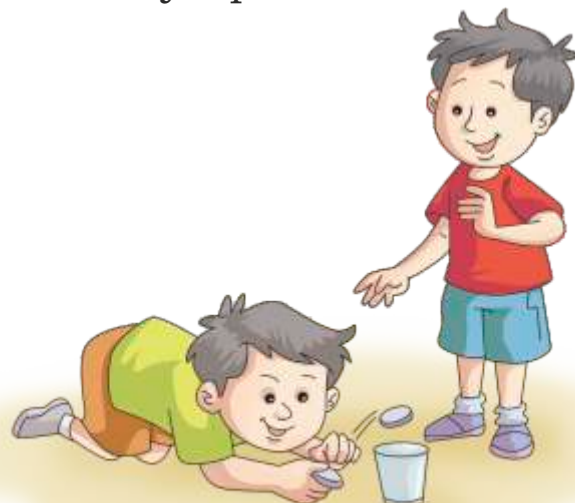


There are good friends and bad friends. Good friends help each other to become better. They are loving, sincere and loyal. They avoid every evil. They are selfless and are ready to make sacrifices for their friends.

Bad friends are not sincere. They are selfish. They speak of bad things.

They speak ill of others. They tell lies and are dishonest.

Every friendship is not a true friendship. A friendship becomes a true friendship only when the friends are good and sincere. Only such a friendship will last.



The Parrot and The Apple Tree

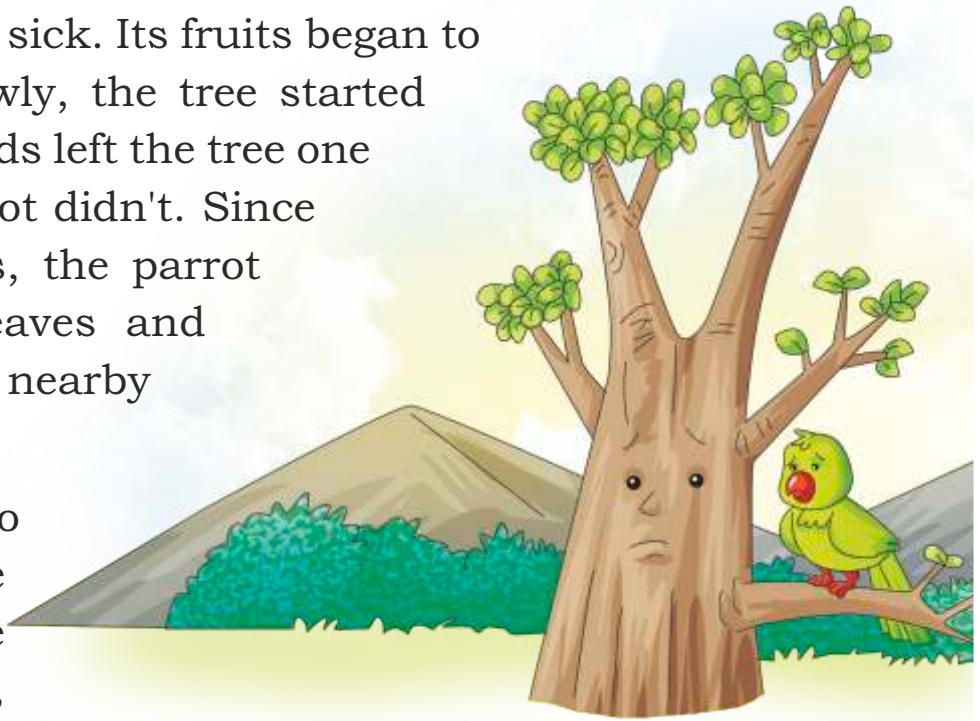
Deep in a forest in the Himalayas, there bloomed an apple tree. The tree was always laden with juicy apples. On one of the upper branches there lived a parrot. The parrot and the tree were good friends. They loved each other. They were very happy. Some other birds also had their nests on the apple tree. The tree gave them delicious apples to eat.

One day, the tree fell sick. Its fruits began to wither and fall. Slowly, the tree started drying up. All the birds left the tree one by one, but the parrot didn't. Since there were no fruits, the parrot began to eat its leaves and drink water from the nearby river.

Lord Shiva came to know about the faithfulness of the parrot to his friend, the apple tree. Lord Shiva decided to test the parrot. He made the tree go completely dry. Soon there was not a single leaf or twig on the tree. The parrot could have gone to another tree for its food, but it didn't leave its friend. It managed to survive by eating the bark of the tree.

Lord Shiva wanted to test the parrot's loyalty further. So he loaded a nearby tree with ripe and juicy fruits. Then Lord Shiva in disguise of sparrow came to the parrot and said, "O, foolish parrot! Don't you see that tree full of juicy fruits! Make that tree your home, and eat your fill. There is nothing now on this dry tree. It is useless to you."

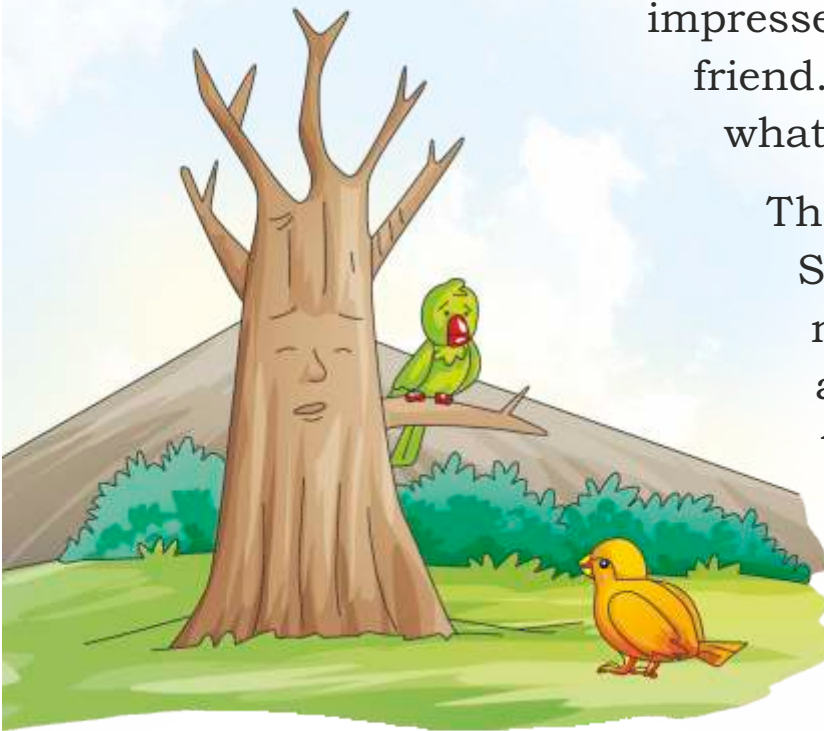
The parrot shook his head and replied, "This tree is my friend. It gave me and my family delicious fruits for years together. It has shared its good times with me, and now it is my turn to share its bad days. I will never leave my friend".



On hearing the parrot's reply, Lord Shiva transformed himself back into his real image and said to the parrot, "I am deeply impressed with your loyalty to your friend. I grant you a wish. Ask me whatever you want."

The parrot bowed to Lord Shiva and said, "Please make my friend healthy as before again." Lord Shiva blessed the tree, and the tree at once bloomed with leaves and fruits.

Lord Shiva returned to Kailash and the two friends lived happily ever after.



Exercises

A. Answer the following questions:

1. Where was the apple tree?

2. Where did the parrot live?

3. Who was the real friend of the apple tree?

4. In what form did Lord Shiva appear before the parrot?

5. Why did the parrot not leave his friend?

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. The tree was always laden with juicy _____ .

2. One day the _____ fell sick.

3. Lord Shiva decided to test the _____ .

4. Lord Shiva in disguise of a _____ came to the parrot.

5. Lord Shiva was deeply impressed with the loyalty of _____ to his friend.

C. Write T for 'True' and F for 'False':

1. The parrot and the apple tree were good friends.

☐

2. When the apple tree dried up, the parrot flew away.

☐

3. Lord Shiva decided to test the parrot's loyalty.

☐

4. There was a pond near the tree.

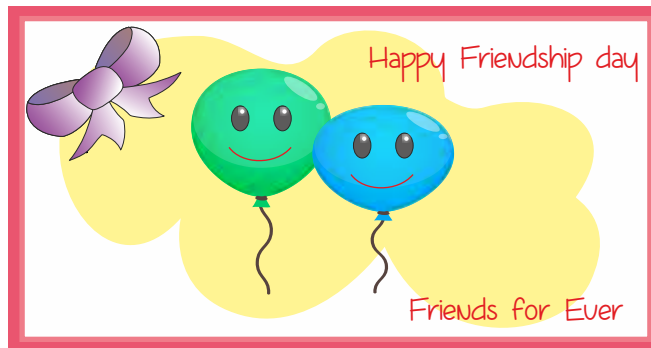
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5. The parrot didn't leave its friend in its bad days.

☐



A. Make a friendship card for your best friend and give it to him/her.



B. Write down the name of two of your friends, and also mention one quality that you like in each one of them.



Commitment

Commitment is a promise to do something.

We have commitments towards our parents, teachers, elders, brothers and sisters, society and nation. We should always fulfil our commitment. It is our responsibility to keep our words.

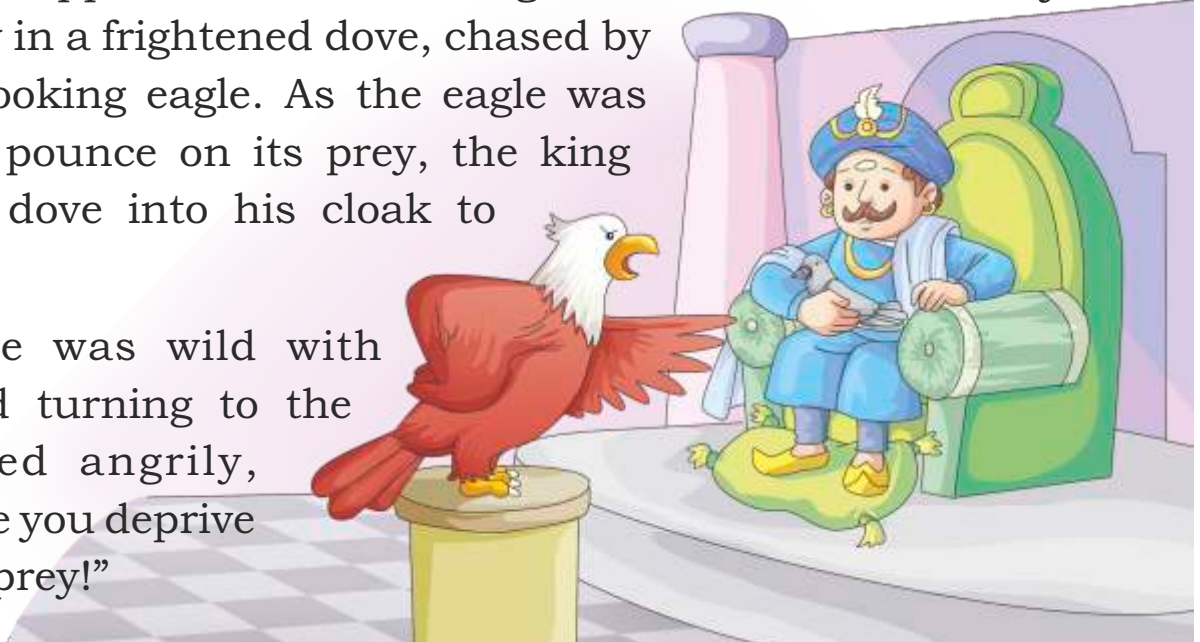
A person who understands his/her commitment and keeps his/her words is loved and trusted by all. If you don't keep your promise, you make someone suffer with your negligence. If you are true to your word everyone will like you. So, always keep your promise and commitment, however, difficult and demanding the sacrifice it may be.

Shibi Rana was a just and kind-hearted king. He was prepared to even sacrifice himself for those who were weak.

Shibi Rana was such a powerful king that people used to say, 'the very gods are afraid of him'. One day, Indra the king of gods decided to test Shibi Rana.

And so, it happened that as the king was seated in his hall of justice, there flew in a frightened dove, chased by a fierce-looking eagle. As the eagle was about to pounce on its prey, the king took the dove into his cloak to shelter it.

The eagle was wild with rage, and turning to the king cried angrily, "How dare you deprive me of my prey!"



"I dare because I am the king of this region and my work is to protect the weak," said the king. "The dove trusts me and has come to me for shelter. Shall I then betray that trust?"

"You save the dove and starve me of my food. Is this your idea of justice?" asked the predator.

"Ah, my friend! If it is food you need then I am ready to give you an equal quantity of any other food you name," said the king.

"Any other food that I name?" repeated the wicked eagle. The king nodded his assent.

"Well then, I want an equal quantity of your own flesh." On hearing this, the courtiers stood-up in alarm, for they knew that the good king would keep his word.

"My flesh, you shall have," said the king in a calm voice. Then turning to his courtiers, he ordered, "Bring the scale. The dove shall be weighed against my own flesh and that flesh shall be the eagle's food."

The eagle then said, "I have a further condition, the flesh shall be taken from only the left side of the body."

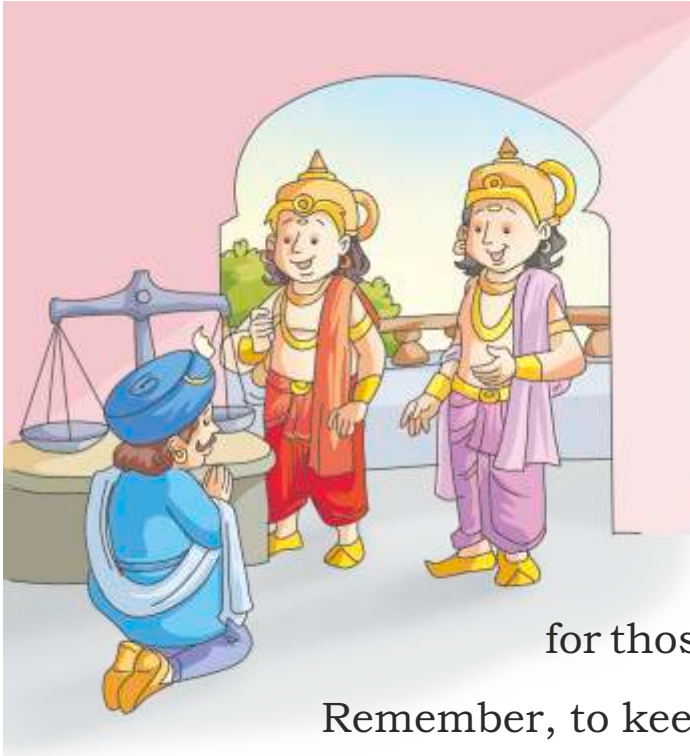
"I agree to the condition," was the king's firm reply.

The excitement in the court increased, as the horrible act of weighting the bird against the king's flesh was being carried out.

Strangely enough, the bird began to weight more and more, and the two weights could not be made equal. Then the eagle saw a tear roll down the left eye of the king.

"Stop! Stop!" cried the eagle, "You are weeping. Your's is not a willing sacrifice." "I don't weep for myself. The tear I shed is for the poor, weak dove whom I cannot protect even with my flesh. It is the right of a king to share the suffering of the weak."

Suddenly, there was a blaze of light in the hall. The dove and the eagle



changed into the forms of Indra, who represented Varun and Agni.

As the two disappeared from the hall, Indra's voice was heard to say, "O, King! You have proved your worth. You will always be more powerful, and use your power for the good of the weak. If the strong doesn't protect the weak, then who will? Who will care for those who cannot protect themselves?"

Remember, to keep your promise means to keep your word. Shibi Rana was prepared to make the supreme sacrifice and give his life for the little dove just because he had given his words. Rarely are we called upon to make such a sacrifice in life. Yet even when we are asked to give up small things for someone else we prefer to forget our promises. Learn to fulfil our commitments.

Exercises

A. Answer the following questions:

1. Why was Shibi Rana considered to be a kind-hearted king?

2. Who decided to test the king?

3. What caused the eagle to become angry with the king?



4. What did the eagle demand instead of the dove?

5. Who were the dove and the eagle? Why did they come to the king's court?

6. What was the reason for the king's tear?

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. Commitment is a _____ to do something.
2. It is our responsibility to _____ our words.
3. The king took the _____ into his cloak.
4. The _____ knew that the good king would keep his words.
5. A tear rolled down from the _____ eye of the _____.

C. Write T for 'True' and F for 'False':

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. The eagle decided to test Shibi Rana. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. The eagle was wild with rage. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. The king cried in pain. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. The dove began to weigh more and more. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. The dove changed into Varun, a form of Indra. | <input type="checkbox"/> |



Truth of Life

Gautama Buddha was the founder of Buddhism. His real name was Siddhartha. He was born in Lumbini, Nepal. His father Suddhodhana was the king of Kapilvastu.

Mahamaya was his mother. It is said that Mahamaya had a dream of a “White Elephant” with six tusks entering her body. The astrologers interpreted the dream as indicating that the prospective child was either to be a prophet or a great emperor.

Seven days after the birth of Siddhartha. Mahamaya died and the child was brought up by his aunt. He was married to a very beautiful princess, Yashodhra at the age of sixteen. At the age of 29, a son was born to him and was named Rahul. Siddhartha used to feel that 'a bond was born to him'.

One evening Siddhartha's charioteer, Channa, drove the prince in the city where he came across an old man who had been given up by his people.

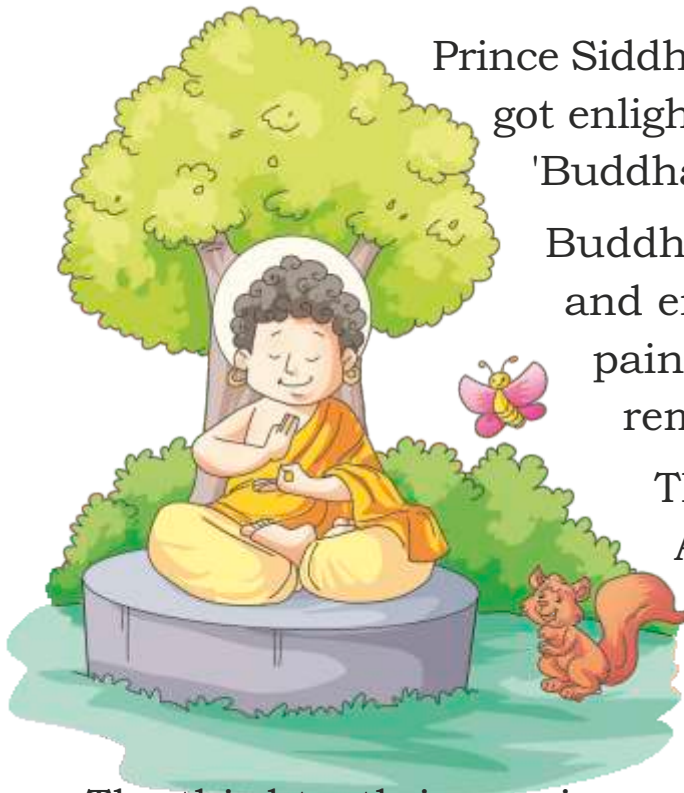
He saw another man suffering from the agony of disease and Channa told him that such was the fate of every human being.

Then he saw a dead man surrounded by weeping relatives.

Later, he saw a mendicant who had given up the world and was moving about in search of truth.

These experiences affected the mind of Siddhartha and he left his wife and child sleeping, and went away accompanied by Channa, the charioteer in search of enlightenment.





Prince Siddhartha sat under a Peepal tree, where he got enlightenment and came to be known as the 'Buddha' or 'the Enlightened one'.

Buddha explained the “Four Noble Truths” and emphasized the fact that life was full of pain, which could be removed only by the removal of all desires.

The first truth is the existence of sorrow.
All here is sorrowful and full of pain.

The second truth is the cause of sorrow. Desire is the cause of all evils and hence it must be removed.

The third truth is ceasing sorrow. Sorrowing can be ended only by the elimination of desires. When sorrow ends, there is perfect bliss. Life and death end.

The fourth truth is that there must be a way to attain bliss and end desires.

Although, it is difficult to understand the complete meaning behind Buddha's teachings now at your age. Let us just understand:

1. Let us not kill any living being.
2. Let us not take what is not given to us.
3. Let us not speak falsely.
4. Let us overcome anger by kindness and evil by good.

Exercises

A. Answer the following questions:

1. Who was Gautama Buddha?

2. Where was Siddhartha born? Who was his father?

3. How did the astrologers interpret Mahamaya's dream?

4. What did Siddhartha see that affected his mind?

5. According to Buddha, what was the first truth of life?

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. Gautam Buddha was the founder of _____.
2. Siddhartha was born in _____.
3. Siddhartha was married to _____.
4. _____ is the cause of all _____.

C. Write T for 'True' and F for 'False':

1. Suddhodhana was the king of Kapilavastu. ☐
2. Mahamaya had a dream before the birth of Siddhartha. ☐
3. Buddha got enlightenment under a peepal tree. ☐
4. We must be kind to everyone. ☐





Generosity

Generosity is a great quality. To be generous means to be kind, friendly and helpful to others.

When a person is generous, he touches the heart of other people and then they also want to be generous. Generosity begins by recognizing some person or group that deserves help. Then depending on what they need, we can share our time, knowledge or even money.

Sometimes, we may want to practice generosity just to bring joy for others, for example, by buying a small gift. Generous people never look for anything in return for their generosity. They give just to bring joy and happiness to others. God has given us life and the beautiful parents to look after us, in fact everything that we may ever need.

Generosity is one of the qualities of God because without our asking He has provided us with everything. Since God is Himself so generous, He expects us also to be generous. He has given us so many things, so He wants to see us share some of the wonderful things, He has given us, with others. When we act in a generous way, we feel happy.

Because deep inside we know by acting in a generous way we have made God happy.

There lived a couple, Shanku and Mira in a city. They were very poor, yet very kind and loving. They used to eat chapatti and pickle for food everyday. One day, they decided to start saving money. Everyday, they



put aside twenty rupees from their day's earning and after thirty days, they were able to save six hundred rupees. They were very happy to see their savings and decided to buy cheese and fruits with that money and have a grand feast.

Shanku took the money and went to the market. On the way, he saw a little boy crying. He felt pity on the boy and approached him asking, "Little boy! Why are you crying?" The boy said, "My Principal is not allowing me to enter the school because I have not paid the school fee for this month."

Shanku asked, "How much is your school fee?" The boy said, "Five hundred forty rupees." Shanku said, "Do not worry, I will pay your school fee for this month."

Shanku went straight to the Principal and paid the fee. The little boy was very happy and thanked Shanku. He was allowed to enter the school and attend his classes.

Now, Shanku searched his pockets. He was left with only sixty rupees. He bought a little cheese with that amount and went back home. Shanku told Mira about his deed. She became very happy and said, "You have done a good deed by helping the boy. We still have the cheese to enjoy." She made a delicious dish with the cheese and they enjoyed thoroughly eating it.



Exercises

A. Answer the following questions:

1. What did the couple use to eat everyday?

2. Why were they saving?

3. What did Shanku do when he saw the little boy crying?

4. How much money did they save in a month?

5. What did Mira say when she heard what Shanku had done with their saving?

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. When a person is generous, he touches the _____ of other people.

2. The couple was very poor, yet very _____ and _____ .

3. Shanku decided to buy _____ and _____ with the money they saved.
4. On the way, Shanku saw a _____.
5. Shanku was left with only _____ rupees.

C. Write T for 'True' and F for 'False':

1. We should be generous to all. ☐
2. The quality of self-sacrifice makes you generous. ☐
3. Shanku was going to buy pickle. ☐
4. Be generous only with human beings. ☐

Gratitude

There lived a hermit in a forest. One day, as he was walking back to his hermitage through the forest, he felt thirsty. He had no water left in his 'kamandal'. He came to a well but it was completely dry. At the bottom of the well was a man, a tiger, a monkey and a snake. They had fallen into the well and were unable to come out of it. As soon as they saw him they started shouting, "Help us please!"

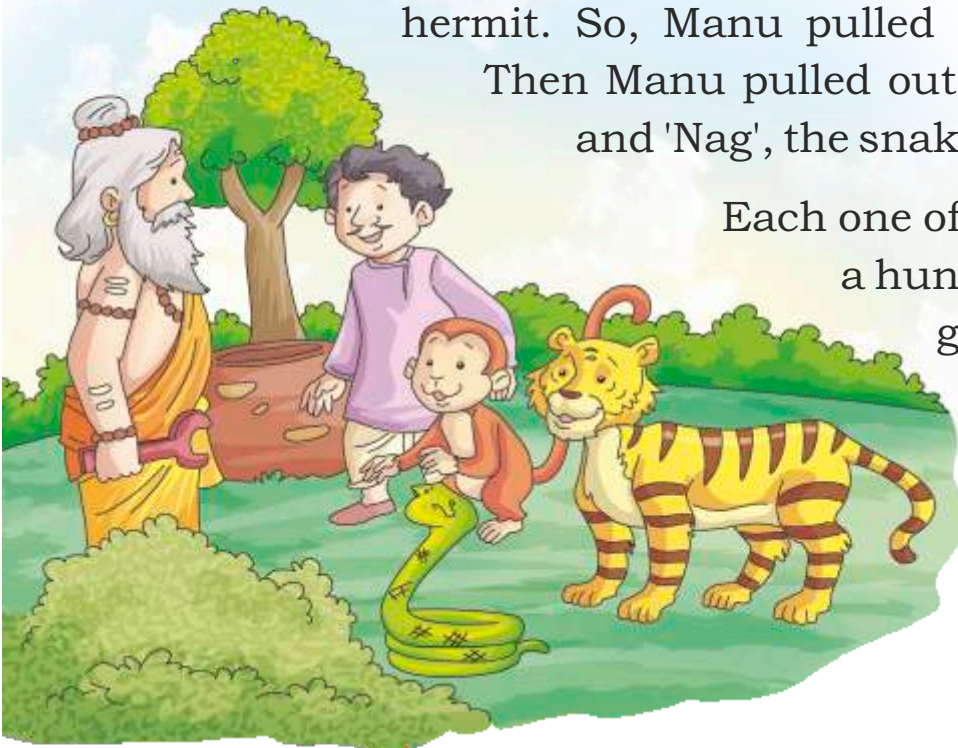
Sher Singh, the tiger pleaded the hermit, "Oh noble and dear friend, save my life."

Manu, the hermit replied, "I am scared of you. The very thought of you somewhere close to me sends shivers down my spine. Why should I help you? What if you eat me up after I rescue you out of the Well?"

But, Sher Singh promised that he would not harm the hermit. So, Manu pulled him out of the well.

Then Manu pulled out 'Vanar', the monkey and 'Nag', the snake.

Each one of them thanked Manu a hundred times but before going their own way they warned the hermit not to listen to the man in the well for he is treacherous and ungrateful.



The Nag said, “If ever you need me, just call me and I shall be there” and crawled away.

Sher Singh said, “You must come and visit me. I live in that cave under the big rock.”

The monkey chirped, “You must visit me too. I live on the mango tree by the rock.” And swiftly jumped onto the tree and disappeared into the forest.

The man from the well was getting impatient. He cried out, “Have pity on me. Pull me out too.”

Manu felt sorry and pulled him out.

The man said to Manu, “Friend, thank you very much for saving my life. I shall never forget you. I am a goldsmith. If you ever need any gold ornaments, you must come to me. I shall make them for you.” The goldsmith thanked Manu again and walked away.

After a few weeks, Manu remembered Vanar's invitation. He walked towards the mango tree by the rock. Vanar was very pleased to see Manu. He greeted Manu and fed him with delicious mangoes, bananas and cashew nuts. He called his family of hundreds to meet him.

As days passed, Manu decided to pay a visit to Sher in his cave. Sher Singh was delighted to see Manu. He gave him a gold necklace and said, “Make use of this necklace when you need it. I had killed a prince a few days back. This was his.”

Manu thought to himself, “What would a hermit need a necklace for? I can sell it to the goldsmith whom I saved from the well and with that money I can buy food and other things.”

Manu went to the goldsmith's shop and gave him the necklace for selling it. When the goldsmith saw the necklace, he said to Manu, “The necklace seems to be of good quality. You will get a good amount



for it. Please wait here I shall come back in a moment.” As soon as the goldsmith saw the necklace he recognized it. He had made the necklace for the king's son. The king was looking for the prince who had disappeared a few days ago while hunting in the forest. The king had offered a great reward for one who would bring him the news of his son.



The goldsmith quickly went to the king and told him, “In my house there is a man who says that a tiger gave this necklace of your son to him. It is a pure lie. First thing a tiger will do is pounce on him and eat him up instead of giving a necklace to him. The man must have killed your son and stolen this necklace. The villain wants to sell it.”

The king rewarded the goldsmith and ordered to put Manu to death the next morning. Manu was arrested by the king's soldiers and was sent to the prison.

Manu began to think about the warnings of the animals about the goldsmith. Suddenly, he remembered Nag's words to call him in time of need. Manu called out for Nag. Nag arrived at once through a small hole of the cell. Manu told Nag about his sad plight and that he would be put to death the next morning.

“Don't worry, cheer up. I will save you. Tonight, I shall bite the queen. She will look dead. Nobody will be able to revive her except you. She will recover as soon as you will touch your hand on her forehead. You give this information to the guard,” said the snake.

Nag crawled to the palace and bit the queen. The king found the

queen on the floor turned all blue with Nag's poison. Many magicians and doctors could not revive the queen. The guard told the king that Manu, the prisoner claimed that he could revive the queen. Manu was called to the presence of the king who said, "If you can bring my queen back to life, I shall set you free and also give you rich rewards." Manu put his hand on the queen's forehead and she sprang back to life. The king was very happy. He made Manu his Prime Minister and punished the goldsmith for his lies and lack of gratitude. Manu lived happily ever after in the palace. The animals were grateful but not the goldsmith.



Exercises

A. Answer the following questions:

1. What did the hermit see in the well?

2. Why did the animals warn Manu against the man?

3. Was the goldsmith grateful to the hermit? What did he do?

4. Who helped the hermit to come out of the prison? How?

5. What did the King do when he came to know the truth?

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. The hermit had no water left in his _____ .
2. _____ promised that he would not harm the hermit.
3. The monkey lived on the _____ tree.
4. Sher Singh gave the hermit a gold _____ .
5. The king was looking for the _____ .

C. Write T for 'True' and F for 'False':

1. Manu did not pull out the tiger. ☐
2. The goldsmith warned the hermit not to pull out the snake. ☐
3. The king rewarded the hermit for bringing him the necklace. ☐
4. The snake bit the queen. ☐
5. Many magicians and doctors could not revive the queen. ☐

Politeness

Once, there lived a beautiful peacock in forest. His feathers were green and blue with beautiful spots.

The peacock was proud of his beauty. Once he was sitting on the branch of a tree and enjoying the falling drops of rain, when he saw an elephant coming down the way. The elephant used to go the nearby river to have a bath every day.

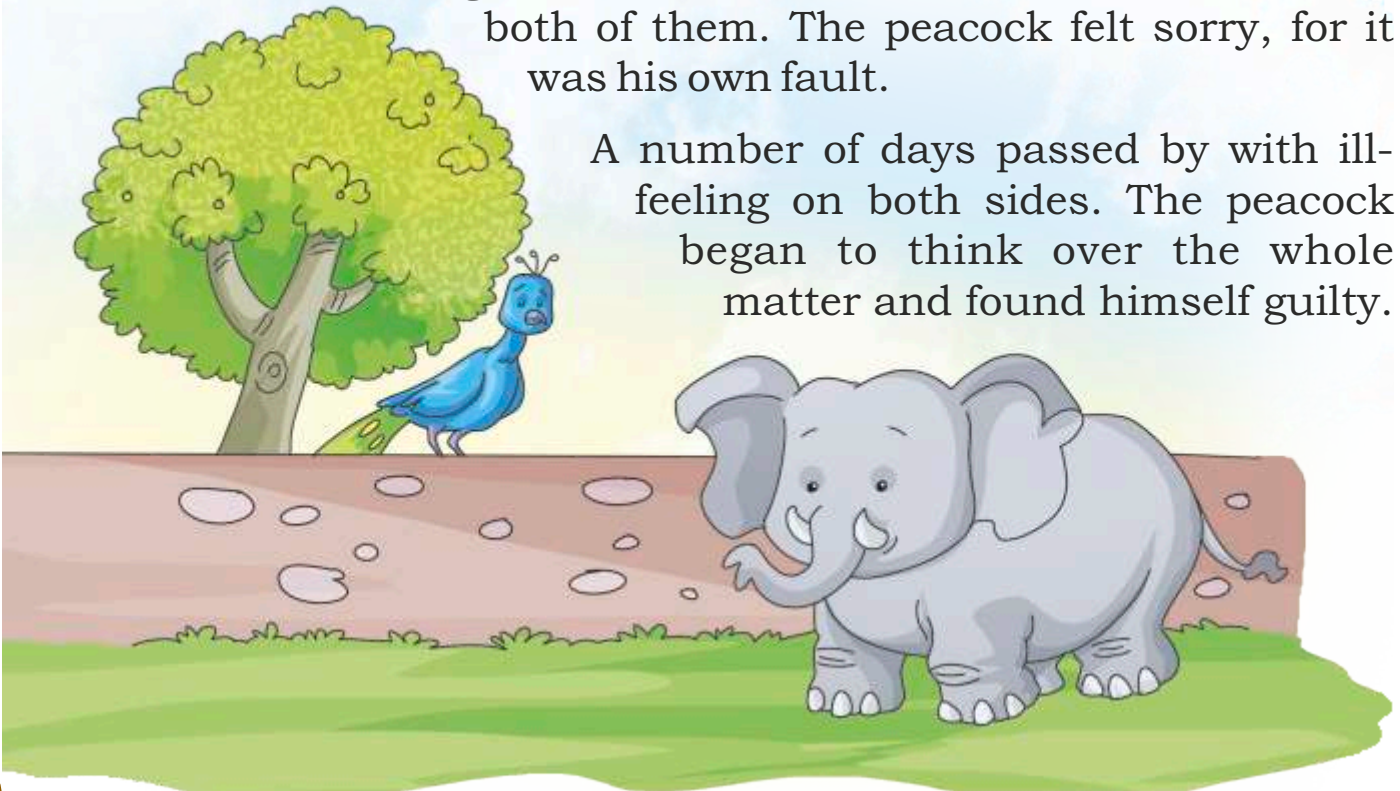
The peacock looked at the elephant scornfully and remarked, “What an ugly face!”

The elephant, upon hearing this remark, replied, “Hey! What are you croaking about?”

At once the peacock realised his mistake in making fun of the elephant. He thought, 'If I am noted for my beauty then an elephant is also noted for its might, all over the world.' The bitter words hurt

both of them. The peacock felt sorry, for it was his own fault.

A number of days passed by with ill-feeling on both sides. The peacock began to think over the whole matter and found himself guilty.



He himself was responsible for picking up a quarrel with the elephant.

One day, the peacock sat on the same branch of the tree very early. He wanted to offer an apology to the elephant and resolve the dispute.

After some time, the elephant came down the way as usual. As the elephant came near, the peacock said very politely, “Hi Mighty! I am sorry for my unkind words.” The elephant looked towards the peacock. He smiled and replied to the peacock, “Hi Beauty! It's OK.”

These polite words did a magic. They worked as a soothing balm for both of them. Thereafter, the beautiful peacock and the mighty elephant became very good friends.

So always remember to speak politely to others. Never hurt anybody's feelings. You will find yourself without friends, if you talk rudely.



Exercises

A. Answer the following questions:

1. Where did the peacock live? How did he look like?

2. Who was going to the river to have a bath?

3. How did the peacock make fun of the elephant?

4. Who is known for its might?

5. How did the peacock and the elephant become friends?

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. The feathers of the peacock were _____ and _____.
2. The peacock was proud of his _____.
3. The _____ felt sorry for his rude words.
4. The _____ is noted for its might.
5. The _____ wanted to offer an apology to the _____.

C. Write T for 'True' and F for 'False':

1. There were beautiful spots on the feathers of the peacock.
2. The elephant was taking a bath in the river.
3. The peacock looked scornfully at the elephant.
4. The elephant wanted to resolve the dispute.
5. The polite words made them good friends.

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐



Look at the pictures of animals below and write the main quality for which each is known for.

(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)



The Disloyal King

Keeping our promise is very important. Whenever we make a promise to someone, we must keep our promise.

Sticking to your words is as important as being sincere. You should keep your promise. A sincere person is respected and regarded well by people. It takes courage, patience and sometimes determination to remain loyal.

Many relationships break-up because one person does not keep his word. A long lasting friendship needs loyalty, no matter what it costs. If you don't keep your promise, you lose trust and hurt others. Never be careless about a promise. First think before you make a promise. And when you make a promise, make sure you fulfil it.

Here is the story of a king who did not keep his promise.

There was once a king who was loved by his people. His people considered him a good, kind and loving king.

One day, the king decided to extend his kingdom further. He decided to conquer some of the neighbouring territories. He called the people to his court and told them, “I have decided to extend the kingdom by conquering the neighbouring kingdom. For that, I need your help. I promise to reward you with money and land in the new territories if we succeed.”



The good king needed men for the battle. The people agreed to help their king fight the battle. A bloody battle was fought and won by them.



After the battle, a few days passed. Now, the king had immense wealth and land to distribute to his people. As the king was about to distribute the rewards, his queen stopped him from paying the reward. The wicked queen said, “Your Majesty! Why should you part with so much of your wealth? Your people cannot force you to give away your wealth to them.”

The king also did not want to part with his freshly acquired wealth. So, he did as his queen told him. The people felt betrayed.

After a few years, the neighbouring king decided to win back the territories he had once lost. He built up an extremely strong army and attacked with full force.

The disloyal king had no choice but to turn to his people. He made the same promise. The people agreed to fight only out of fear.

When the battle began, the people moved away without putting up any resistance. The king lost the battle and the territories were gone. The king was really upset. He called his people and asked why did they not put up a fight. One of them answered, “It was because we were not sure whether you would keep your promise.”

This is what happens when one does not keep one's word.

Exercises

A. Answer the following questions:

1. Why did the king need the people's help?

2. What was the king's promise to the people?

3. Why did the king not keep his promise?

4. How did the people feel at the king's betrayal?

5. Why were the people unwilling to help the king for the second time?

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. Sticking to your _____ is as important as being _____.

2. A long lasting _____ needs loyalty, no matter what it _____.



3. When you make a _____ make sure you _____ it.
4. His people considered him a good, _____ and _____ king.
5. The king needed men for the _____.

C. Write T for 'True' and F for 'False':

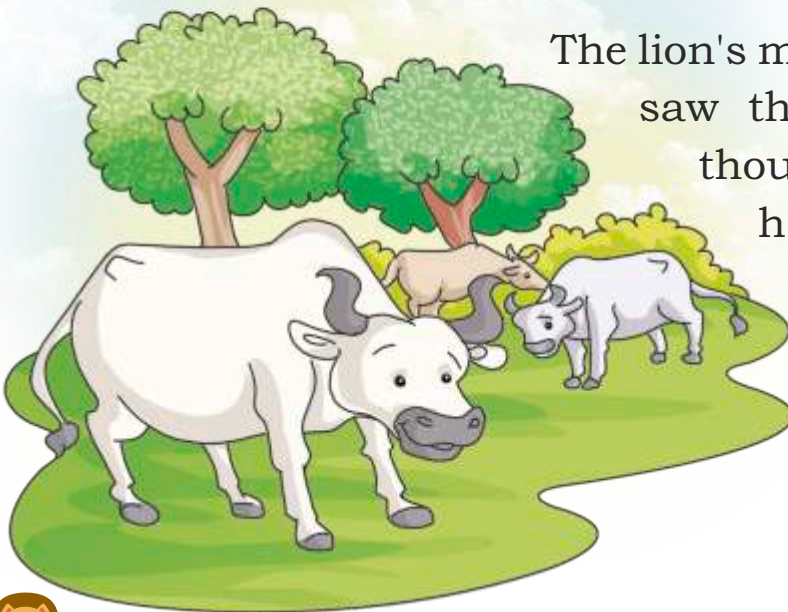
1. We must always keep our promise. ☐
2. The king promised his people to reward with money and land. ☐
3. The queen stopped the king from paying the reward. ☐
4. The people did not trust the king second time. ☐

Strength lies in unity. If we are united, our enemy dare not harm us. Thus we can enjoy a happy life. Our great country India became slave of kings from other countries and then to the Britishers. This happened because the country was divided into hundreds of small states but when we all stood together, we got our freedom. Therefore, we should not divide ourselves in the name of religion, state, language or culture. Let us see the result of unity and division through this story.

The Bulls and the Lion

Once, there lived four bulls in a forest. They were good friends. There was plenty of tall green grass for them to eat in the forest. They grazed on fresh grass to their heart's content and lived happily. They ate together, played together and lived together.

As they always used to be together, no other animal in the forest dared to come in their way. Even the lion was afraid of them. Whenever there was danger, all of them would bellow.



The lion's mouth used to water whenever he saw the four healthy bulls. Once a thought struck his mind, if somehow he kept them away from one another, he could eat them one by one.

He made a plan and when he saw a bull a bit away from others, he approached him. He whispered in the bull's ear,

“The other bulls eat more grass than you. You hardly get your share. This is not good on their part.”

The lion went around and whispered the same in the ears of all the four bulls. He played a trick to divide them. The lion went away and waited for some days. He was confident that their unity will not last long. They won't live together and will keep away from each other. If it could happen then what tasty food he was going to get!

The bulls had no more faith in their companions. They started thinking that others are eating more. So they no longer kept together and took to their own way.



This is what the lion wished for. One day the lion sprang suddenly upon one of the bulls and ate him up. The other bulls did not come to save him.

A few days later, the lion pounced upon another bull and ate him too. The other two bulls did not come to help him. They kept standing and watched their friend being killed.

Next day the lion again visited the field. He wanted to kill the other two bulls. So he pounced upon the third bull and ate him.

No the remaining last bull laughed and thought “I'll eat the whole grass. There is none to share it with. Ah! ha!”

But his happiness did not last long. One day the lion appeared, pounced upon him and ate him too. All four friends became the lion's meal. This was a sad end to their lives due to their disunity.

Exercises

A. Answer the following questions:

1. Why did no animal dare to fight with the bulls?

2. What was the lion's trick to separate the bulls?

3. Could the lion have killed the bulls if they were united?

4. How did the lion sow seeds of disunity among the bulls?

5. What lesson do you get from the story?

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. Strength lies in _____.

2. Once, there lived four _____ in a forest.

3. There was plenty of tall green _____ for the bulls to eat.

4. The lion played a _____ to divide the four bulls.



5. The bulls had no more faith in their _____ .

C. Write T for 'True' and F for 'False':

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. All the four bulls were great friends. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. They were divided by the lion's trick. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. The fourth bull ran away and saved himself. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. If the bulls were united, the lion couldn't kill them. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Believing others blindly is very dangerous. | <input type="checkbox"/> |



Choose Your Company

We all live in home with our parents, brothers and sisters. In school we are with our teachers and friends. We are seldom alone. We always need the company of others. It is because we are social beings. We are born to live in society with others.

We are always in some company whether it is at home or in school. It is said that a man is known by the company he keeps. If a boy or a girl has good company, his or her character will be good. It is very important that we choose our company very carefully, because our future depends on it.

In school there are all types of students. It is our duty to choose good and noble ones as our friends. If we select the good ones, we will be influenced by their goodness and we will become better. There may be students who steal, tell lies, use bad language and crack dirty jokes.

There may be others who enjoy reading bad books or looking at dirty pictures. If we choose any of them, we will be influenced by their bad habits and it will be very difficult to correct ourselves later on.

A person's character is known by the friends he or she keeps. Let us choose good friends and have the best company.

The Two Parrots

Once upon a time, a hunter went to the forest in search of some birds. After searching all day, he found two baby parrots in a nest high up on a tree. The two tiny birds were twins, and looked just like each other.

“Ah,” thought the hunter, “these fine birds would fetch me a good price in the market.....”



The hunter took them to the village and sold them for a large sum. One was sold to a thief and the other to a holy man, both of them lived in the forest.

One day, the king was returning home after a tiring day of hunting. He felt very thirsty, and wanted to drink water. As

he was riding through the forest, he came to the thief's den. He decided to stop and ask for some water.

As the king came close to the house, he saw a parrot in a cage. On seeing someone richly dressed, the parrot screamed out loudly.

“Here comes a rich man, O Master. Let's take away his money, steal his jewels and kill him!”

The king realised that it was not safe to stop at such a place, and rode on. After some time, the king came across what looked like a holy man's hermitage. It was a peaceful place. Outside, on a beautiful perch, sat a parrot that looked exactly like the one he had seen earlier.

As the king approached the hermitage, the holy man's parrot said sweetly, “O, here is a noble guest. Welcome!”

In a few seconds, the holy man himself came out to receive the king.

“Welcome, O king! Please consider this your home!” said the holy man.

It was then that the king understood how important it is to live in the right surrounding.



Exercises

A. Answer the following questions:

1. Why did the hunter catch the baby parrots?

2. What is the meaning of the word 'twins'?

3. To whom did the hunter sell the parrots?

4. What does the king realize at the end of the story?

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. We always need the _____ of others.

2. The hunter was searching for some _____.

3. The king felt very _____.

4. The hermitage was a _____ place.

C. Write T for 'True' and F for 'False':

1. It is good to live alone.

2. We should not care for the company we have.

3. One of the tiny parrots was very beautiful.

4. The thief lived in a city.

