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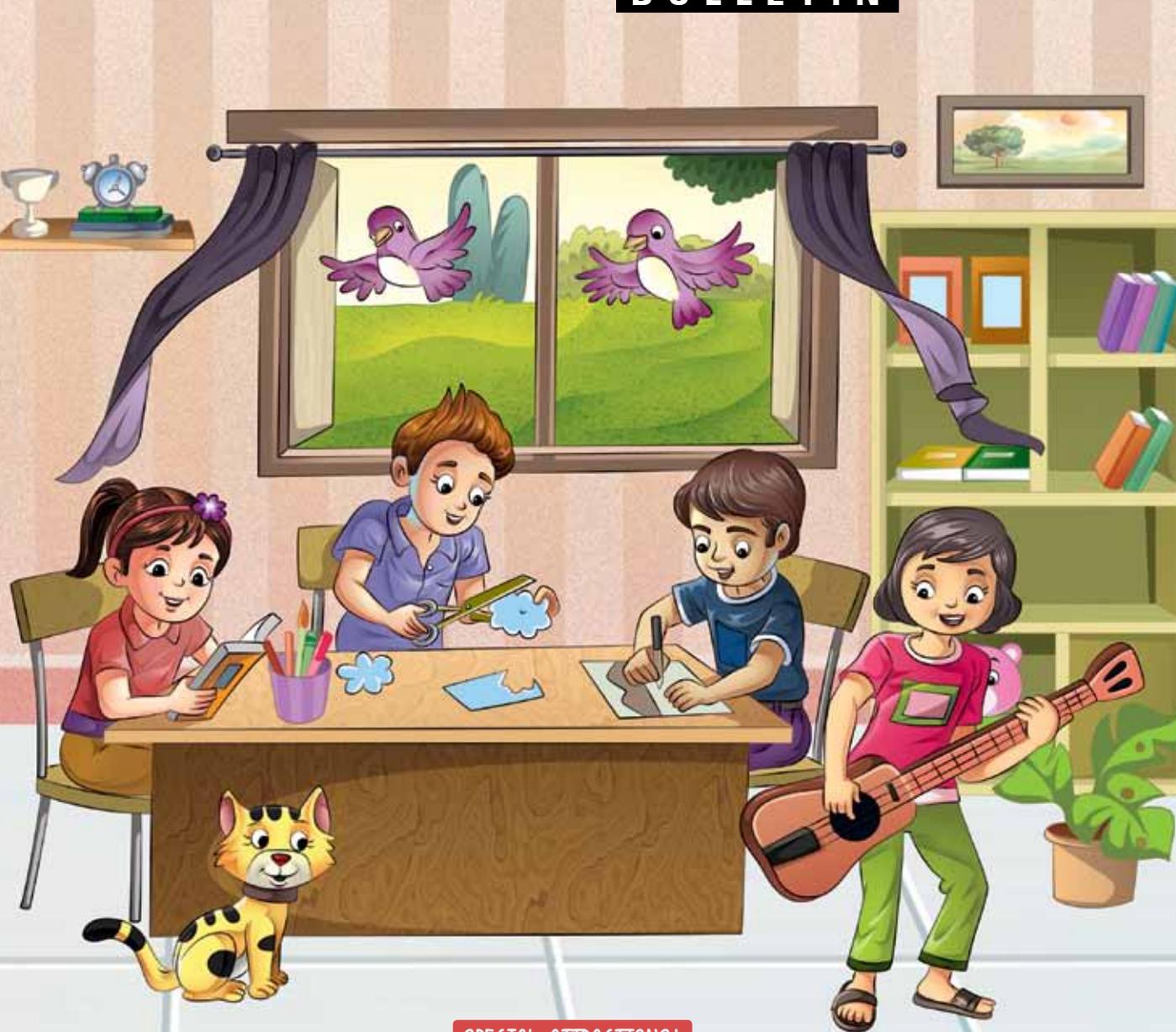


रीडर्स क्लब बुलेटिन

# READERS' CLUB

Vol. 28 No. 02, May to July 2023

**BULLETIN**



**SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS!**

04 | Nature Around Us 10 | Know Your Country 26 | From Our Young Readers 34 | Uljhan-Suljhan

## NBT-India Organises Workshop for Teachers

National Book Trust, India (NBT-India) organised a Workshop for Teachers on 27 May 2023 at its headquarters in Vasant Kunj, New Delhi to acquaint teachers and librarians across Delhi's schools with making reading interesting as it is an integral part of growth and development for students. The Workshop was inaugurated by Shri Vikas Tripathi, Additional Commissioner (Education), Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT-India.

The Workshop began with a tour of the NBT Bookshop and the National Centre of Children's Literature (NCCL) Library, followed by a captivating Workshop on the 'Art of Storytelling' by storyteller and author Ms Swati Sinha, who taught the participants how to better engage with their students through stories. A valuable counselling session on Enhancing Engagement through Books was delivered by Dr Akanksha Bhatia, a counselling and educational psychologist. Dr Subir Dey, design professor from IIT Delhi, conducted an engaging Illustration Workshop to explain the importance of using illustrations to explain various concepts to children.

The Workshop concluded with an insightful Orientation on NCCL's Readers' Club Movement. The Readers' Club Movement, initiated by NBT-India, stands as one of the largest reading movements, with approximately 1.30 lakh Readers' Clubs established across the country. These clubs serve as activity centres, fostering a love for reading, and enhancing teaching practices in schools, non-formal education centres, libraries, and NGOs' educational establishments.



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**Readers' Club Bulletin**

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### The Yellow Fields

Spring is the most enjoyable season, with the chilly winter giving way to warm, comfortable weather, accompanied by blooming flowers and new leaves sprouting all around. Miku loves this time of the year and enjoys observing the changing nature around her. She asked her father to take them for a long drive to the outskirts of the city to see the beautiful scenery. He immediately agreed, and soon the whole family was excitedly planning a long drive and picnic. Miku looked forward to seeing different types of flowers at the picnic spot they had decided.

Miku's grandparents were happy because they enjoyed answering her queries when she observed new things.

Miku bonded very well with Daadi as she helped the enthusiastic little girl understand natural phenomena with her expertise in science. Miku liked reading all the signboards to Grandpa, especially the road signs. They had great fun with the goodies packed by Mummy.

They started the drive early in the morning to witness the rising sun and listen to the chattering birds. This helped them avoid heavy traffic on the city roads as well. Soon, they found themselves on the highway and outside the crowded residential areas. Big fields with small houses looked incredibly attractive. They could see numerous cattle near the village houses, and the air smelled fresh.



Miku was lost in watching out of the window. She seemed to be observing something new. She turned to Daadi and pointed towards the vast yellow fields, asking why the whole place looked so uniformly yellow. Daadi explained that those were the fields of mustard flowers.

Miku felt confused and wanted to know why anyone would grow only one type of flower. She had not seen fields before, and in gardens, there are so many types of flowers. Daadi smiled at her innocence and told her that living in a big city makes us think that flowers are only for beauty. However, if we want to produce a specific product, we need to grow a large number of plants of the same type. These are called fields. Wheat, rice, dals, vegetables, and spices are all grown in large areas, and what we get is called the yield. Field plants are called crops and they are harvested to get the yield. This was great information for the city girl as she learnt many new terms.

Being an inquisitive thinker, Miku wanted to know what they should get from the yellow fields. Papa stopped the car near a field, and they went closer to the plants. All the plants were of the same height, and the yellow flowers had four petals each. Miku pointed to some bees visiting the flowers. She knew that this was pollination, a process in which flowers are fertilized for seed production.

Daadi told her that those were mustard plants. When we crush the mustard seeds, we get mustard oil. In

addition to this, we use the leaves as vegetable to make 'Sarson-ka-saag'. These seeds are used as a spice. Mustard oil is an edible oil with numerous uses, such as cooking vegetables, frying, massage, lighting of Diwali 'diyas', hair oil, and lubricant.



*Seeds and oil of mustard*

Miku got excited to learn about fields, crops and where we get mustard oil. She started thinking about the delicious 'pakoras', and her favourite festival, Diwali, when she enjoys decorating the 'diyas'. She also enjoyed eating 'sarson-ka-saag' with 'makki-ki-roti', Daadi told her that 'makki' is the grain of a plant called maize, which is also grown as a crop in fields. Miku made Daadi promise to tell her more about the maize plant soon. She was excited to share all this knowledge about the yellow fields of mustard with her classmates and friends.

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# दो गेंद एक फूँक

आज लीला और लालू डॉक्टर चाचा से कुछ नया सीखने वाले हैं। आइए देखें क्या! यह अंश आबिद सुरती द्वारा लिखित और राष्ट्रीय पुस्तक न्यास, भारत द्वारा प्रकाशित पुस्तक 'डॉक्टर चींचू के कारनामे-2' से ली गयी है।



शाबाश! अब सबसे पहले हम कागज़ की पट्टी लेकर धागे को दोनों गेंद पर गोंद से चिपका दें, ताकि धागा निकल न जाए।



इस धागे के दूसरे छोर को हम किसी ऊँची जगह पर बाँध देंगे ताकि दोनों गेंद के बीच ६ इंच की जगह रहे।



लालू! अब तुम दोनों गेंद के बीच जोर से फूँक मारो। फिर बताओ क्या होता है?



डाक्टर चाचा, बीच में फूँक मारने से दोनों गेंद दूर जाने के बजाए और करीब आ जाती हैं! यह कैसे?



बात बहुत मामूली है: गेंद के बीच फूँक मारने से बीच में हवा का दबाव कम हो जाता है और बाहर का दबाव गेंदों पर बढ़ने से गेंद करीब आ जाती हैं! समझ गये न?



लालू, मुझे जल्द घर पहुँच कर यह चमत्कार पापा को दिखाना है।

हाँ, मुझे भी अपनी मम्मी को दिखाना है।



### The Wooden Elephant

*A folktale from Sri Lanka*

There once lived a rich and greedy king called Chandapajota. He spent most of his spare time gazing at his possessions. Nothing interested him more than counting the money in his coffers. One day, as he was walking with one of his ministers, the king said, "Am I not the greatest warrior among the kings? Surely no one has more wealth than I?"

"No, Your Majesty, King Udena of the neighbouring kingdom is so wealthy that in comparison all others look poor. The young king knows a magic charm that can capture any elephant in the world," the minister answered. "The music from his magic lute has stopped many a fleeing elephant."

King Chandapajota could not bear to think that any man had more elephants than him. At once he began to think of a plan by which he could learn the charm.

Many days later he called all the wise men in his kingdom and ordered them to build a hollow wooden elephant that could move faster than any live elephant or horse.

When the magic elephant was ready, the king went to see it. "Perfect," he said. "Sixty of my strongest soldiers will fit into the hollow elephant. The elephant with sixty soldiers inside was then moved to the outskirts of King Udena's kingdom.

King Udena's interest was aroused. King Udena recited the charm and played his magic lute, but all in vain.

Now you and I know that the elephant was not a real one, but can you imagine the good King Udena's surprise when he saw soldiers jumping out of an elephant's stomach!

Before he could gather his wits, the soldiers captured him and led him to their king. King Chandapajota was delighted that his trick had worked.

"You know a charm," he said, smiling wickedly at the handsome young king. "If you teach it to me you may return to your kingdom unharmed."

King Udena thought for a few moments before he answered. "I will teach you the charm," he said, "but you must treat me with the respect that you would show the wisest of your teachers."

On hearing this, King Chandapajota had an idea. He had a beautiful daughter named Vasuladatta. She could learn the charm from King Udena. But he was afraid that she would fall in love with the good-looking king. Tugging at his beard he thought hard for a while. Finally he hit upon a plan.

"I have a hunchbacked daughter, he said to King Udena. "She will give you all the respect you desire, and in return you must teach her the charm.

King Udena agreed to the plan willingly.

“But,” said King Chandapajota, “she is ashamed of her hunchback, so a curtain will hide her while you teach.” When all this was agreed to, Chandapajota went to his daughter and told her what she must do. “But,” he said, “the man who is to be your teacher is suffering from leprosy, so a curtain shall keep him from your sight while you learn.” The very next day, King Udena began to teach Vasuladatta the magic charm. For the first two days she listened attentively and repeated the words after King Udena. On the third day, Vasuladatta’s attention began to wander. She could not remember what she had learned the previous days and kept making mistakes. At last, King Udena could not bear it anymore, and lost his temper. He tore aside the curtain between them, ready for a quarrel.

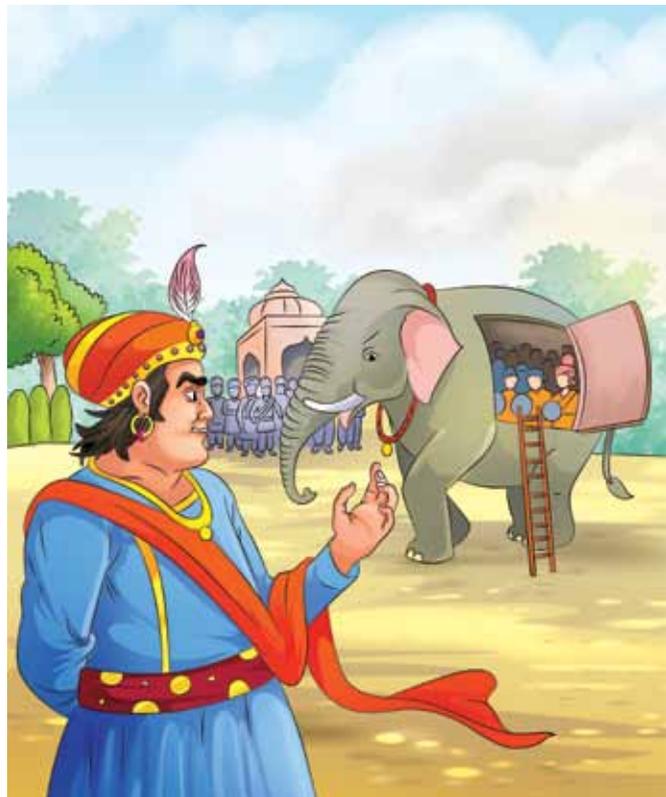
When they saw each other, the king and Vasuladatta were amazed. Neither of them was deformed as described by King Chandapajota. In fact, Vasuladatta was the most beautiful maiden that King Udena had ever seen, and he fell in love with her immediately. They soon realised what King Chandapajota had done, and Vasuladatta promised to do all she could to help King Udena escape.

Each time her father asked her if she had learned the charm, Vasuladatta

replied that she would soon know it to perfection. King Udena and Vasuladatta waited patiently until, one day, King Chandapajota went hunting. Then, they quickly filled a sack with gold coins and made their way out of the palace gates on the back of a strong horse.

King Chandapajota was furious when he learned of what had happened. He stamped his foot in rage and frustration, but he could do nothing to harm King Udena now.

In his place, I would have been happy with my riches, instead of hankering for more.



*Excerpted from 'The Broken Wings and Other Asian Tales' written by Belinder Dhanoa and published by National Book Trust, India*

### Major Plants of India

*Plants have different shapes and their leaves too are of various kinds. Here is a glimpse of the major plants in India from the book 'Playing together' written by Bharat Bhushan Aggarwal & Bindu Aggarwal, and published by National Book Trust, India*

The obvious difference between a plant and a tree is that plants are short while trees are big and tall. Just as the large plants are called trees, the very small ones are called herbs. Plants, which thrive by taking the support of each other, such that it is difficult to separate them, are called shrubs.

These two characteristics put together help identify the nature of a plant. The seeds of some plants like pigeon-pea, gram, urad-bean are eaten. Gram-flour is made out of gram.

In the same manner, barley, wheat, paddy, millet and sprouts of barley are also ground into flour and eaten. Linseed, castor and mustard oil are used frequently.

Cotton is used for making cotton clothes. Carpets, bags and door-mats, etc. are made out of jute or flex. Brinjal, peas, tomatoes, chillies, etc. are those vegetables which constitute a part of our daily meal.

The mint plant is very small. It needs a lot of water. It is used for making chutney. Its consumption is extremely useful during the hot summer days.

The mystle plant is a bushy one. Its leaves leave behind a reddish colour.

So, women dry out these leaves, powder them and apply the paste prepared with water to their hands and feet.

Saffron with its red and yellow colour is like the pollen of flowers. The saffron of Kashmir is very popular. Apart from Kashmir, it also grows in South India. Saffron is ground with water into a paste to apply as tilak on idols and deities. Religious persons (who believe in rituals) also apply this tilak on their own foreheads. In good quality sweets, saffron is used to impart fragrance and colour.

Belladonna leaves, angular and betel-like in shape, are soft and its fruit is round like an apple. The leaves have tiny, soft thorns over them. The fruit and seeds are very poisonous and intoxicating. The belladonna fruit is used as an offering to Lord Shiva.

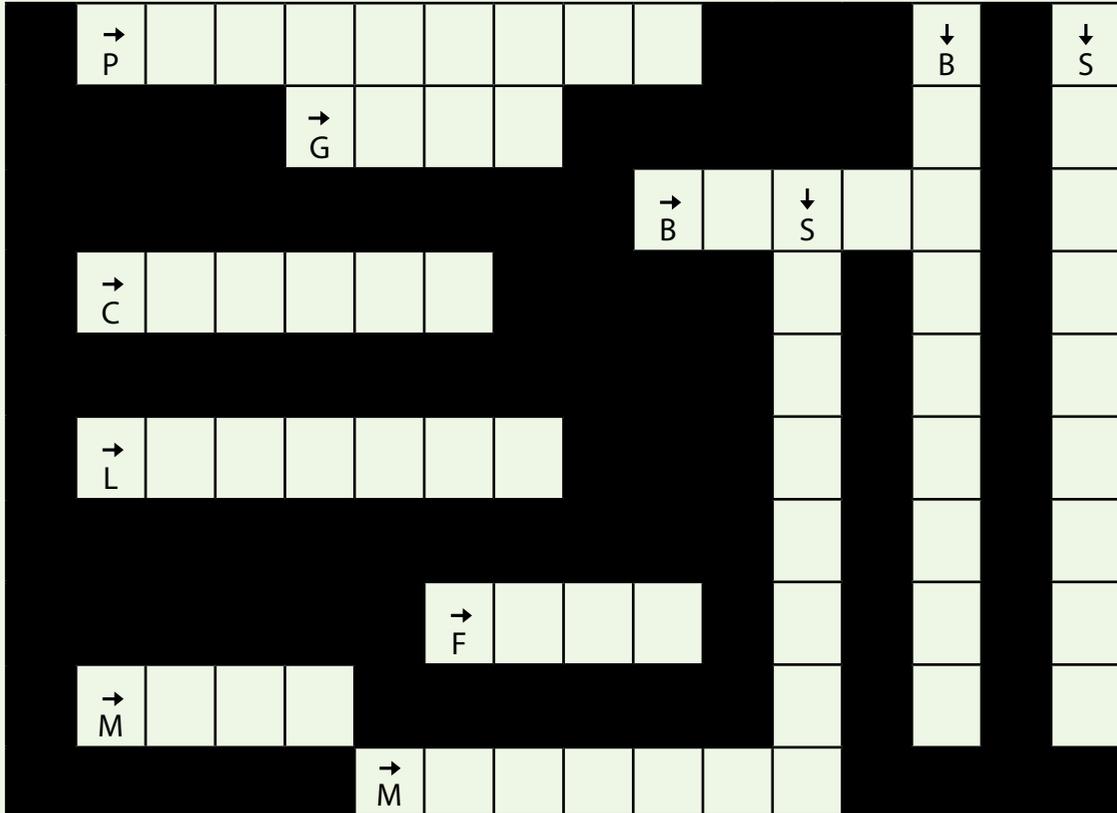
Basil is of two kinds-green and black. Both are considered sacred and very useful. Basil is also used as a medicine.

Prickly-amarnath is a well-known plant which has no branches, but it has snake-hood-like thick pulpy folds sprouting over one another. These folds are covered with thorns and hence are used for fencing.

Sugarcane, in comparison to other plants, is much taller. Its stem is used for chewing, and after peeling it off and cutting it into pieces, ganderi (small

cylindrical pieces) is made. Sugarcane juice is used as a refreshing drink. But its maximum use in India is in preparation of jaggery and sugar.

**Can you guess the names of different plants and fill the grid given below?**



*Answers on page 33*

प्रिय पाठक,

क्या आपको लिखना अच्छा लगता है? क्या आप अपनी कल्पना का प्रयोग कर रोमांचक कहानियाँ, कविता, और निबंध लिख सकते हैं? तो यह आपके लिए एक उत्तम मौका है।

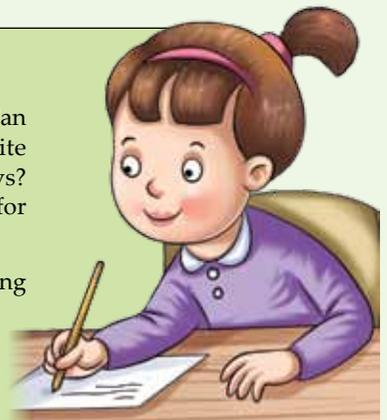
सबसे दिलचस्प लेखों को हम अपने अगले संस्करण में प्रकाशित करेंगे।

हमें लिखें / Write to us: [nccl.nbtindia@gmail.com](mailto:nccl.nbtindia@gmail.com) / [nccl@nbtindia.gov.in](mailto:nccl@nbtindia.gov.in)

Dear Children,

Do you find writing interesting? Can you use your imagination to write exciting stories, poems, and essays? Then this is a perfect opportunity for you!

We will publish the most interesting submissions in our next edition.

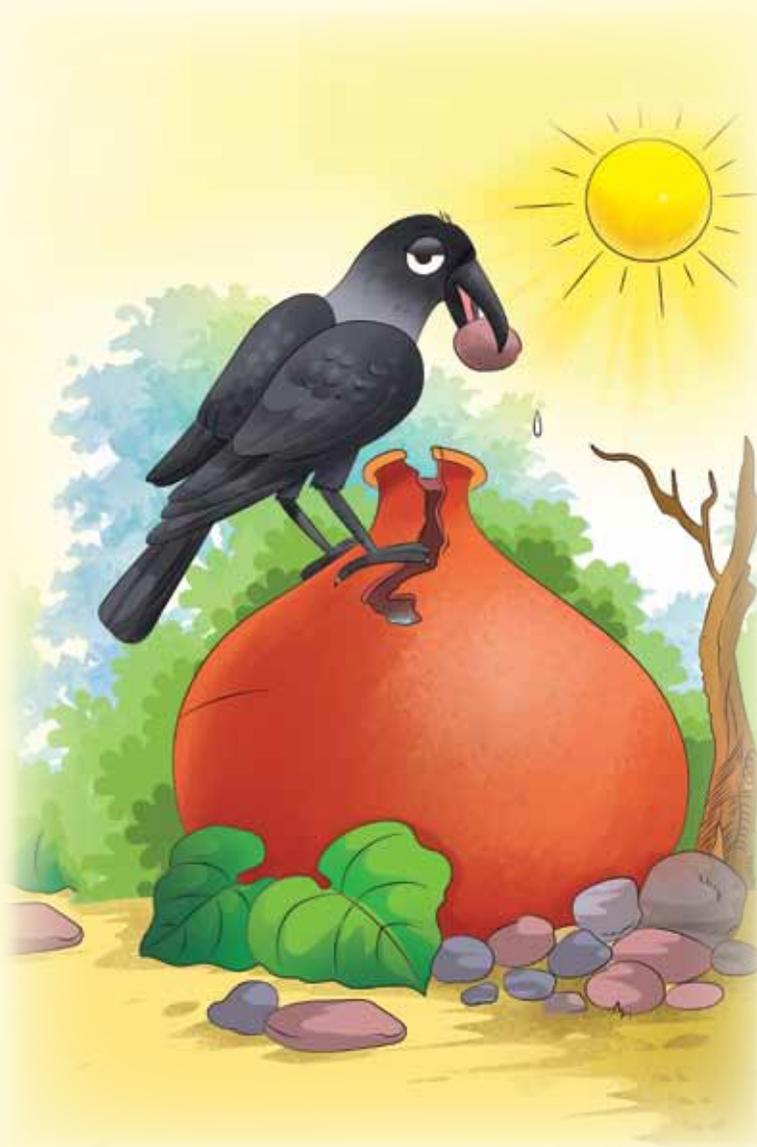


## The Thirsty Crow

*Do you know that crows are an intelligent species. This article is excerpted from 'The fascinating world of Biology' by Rohini Muthusuami, published by National Book Trust, India.*

*If men had wings and bore black feathers, few of them would be clever enough to be crows.*

*-Henry Ward Beecher*



Remember Aesop's fable about the thirsty crow? The crow finds a pitcher with water, but the level is so low that he cannot drink water from it. Then the crow decides to throw stones into the pitcher until the water level rises and it can drink water. The moral of the story is that where there is a will, there is a way or that necessity is the mother of invention.

For a long time, birds were believed to be of lesser intelligence than mammals. However, recent studies have shown that our traditional belief might be wrong.

The brain is a complex structure composed of neurons and glial cells. Of these two cells, neurons are considered most important. The brain is subdivided into many parts of which the neocortex is present

only in mammals and is believed to be the seat of higher cognitive processes such as problem solving and memory formation. The neocortex is absent in birds and therefore, for a long time it was believed that birds do not have the ability to solve problems or the skill to form concepts.

This view has now been challenged. Experiments done with many species of birds have begun to show that birds can indeed do problem-solving. The most amazing experiment came from a New Caledonian crow named 'Betty.' The New Caledonian crow is similar to our house crow, but it possesses an unusual ability to fashion tools. Three scientists from Oxford University studied Betty, who was captured as a youngster and bred in captivity.

However, Betty's ability to make tools was discovered by accident. The scientists were testing the ability of Betty and another New Caledonian crow named 'Abel' to retrieve food by using wires. The food was placed in a cage and the birds were provided with different kinds of wires to retrieve it. While Abel used a hooked wire to get the food, Betty took a straight wire, bent it into a hook shaped tool and used it to retrieve the food. This was the first time, a bird bred in captivity, had exhibited such power. This ability was even more fascinating because Betty had no role model to learn from as it had been reared in a laboratory.

Betty is not the only example in the world of birds. Nor is the tool-making

the only ability that birds display. One of the cognitive abilities that mammals possess is memory formation, a trait that corvids, the group to which crows belong, also display. Corvids live in large societal groups and in a study with Pinyon Jays, which are also corvids, it was found that these birds can recognize individuals within their group.

Another member of the Corvidae family is the Clark's nutcracker, which has a remarkable spatial memory. It can store its nuts in 20,000-30,000 separate places and yet, accurately retrieve each one of them months later. So what region of the brain in birds provides this ability? It appears that the birds possess a region that goes by the tongue-twister name 'nidopallidumcaudolaterale', which functions in a comparable manner as neocortex in mammals. Furthermore, the birds also seem to possess similar neural substrates required for skills such as imagination and reasoning in neocortex and nidopalladiumcaudolaterale.

Do all birds possess cognitive abilities similar to mammals? We do not know. What we know is that the cognitive abilities seem to be maximal in birds that live in large complex societies. Further, a comparison of neural densities between different species of birds has shown that the 'intelligent' birds contain a higher neural density.

However, it needs to be confirmed whether a higher neural density does indeed provide higher cognitive skills.

## गिलहरी और भालू

हजारों साल पहले जब जानवर इंसान की तरह बोल और समझ सकते थे, यह तब की बात है...।

भालू बड़े डील-डौल के कारण अपने को बहुत अक्लमंद और ताकतवर समझते थे। एक दिन एक भालू रोज की तरह पत्तों को रौंदता, पत्थरों को ठोकर मारता, जमीन पर पड़े पेड़ के तनों को टेलता हुआ कहता जा रहा था, "मेरे लिए कोई काम मुश्किल नहीं है।"

"ऐसा?" एक बारीक सी आवाज आयी। भालू ने इधर-उधर सिर घुमाकर देखा, लेकिन उसे कुछ नजर नहीं आया। उसने सिर नीचे कर गौर से देखा। एक गिलहरी बिल में से सिर निकालकर भालू की तरफ देख रही थी।

भालू ने पैर से एक तने को लुढ़काते हुए कहा, "हां, मेरे लिए हर काम बहुत आसान है। मैं दुनिया का सबसे बलशाली जानवर हूं। ऐसा कोई काम नहीं है जो मैं नहीं कर सकता।" गिलहरी ने तपाक से पूछा, "क्या तुम कल सूर्य को उदय होने से रोक सकते हो?" भालू ने ताव में आकर कहा, "क्यों नहीं। मैंने आज तक इसके बारे में सोचा नहीं है और कभी किया भी नहीं है। लेकिन मुझे यकीन है कि मैं इसे जरूर कर सकता हूं।"

गिलहरी ने एक बार फिर पूछा, "सच? तुम यह कर सकोगे?"

भालू ने दृढ़ता से कहा, "निश्चित रूप से मैं यह कर सकता हूं। देखना, कल सुबह सूर्योदय नहीं होगा।"

गिलहरी मन ही मन हंसती हुई वापस अपने बिल में दुबक गयी। भालू पहाड़ पर पूर्व दिशा की तरफ देखता हुआ बैठ गया। शाम होते सूरज उसके पीछे पश्चिम में डूब गया। भालू पूरी रात आकाश को टकटकी लगाए देखता रहा। पौ फटने पर चिड़ियों की चहचहाना सुनाई दिया और फिर सब चिड़ियां अपने घोंसलों से उड़कर खाने की तलाश में उड़ गयीं। सूरज निकला और भालू सूरज को रोक न सका। निरीह भालू उसे देखता ही रहा।

गिलहरी ने बिल से झांका। वह हिम्मत कर सावधानी से बिल के बाहर आयी। उसने भालू को चुपचाप बैठे देखा तो वह उसके चारों ओर चक्कर लगाकर नाचने लगी। फिर भालू का मजाक उड़ाते हुए गाने लगी, "तुम घमंडी भालू! तुम सूर्योदय नहीं रोक सके, सूरज निकल ही आया।"

गिलहरी भालू को चिढ़ाने में मस्त थी। भालू को रह-रहकर गिलहरी पर गुस्सा आ रहा था। फिर उसका गुस्सा आपे से बाहर हो गया।

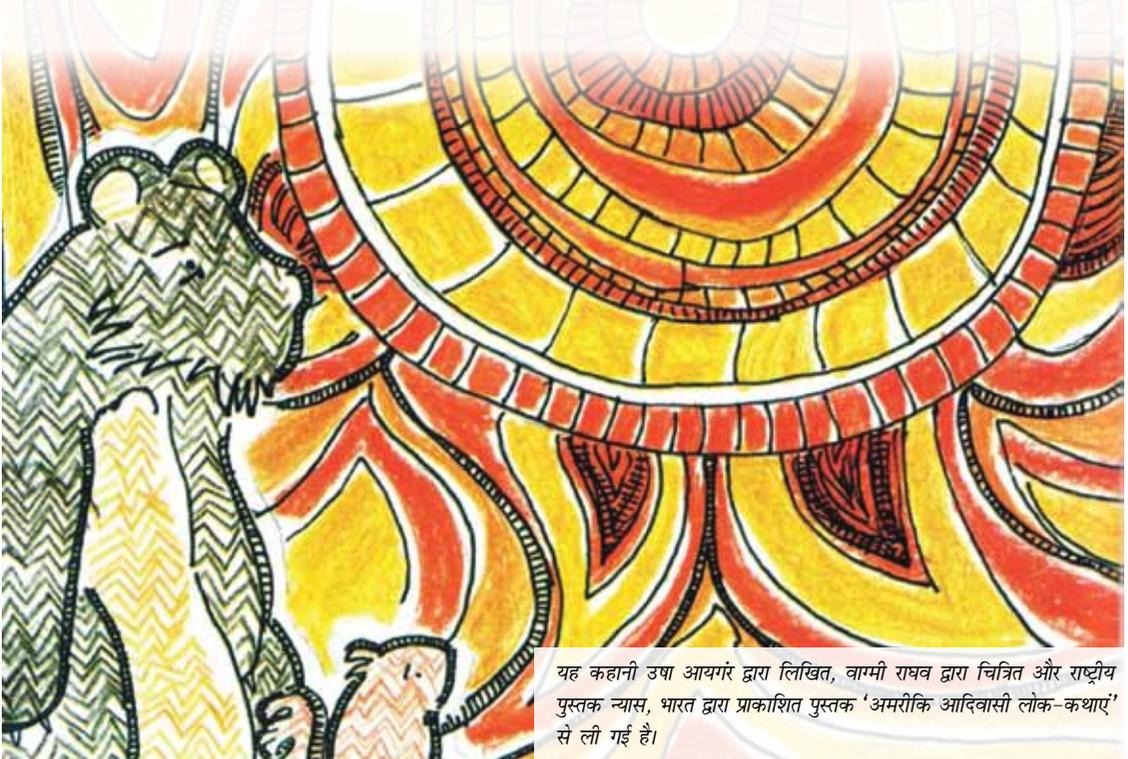


भालू ने गुस्से से पंजा उठाया और 'धड़' से गिलहरी को दबोच लिया। भालू ने कहा, "मैं सूर्योदय भले ही नहीं रोक पाया, लेकिन तुम्हारा गाना जरूर बंद कर सकता हूँ।"

गिलहरी भालू के पंजे के नीचे छटपटाने लगी। उसका दम घुटने लगा। लाख कोशिश करने पर भी वह भालू के पंजे के नीचे से निकल नहीं सकी। हारकर उसने माफी मांगी। वह गिड़गिड़ाकर बोली, "भालू, तुम सचमुच बड़े ताकतवर हो तुम्हारा मजाक कर मैंने बड़ी गलती की मेहरबानी कर मुझे आजाद कर दो।" भालू पर गिलहरी के गिड़गिड़ाने का कोई असर न हुआ गिलहरी भालू के पंजे के नीचे छटपटाती रही गिलहरी ने फिर से मिनत की, "तुमने मुझे इतनी जोर से दबा रखा है कि मैं सांस भी नहीं ले पा

रही हूँ। मैं मरने वाली हूँ। तुम अपना पंजा थोड़ा ऊपर उठाने की कृपा करो क्योंकि मरने के पहले मैं भगवान से प्रार्थना कर माफी मांगना चाहती हूँ।"

भालू ने कहा, "ठीक है, ठीक है। जल्दी करो।" जैसे ही भालू ने अपना पंजा उठाया, गिलहरी पूरा दम लगाकर अपने बिल की ओर भागी। उसने एक बार भी पीछे मुड़कर नहीं देखा। गिलहरी को भागता देखकर भालू ने पंजा उठाकर उसे पकड़ने की कोशिश की, पर वह उसे नहीं पकड़ पाया, केवल उसके नाखूनों से गिलहरी की पीठ पर खरोंचें लगीं। उस दिन से गिलहरी की पीठ पर भालू के नाखूनों के निशान बन गये जो आज भी हम गिलहरी की पीठ पर लकीरों के रूप में देखते हैं।



यह कहानी उषा आयगरं द्वारा लिखित, वाग्मी राघव द्वारा चित्रित और राष्ट्रीय पुस्तक न्यास, भारत द्वारा प्राकाशित पुस्तक 'अमरीकि आदिवासी लोक-कथाएं' से ली गई है।



*Prof. Yash Pal answers random questions of curiosity! Here are some select Questions and Answers from his book 'Random Curiosity', published by National Book Trust, India.*

### Why is the sky blue while seven colours exist in the rainbow?



#### **Prof. Yash Pal says:**

What we normally refer to as the sky is nothing but the light that comes to our eyes after being scattered by air molecules. If there were no scattering of light by air, we would not see any sky. We would see only stars studded on a black firmament. This is precisely what the sky looks like to astronauts in space.

The blue colour of the sky comes from the fact that scattering by air increases rapidly as the wavelength of the light decreases. Blue represents the short wavelength end of the visible

light spectrum. This is well understood physically. I might also draw your attention to another commonly observed fact, namely that the setting and rising Sun looks orange.

The reason for this is the same that makes for a blue sky. The shorter wavelengths of light are preferentially scattered away while passing through the thick layer of the atmosphere. This leads to predominance of longer wavelengths, namely the orange and red, in the light that comes to our eyes from the sun's disc.

## Indian Arts and Craft

*The House, by Jamini Ray introduced a bright presence in Indian art. This article on Jamini Ray is excerpted from 'Lines and Colours' discovering Indian Art' by Ella Datta, published by NBT-India.*

Jamini Ray is a Indian painter and one of the most famous student of Abanindranath Tagore. He received his art education at the Government Art School, Kolkata.

In the early years, Jamini painted in the European style. There was a time when he even adapted an impressionistic style with thick short brushstrokes to capture the quality of light. At the time, he painted the river in Kolkata, the lanes of the city, houses and landscapes. There was a time when he also worked in the style of Bengal School watercolours.

From the mid-twenties, he became increasingly attracted to the folk arts. Belonging to an upper class, landed family hailing from Beliapore village in the Bankura district of West Bengal, Jamini started collecting pats or folk paintings of Bankura and adjoining districts. The tribal women also began to appear in his canvases from this time.

His interests seen shifted from the city to the countryside. He began experimenting with folk forms. Later



he began working with traditional materials like vegetable and earth colours. He also dispensed with an individual studio and established a workshop-like environment with the calligraphic lines made with the sweep of the brush in the style of the Kalighat paintings.

But finally colours attracted him. So did the strong, earthy forms of folk paintings. He invented his decorative language and created images of animals, mother and child figures, women going for worship, holy men, rich men travelling in palanquins and a variety of themes. He also painted Ramayana stories. Apart from the strong colours, forms and pleasing decorative motifs, there was also an element of wit in many of his paintings.

The simplification of forms and colours made it easy for Jamini's works to be copied. But his workshop approach also made it possible for middle-class families to acquire his paintings. This led to their wide presence in Bengali homes.



National Book Trust, India organised a 5-day summer camp that kicked-off on 19 June 2023 on the occasion of National Reading Day, to promote reading and also nurture the imagination and artistic abilities of our young readers. The sessions at the Camp have been specially designed to cultivate the joy of reading and enhance creative skills among young minds with carefully curated activities for children between the ages of 6 and 14 years.

☀ Day 1 of the Summer Camp started with a session on the Lost Art of Letter Writing where they learned about the essentials of writing and posting a letter. This was followed by an origami session where children delved into the world of origami art. Children of age group 6-8 years took part in a musical storytelling session and an interactive calligraphy workshop.

☀ Day 2 witnessed an explosion of colors and creativity as the children dabbled in fluid art. This mesmerizing art form allowed them to experiment with various techniques. This was followed by a theatre workshop that allowed the children to express themselves freely. The day ended with a portrait study session where children learned how to make creative portraits of their friends.

☀ Day 3 started with some yoga practice that offered a refreshing escape into relaxation and mindfulness. The young yogis learned to connect with their bodies and minds, promoting physical and mental well-being. The yoga session was followed by a theatre workshop and a session on calligraphy and astronomy where the children learned interesting facts about the solar system.

☀ Day 4 started with a session on envelope art where the children were provided envelopes and a wide variety of stamps to use for decorating their envelopes. This was followed by an art and craft workshop where children made 3D cards with colours and newspapers.

☀ The last day of the summer camp started with some mapology games. Through interactive challenges and group activities, they learned about different countries, continents, and landmarks. By exploring the world on paper, they developed a deeper appreciation for the vastness and diversity of our planet. The final day brought an explosion of curiosity with fun science experiments. Under the guidance of enthusiastic mentors, the children engaged in hands-on activities that showcased the wonders of science.



## Granny's Gur Aam Pickle

Montu knew that the ceramic jar behind the steel can on top of the kitchen closet contained the *gur aam* pickle. It was his favourite, and after every meal and breakfast, he couldn't help but lick his lips at the delicious pickle made with mango and molasses.

His mother often furrowed her brows and ranted, "Montu, don't eat too much of it. You'll spoil your teeth."

This little boy didn't like being dictated to and, therefore, turned a deaf ear to his mother's words. He was confident of his Granny's support in any crisis, despite her suffering from a week-long toothache. "After all, she made this pickle especially for me," he boasted with delight to his classmates.

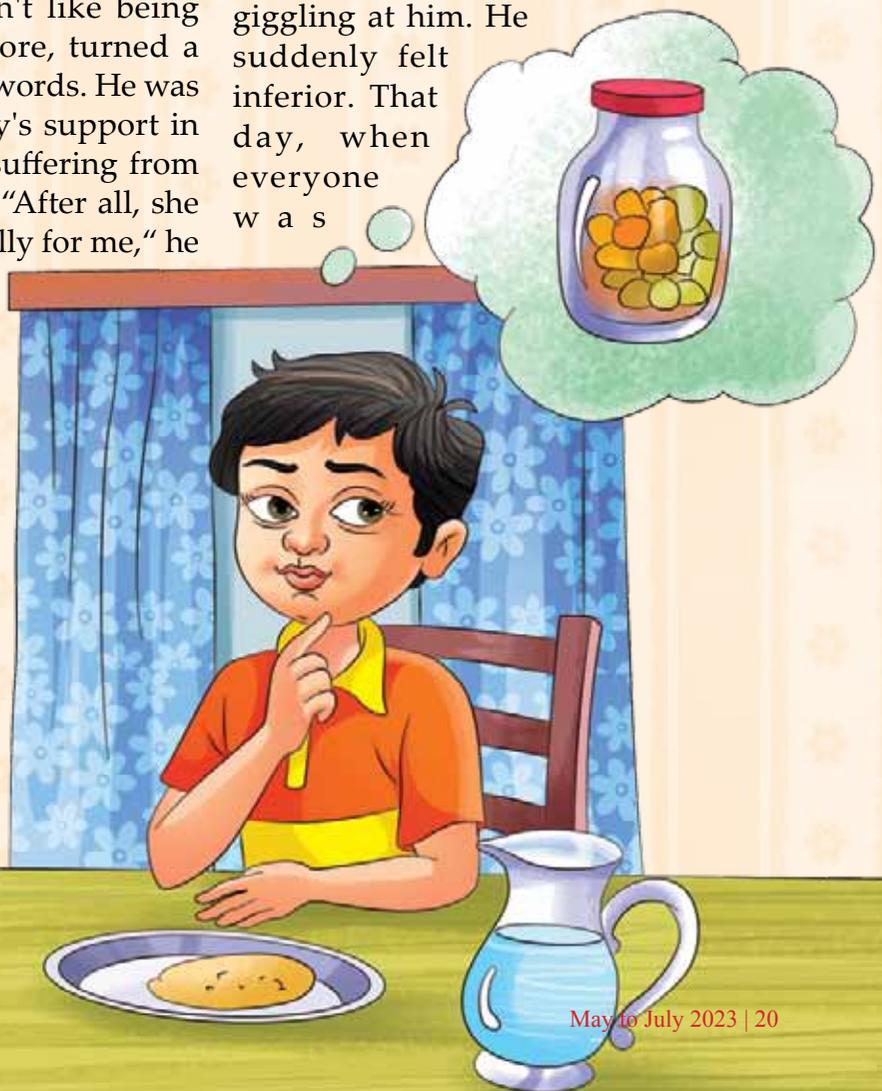
He thought that as a fifth-grade student, he had grown up enough to be allowed to have the *gur aam* pickle three or four times a day!

His sense of seniority reached new heights when his sister, Pihu, received only a one-time tiny plop of pickle at the end of lunch.

But one day, his sense of seniority shattered into pieces. Where was the *gur aam* pickle on his plate?

"Mother has taken it away," informed Granny, looking at the boy's face on the verge of tears. "She says you'll end up like Pokai, who often goes to the dentist, unless you get rid of this bad habit. He's lost all his teeth."

Now, he noticed Pihu giggling at him. He suddenly felt inferior. That day, when everyone was



enjoying a midday nap, Montu tiptoed into the kitchen to satisfy his craving for *gur aam pickle*.

But lo! The ceramic jar was nowhere to be found. He looked for it everywhere in the kitchen but could not find it. At night when granny was busy reciting her beads, Montu pleaded to her resting his head on her lap, "Granny, you know where the jar of *gur aam* is, don't you?"

Granny shook her head to reply, "Montu, I don't know where it is but you can ask your mother." Montu carefully studied her face and found it rather suspicious.

Now, asking his mother was an almost impossible task, as her pinches on his cheeks were painful. Montu pondered how incomplete and tasteless his breakfast and meals had become without that delicious spoonful of *gur aam pickle*. The questions troubling his young mind were: "Where's the jar of *gur aam*?" and "Who took it away?"

A blasting surprise was awaiting Montu the next morning. Tuntuni, the goat did not mind Montu's arrival in the backyard.

"What is she nibbling at so mindfully?" he wondered, realizing how Tuntuni used to shake her head, tinkling her bells and rub her face against him every morning. But horror seized him when he found the goat feasting on a

lump of his favourite *gur aam pickle*. Cheeks reddened, eyes wide, Montu let out a cry from his sleepy throat.

Granny hobbled up to him. Mother scuttled. Father shot up his brows looking at the boy. Pihu giggled. And Tuntuni swinging her long, mango leaf-like-ears went on feasting. They all knew a tragedy befell on Montu. How long could it be kept a secret from him?

"Why did you throw it away? Don't you know how much I like it?" Montu asked a series of questions.

Granny had to reply. She said, "Dearie, last night some beetles got into this jar. Don't know who kept away the lid. How could we give it to you?"

Now, Montu remembered why Pihu was giggling.

"Was it Pihu?" he wondered. But all he could say was, "Then, make it again."

"But only on the condition that you use this for a month."

"What?"

From behind, Granny produced something that astonished Montu. He saw his granny holding a neem stick between her fingers. Montu nodded.

Granny smiled, caressing his head.

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## So What if I am a Boy?

So what if I am a boy?  
I'll have a ponytail, show emotions and be coy.

Papa carries to the office the lunch that mummy makes,  
I'll create new and easy recipes and bake.

Chacha teaches children karate, kick-boxing and judo,  
I'll make the children happy by defeating them in ludo.

Bhaiya goes to the office on weekdays,  
I'll be Dadi's helper during my holidays.

Dada teaches children about the discovery of zero,  
I'll train Munna in cycling and become his hero.

Nani's music classes start when it is sunny and bright,  
I'll sing many lullabies to the baby at night.

So what if I am a boy, so what if I am a boy?  
Using the world as my sky, I'll find my rainbow of joy.



## So What if I am a Girl?

So what if I am girl?

I'll not be happy to just wear fancy clothes and twirl.

Mummy draws beautiful rangoli with multi-coloured powders on the ground,  
I'll make patterns in the sky, flying planes at the speed of sound.

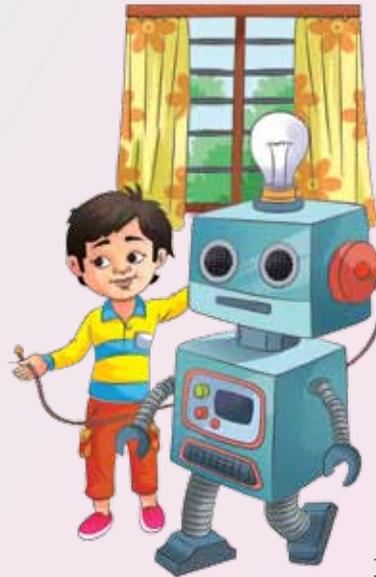
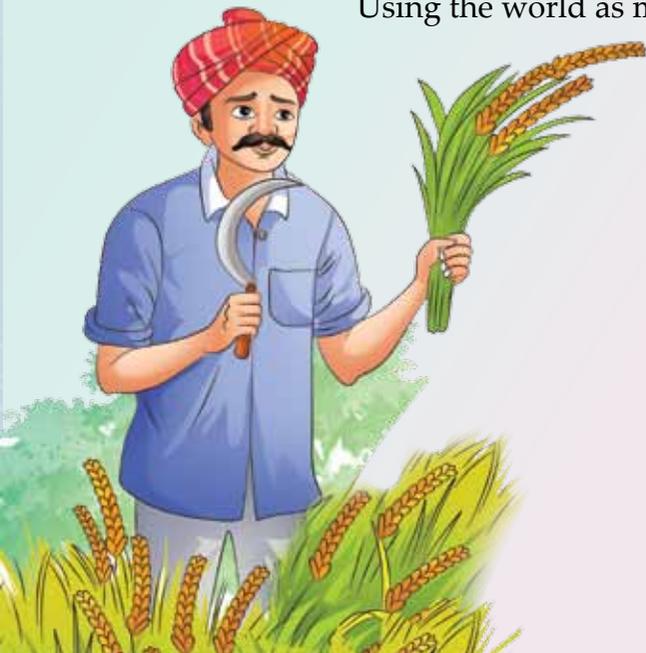
Papa toils hard in the fields of ragi, maize and rice,  
I'll build robots who will do everything in a trice.

Chacha paints the house and repairs the cracks in the wall,  
I'll build tall towers and design buildings big and small.

Dada listens to old songs on the radio,  
I'll create foot-tapping music in the studio.

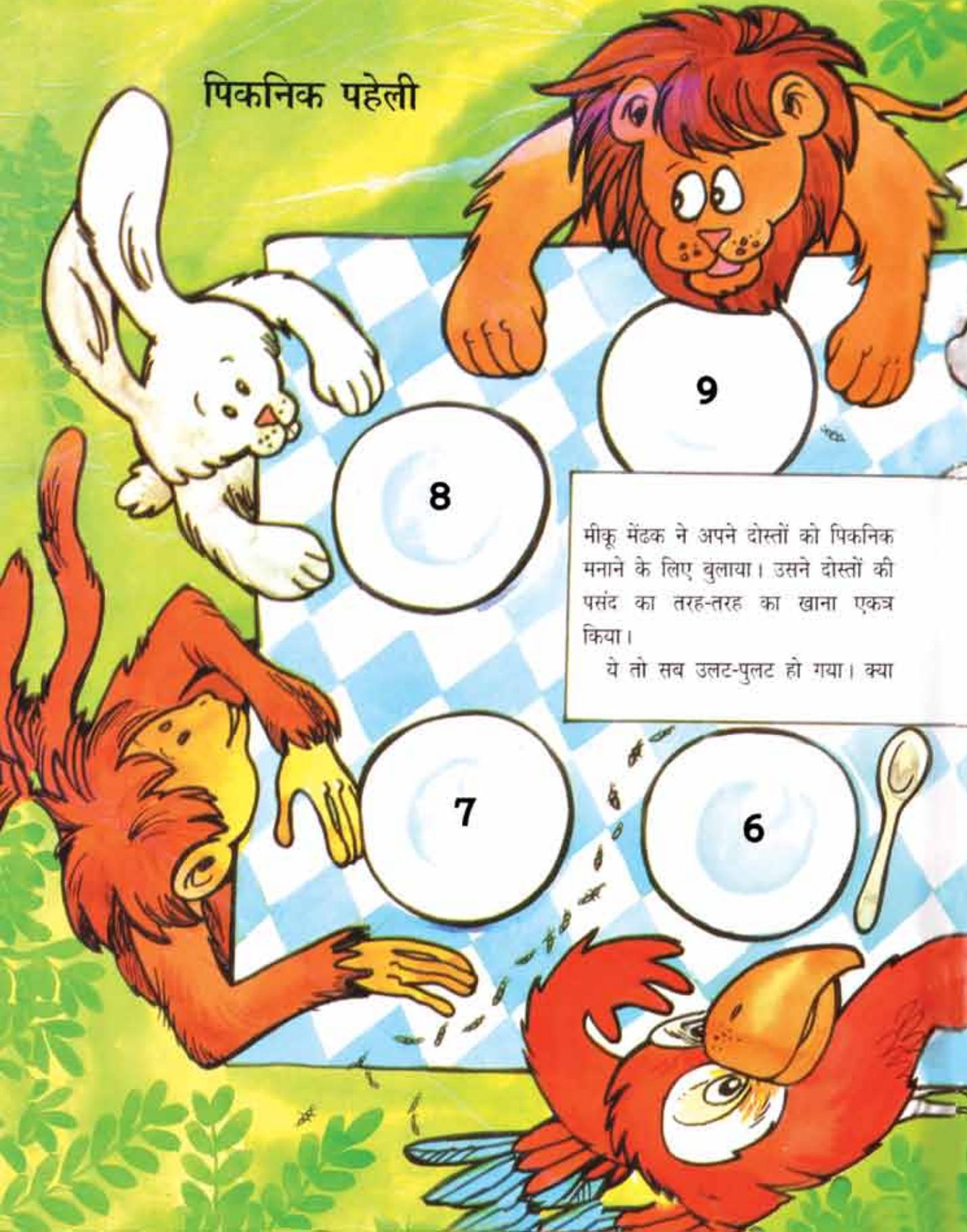
Didi looks after patients in the hospital, until they get well,  
I'll discover medicines that make the diseases say farewell.

So what if I am a girl, so what if I am a girl?  
Using the world as my oyster, I'll find my pearl.



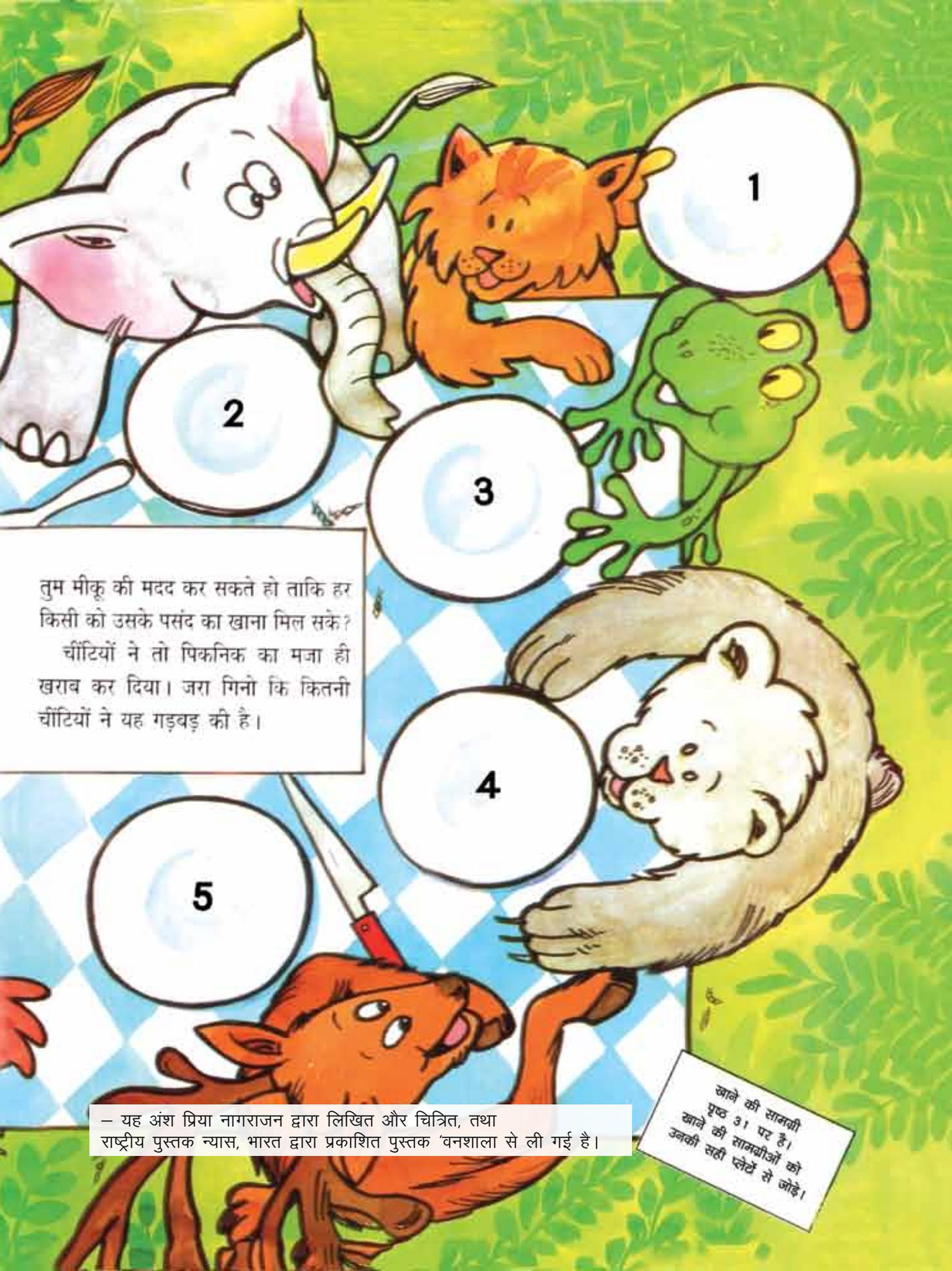
Rachna Chhabria  
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## पिकनिक पहेली



मीकू मेंढक ने अपने दोस्तों को पिकनिक मनाने के लिए बुलाया। उसने दोस्तों की पसंद का तरह-तरह का खाना एकत्र किया।

ये तो सब उलट-पुलट हो गया। क्या



तुम मीकू की मदद कर सकते हो ताकि हर किसी को उसके पसंद का खाना मिल सके?

चींटियों ने तो पिकनिक का मजा ही खराब कर दिया। जरा गिनो कि कितनी चींटियों ने यह गड़बड़ की है।

— यह अंश प्रिया नागराजन द्वारा लिखित और चित्रित, तथा राष्ट्रीय पुस्तक न्यास, भारत द्वारा प्रकाशित पुस्तक 'वनशाला' से ली गई है।

खाले की सामग्री पृष्ठ 31 पर है। खाले की सामग्रीओं को उनकी सही फ्लैटों से जोड़े।

## Time

Something they say that never comes back  
Though, they say it's right  
Once it fades away  
You will never see it in light  
Something that is considered precious  
Just like the meal you thought was most delicious  
Once it is gone away  
All that is left is regret  
We are taught to treasure it  
As when its gone  
Memories are all that is left!



Tanmay Chadha  
Class 11  
S.D. Memorial Sr. Sec. School, Gurugram

## Mom and I

I see you work throughout the day,  
Why don't you sit with me and play?

You listen to my stories with a smile on your face  
Why don't you share about your day?

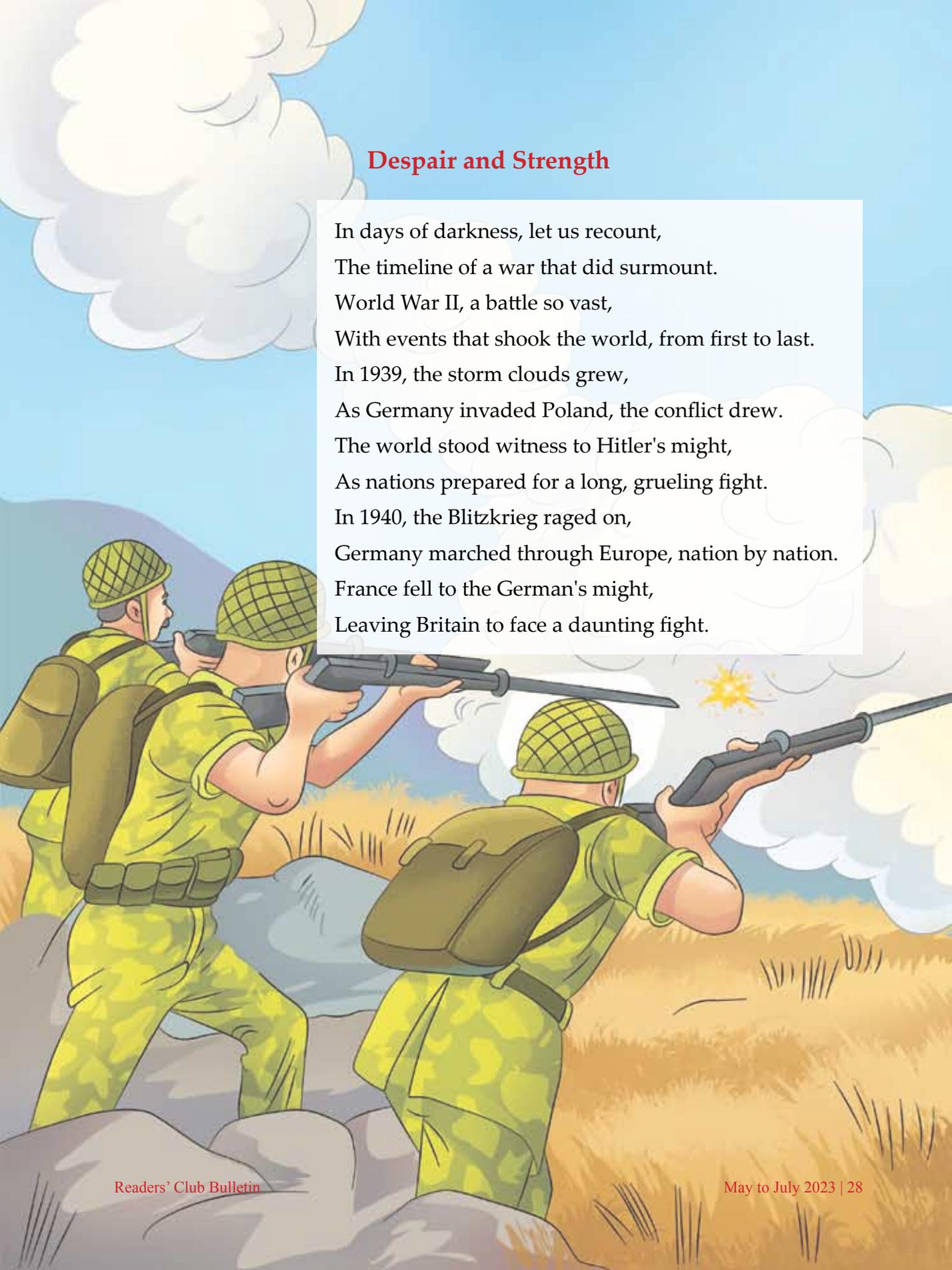
You always know when, what I need  
Why don't your eyes show hope of being freed?

You shower me with love when I am sad,  
Why don't you tell me when you are sad?

Those bed time stories, shopping and cuddles,  
I will always be glad to share your hugs and giggles.



Siddhi Shukla  
Class 5  
Sir Padampat Singhania Education Centre,  
Kanpur, UP



## Despair and Strength

In days of darkness, let us recount,  
The timeline of a war that did surmount.  
World War II, a battle so vast,  
With events that shook the world, from first to last.  
In 1939, the storm clouds grew,  
As Germany invaded Poland, the conflict drew.  
The world stood witness to Hitler's might,  
As nations prepared for a long, grueling fight.  
In 1940, the Blitzkrieg raged on,  
Germany marched through Europe, nation by nation.  
France fell to the German's might,  
Leaving Britain to face a daunting fight.

The Battle of Britain, in skies so blue, The Royal Air Force  
fought valiantly, true.

With Churchill's resolve, they held their ground, Defending  
their land, with a courage profound.

In 1941, the war expanded its reach, As Japan attacked Pearl  
Harbor, breach.

The United States joined the fight, Against Axis powers,  
with all their might.

The Holocaust unfolded, a tragedy untold, As millions of  
innocent lives were controlled.

In 1944, the Allies devised a plan, To liberate Europe, to take  
a stand.

In 1945, the war neared its end, As Allied forces closed in,  
around the bend.

Hitler's regime crumbled, he met his fate, And Germany  
surrendered, sealed their date.

But the war still raged in the Far East, As Japan resisted,  
their will released.

The atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Ended the  
war, but left wounds quite nasty.

On September 2, the year 1945, Japan surrendered, the  
world felt alive.

World War II, a war of great despair, Yet a testament to human  
strength and care.

Let us remember the sacrifices made, By those who fought, and  
the price they paid.

Yuvraj Tanwar  
Class 12  
ITL Public School, Dwarka

*"In living this privileged life, you must accept responsibility for yourself."*

- Dr. Verghese Kurien  
*Father of the White Revolution*

Verghese Kurien, born on 26 November 1921, in Kozhikode, Kerala, was a pioneering social entrepreneur renowned as the "Father of the White Revolution" in India. His visionary concept, known as Operation Flood, revolutionized the dairy industry, transforming it into India's largest self-sustaining sector and a major source of rural employment.



This initiative elevated India to become the world's foremost milk producer, quadrupling milk output over three decades and doubling the per capita milk availability.

Kurien's groundbreaking accomplishment was the development and implementation of the Anand model of dairy cooperatives. This innovative approach combined elements of both "top-down" and "bottom-up" strategies. Farmers found that their milk was never turned away, and they controlled the entire process – from production and procurement to marketing and processing – effectively functioning as owners of the cooperative dairies. This model was

successfully scaled nationwide, becoming a cornerstone of India's rural economic landscape.

One of Kurien's remarkable achievements at Amul, a prominent dairy cooperative, was the creation of milk powder using buffalo milk, addressing the scarcity of cow milk in India. This innovative solution

further bolstered milk production and availability.

Kurien's upbringing in an Anglican Suriyani Nasrani family, with his father serving as a civil surgeon, laid the foundation for his impactful journey. He breathed his last on 9 September 2012, at the age of 90, due to illness in a Nadiad hospital, close to Anand, where his contributions had brought transformative change. Verghese Kurien's legacy continues to shine as a testament to his profound dedication and foresight, which propelled India's dairy sector to unparalleled heights while uplifting rural communities through sustainable employment and economic growth.

## बाल पहेलियाँ

1 चलो अगर तो साथ चलूँ मैं, जोड़ी में तुम पाओ।  
दो अक्षर का नाम हमारा, पथ पर बढ़ते जाओ।



2 मेरे अंदर ज्ञान खजाना, जितना चाहो पाओ।  
पढ़कर मुझ को प्यारे बच्चों, बुद्धिमान कहलाओ।



3 अंतहटे 'ताला' बनजाऊँ, मुझ में रोज नहाओ।  
तीन अक्षर का नाम हमारा, झट से तुम बतलाओ।



4 रूप बदलता मेरा हरदम, चाहे दिन हो चाहे रात।  
तीन अक्षर का नाम है मेरा, अजब अनूठी मेरी बात।



5 प्रथम हटे तो 'कड़ी' बनूँ, मध्य हटे तो 'लड़ी'।  
तीन अक्षर का नाम है मेरा कहलाती मैं?



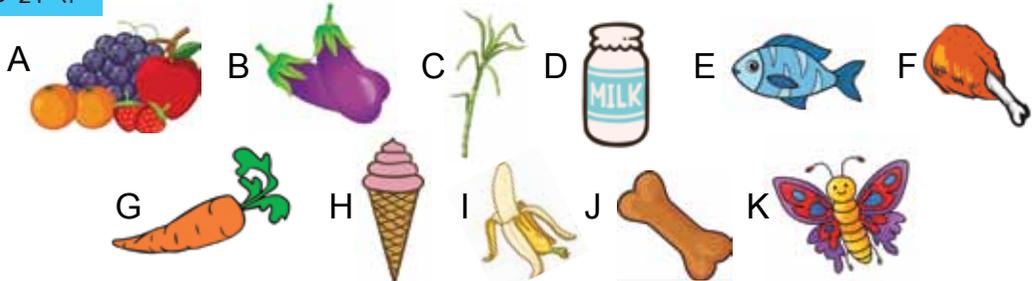
6 मुझ को पीते लालू शालू, पीती निव्या लाली।  
हड्डी को मजबूत बनाता, मेरी बात निराली।



उत्तर: 1 जोड़ी, 2 पुस्तक, 3 ताला, 4 मौसम, 5 लकड़ी, 6 हड्डी

डॉ० कमलेन्द्र कुमार  
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पृष्ठ 24 से



### छियाछी

छियाछी छोटे बच्चों द्वारा भारत की सड़को पर खेले जाने वाले आम खेलों में से एक है। इस लेख को राष्ट्रीय पुस्तक न्यास, भारत द्वारा प्रकाशित, मुल्कराज आनंद द्वारा लिखित और बदरी नारायण द्वारा चित्रित पुस्तक 'गली मोहल्लों के कुछ खेल' से लिया गया है।

इसे दो बच्चे खेलते हैं— एक के पीछे एक भागते और पकड़ते। पहला बच्चा दौड़कर लकड़ी के दरवाजे को या कुंडी को या हथके को छू लेता है। फिर दौड़ लगाता है अगले दरवाजे तक कि वह पकड़ा न जाये। इस तरह वह एक से दूसरे दरवाजे तक दौड़ लगाता है जब तक कि वह दरवाजे को न छूने के कारण पकड़ा न जाये।

समझदार बच्चा भागते हुए गली-बाजार के बीच आये मोड़-तोड़ में से बचता हुआ निकल जाता है। होता यह है कि पकड़ने वाला जब पकड़े जाने वाले को पकड़ लेता है तो पकड़ में आने वाला पकड़ने वाला बन जाता है।



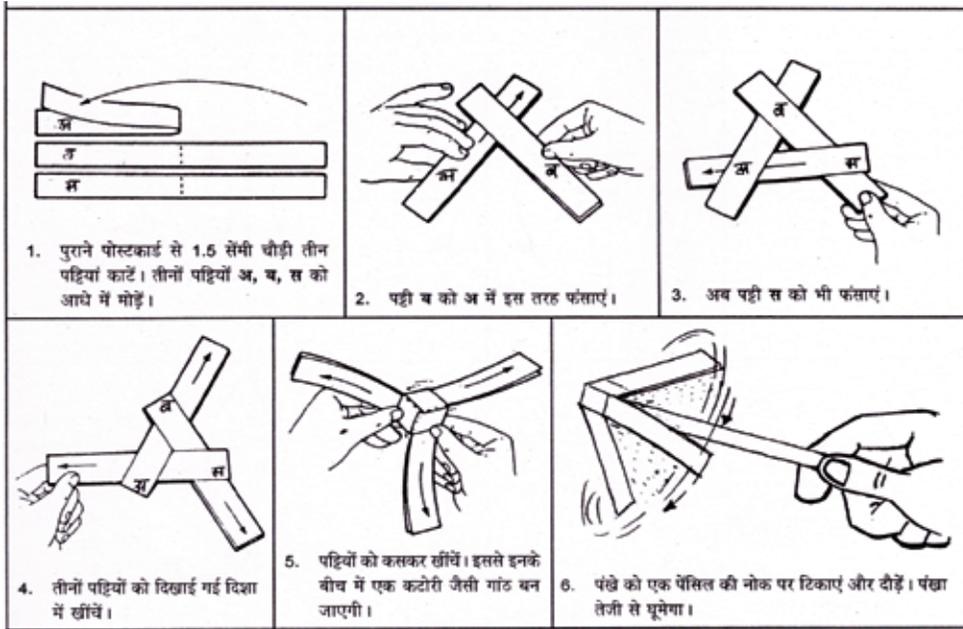
#### Did you know?

The bumblebee bat, also known as Kitti's hog-nosed bat, holds the title of the world's smallest mammal. It is found in Thailand and Myanmar, with an average length slightly over an inch and a weight lighter than a penny. Despite their small stature, these bats have a significant role in their environment. They consume insects, aiding in insect population regulation, and serve as vital pollinators by transferring pollen during their feeding.

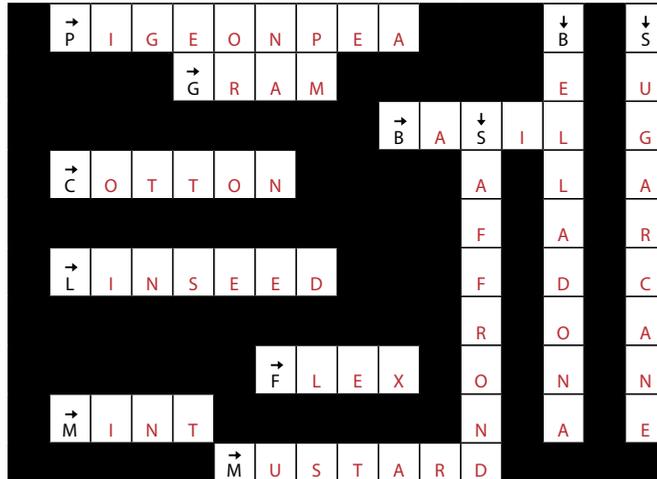


## तीन ब्लेड वाला पंखा

खिलौनों से खेलना हमेशा मजेदार होता है, तो चलिए आज हम सीखते हैं खुद से खिलौना बनाना। आज हम बनाएंगे 'तीन ब्लेड वाला पंखा'। यह गतिविधि अरविंद गुप्ता द्वारा लिखित और राष्ट्रीय पुस्तक न्यास, भारत द्वारा प्रकाशित पुस्तक 'नन्हे खिलौने' से ली गई है। इस खिलौने को आप अपने दोस्तों के साथ मिलकर बनाएँ और इसका आनंद लें।



From page no. 11



Do you see anything intriguing in the first box? There are no repeats of the 9 digits in any of the rows, columns, or subgrids. This is a Sudoku! A logic-based number-placement puzzle.

5	3	4	6	7	8	9	1	2
6	7	2	1	9	5	3	4	8
1	9	8	3	4	2	5	6	7
8	5	9	7	6	1	4	2	3
4	2	6	8	5	3	7	9	1
7	1	3	9	2	4	8	5	6
9	6	1	5	3	7	2	8	4
2	8	7	4	1	9	6	3	5
3	4	5	2	8	6	1	7	9

	8			7	2			1
	5			3	1	6	4	9
				4		8		7
		8		5		4		
	4					2		8
6		1	2				5	
9	2		7	6	3		8	
	7			1			6	2
1	6	5	9			3		

Can you complete the yellow box with numbers from 1 to 9 without repetition in each column, row, and each of the nine 3 x 3 subgrids that make up the grid?

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JULY 28, 2023

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**NBT BOOKLIST**

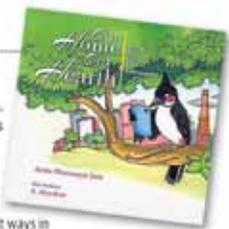
## Books that guide us to value health, nature, environment

Let's celebrate a healthy earth by showing gratitude to our environment and a healthy lifestyle by caring for our body the right way. Learn from experts more about the beautiful traditional art of yoga and the benefits of yogic asanas. Go on a misadventure with Chotu and realise the importance of preserving the environment. Learn to appreciate what nature has given you when a baby elephant strives to fly like his winged friend, a baya weaver bird.

### OUR HOME OUR HEARTH

**Author:** Anita Bhatnagar Jain

Our Home Our Hearth is a collection of thought-provoking short stories based on different environmental issues. The stories in this book bring various environmental issues that are silently affecting our Earth, like the pollution of water, air and soil, to the fore. These serious issues are disguised as fun stories for children with animals and birds etc to teach children about the importance of keeping our surroundings clean. The stories also suggest ways in which we can play our part in conserving the environment.



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### CHOTU'S MISADVENTURES

**Author:** Kumkum Somani

In this book, readers get to meet Chotu, who is late for school. While running to school, he slips on a banana peel and lands on a pile of garbage. He runs over to the tap to wash himself but finds it dry. He then rushes to school amid the fumes and the noisy traffic, only to find his class has already left for a picnic. When Chotu heads back home, he suddenly remembers that it is World Environment Day. Capturing the irony of life through detailed illustrations, this book leaves the readers thinking about how we treat our environment. Given today's state of climate change, this is a must-read for kids.



### NATURE'S GIFT

**Author:** Utpal Talukdar

This story revolves around the innocent friendship between a baby elephant and a baya weaver bird. It shows how the bird is able to help her friend, the baby elephant, get a pair of wings when he expresses his desire to fly and play hide and seek with her in the clouds. After collecting enough feathers from her friends, the weaver bird starts weaving a pair of wings for the baby elephant but he is still unable to fly. This failed attempt saddens them both but they then understand that nature has given different gifts to everyone.



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### GROW WITH YOGA

**Author:** Acharya Balkrishna

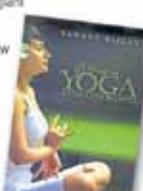
Authored by Founder Secretary of the Patanjali Trust, this illustrative book about yoga is for children and beginners. The book presents a compilation of simple exercises and yoga asanas. It describes various postures, including easy techniques for performing the sun-salutation (saranayami), yogic jogging, etc. Various yogic games and Do-It-Yourself exercises for children make learning about yoga fun. Written in easy language and lucid style, the book stresses upon the uses and benefits of the multiple asanas featured in the publication.



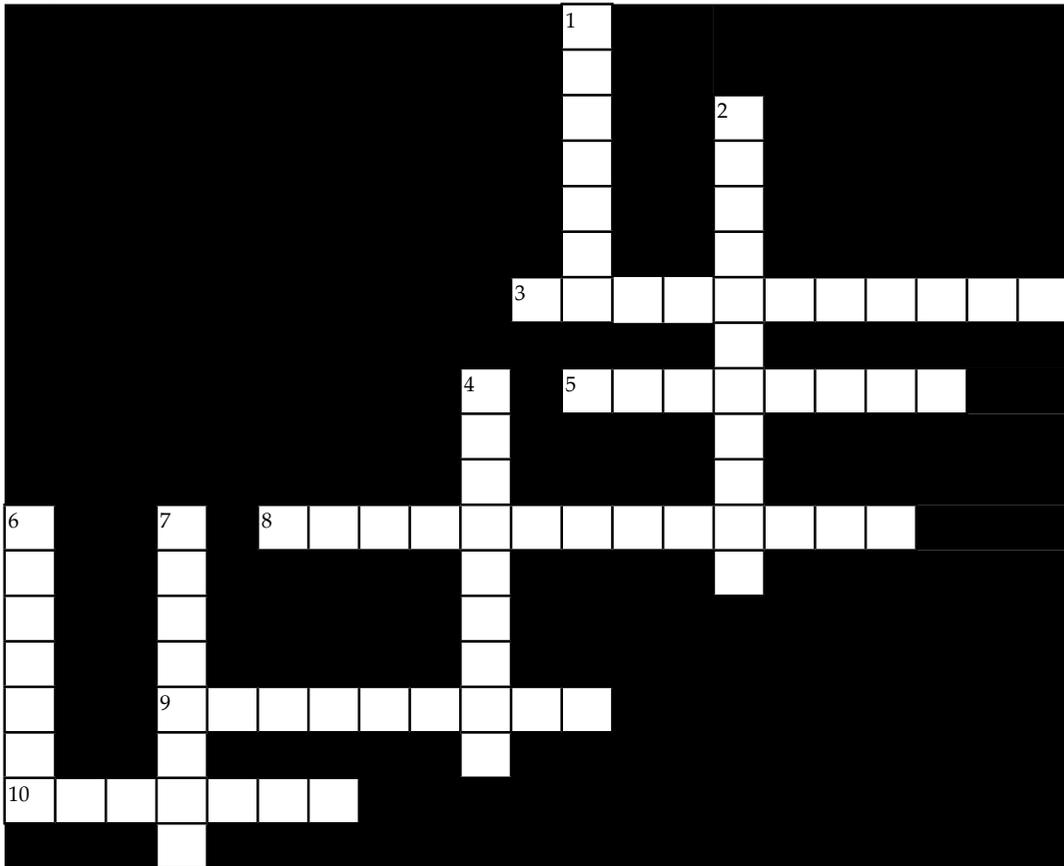
### A PRIMER ON YOGA

**Author:** Ramesh Bijani

This book gives a comprehensive view of yoga and provides information about the major traditional schools of yoga and their salient features. Through the book, the author, a former professor of AIMS, New Delhi, scientifically answers frequently asked questions in relation to the duration, sequence, and the correct time to perform yoga, making it a great guide on the subject. The book draws an interesting comparison between practising yoga and workout in a gym, the pros and cons of using rubber mats and steps to take during pregnancy, menstruation and illnesses.



# Crossword



## Across

3. The layer of Earth's atmosphere where weather occurs.
5. A substance that speeds up chemical reactions and is often used in baking.
8. The process of a caterpillar turning into a butterfly.
9. The study of stars, planets, and galaxies.
10. A word that means the same as another word (e.g., big and large).

## Down

1. The largest planet in our solar system.
2. The process of liquid turning into vapor due to heat.
4. A reptile that can change the color of its skin and has a long sticky tongue.
6. A device that shows direction using a magnetic needle.
7. A shape with five sides.

## Recent Titles by National Book Trust, India



### Notes of the Flute

Author: Meenakshee Swami Illustrator: Fajruddin

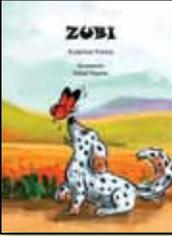
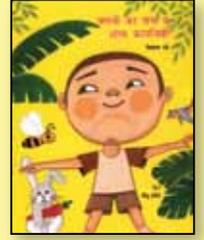
Notes of the Flute is a beautiful narrative that follows the extraordinary friendship between Bhura the brown bear and Sanjeev. This heartwarming tale imparts valuable lessons to young readers, emphasizing the significance of companionship and love. The story beautifully illustrates how music exerts the power to bring back harmony in the jungle. Rs. 55.00/-

### सपनों का सच व अन्य कहानियाँ

लेखक: विकास दवे चित्र: मीनू सरिन

उपवन का सार, सपनों का सच जैसी कहानी से संकलित यह पुस्तक हमें अपने आस-पास के पर्यावरण के बारे में बताती है और साथ ही मानवता का ज्ञान देती है। इस पुस्तक में लेखक ने काफी रोचकता के साथ हमें मानव व्यवहार का ज्ञान दिया है।

Rs. 65.00/-



### Zubi

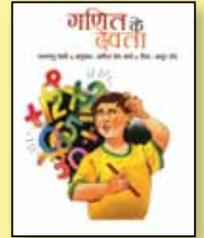
Author: Kanchan Verma Illustrator: Irshad Kaptan

In the quaint town of Jyotipuram, situated in a luscious green valley of Jammu, the Kumar siblings encounter a stranded puppy in the midst of a storm. With unwavering resolve to make this precious furry friend a part of their lives, they embark on a fun adventure filled with various challenges. Rs. 75.00/-

### गणित के देवता

लेखक: रतनतनु घाटी अनुवाद: अंगीरा सेन शर्मा चित्र: अनुप रॉय

सैकत चौथी कक्षा से ही ये जानने में लगा है कि अपनी बुद्धि में बढ़ोतरी कैसे की जाये। एक ही कक्षा में तीन प्रयास से पास हो पाता है। कभी विनोद ताऊ से तो कभी जादूगर मामा से अपनी बुद्धि बढ़ाने का उपाय मांगता है। कुछ परिणाम ना मिलने पर अंत में पटुआ ताऊ से गणित के देवता की मूर्ति बनाने को कहता है और ताऊ के बताये उपाय अनुसार प्रयोग करने से गणित में पास हो जाता है। Rs. 70.00/-



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