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People at Work



Introduction

I. Look at the list of people given below and encircle the ones whose vocation does not affect our lifestyle at all.

doctor	domestic help	driver	shopkeeper
teacher	courier man	electrician	sweeper
singer	florist	engineer	plumber

II. 'The work done by each individual is important and it affects our lives directly or indirectly.' Discuss in groups of four.

III. In the word basket at the bottom of this page, several professions are mentioned. Each one of them falls in one of the categories mentioned below. Complete the job ladder by writing appropriate profession on each rung.

EDUCATION SCIENCE MEDIA ENTERTAINMENT

MISCELLANEOUS

Professions in the word basket: sweeper, maid, vendor, editor, rickshaw puller, engineer, dancer, teacher, pathologist, TV anchor, singer, journalist, doctor, magician, news reader, principal, lecturer.





- A.1. How do you feel when you join a new school or a new group of friends? Do you quickly get accustomed to the new surroundings or do you take time? Here is a play about a new assistant and his first day at work. Read how confidently he manages everything but.....

▶ The New Assistant

Characters

Mr Higgins, owner of the shop

Tom, the new assistant

First Customer

Young Man

Young Woman

Rich Lady

SCENE 1

A shop. It is full of old things including antique pieces: pictures, pots, plates and some furniture. It is Tom's first morning in the shop. Mr Higgins is explaining the business to him.

Mr Higgins : It takes a long time to learn about these old things. I've sold them all my life, but I still make mistakes.

Tom : Well, I don't want to make mistakes.

Mr Higgins : (Picking up a silver pot) This silver pot, for example.

Tom : It looks quite nice.

Mr Higgins : I paid ten pounds for it. But it's worth only about seven pounds. It isn't very good silver. I made a mistake when I bought it.



Tom : I see. What price will you get for it?

Mr Higgins : Perhaps eight pounds. So I'll lose two pounds. But look at that picture over there. (He points to a picture).

Tom : The big one, near the window?

Mr Higgins : That's the one. Well, I paid only fifteen pounds for it, but I'll sell it for twenty-five.

Tom : A profit of ten pounds! That's quite good.

Mr Higgins : Yes, it's not bad. But remember, a few things in the shop are worth a hundred pounds also.

Tom : But how can I know the price? I can't be sure.

Mr Higgins : I'll tell you, of course. I don't want to lose money!

Tom : But you may not be here. What shall I do then?

Mr Higgins : I've thought of that. I've marked the price in very small numbers. You can try to get a bigger price. The customer won't see the numbers.

Tom : I'm beginning to understand.



Mr Higgins : For example, I've marked the price at the back of the picture. Twenty-five pounds. And I've marked it under this pot. Pick it up and have a look.

Tom : (Picking up the silver pot) Yes, here's the price. Eight pounds. But I can try to sell it for nine.

Mr Higgins : That's the right idea! You're learning quickly! Yes, ask for nine pounds and perhaps you'll get eight. That's business.

Tom : But perhaps the customer will only offer six.

Mr Higgins : That's not enough. But he may buy two or three things. Then you can sell it for six. Do you understand the idea?

Tom : Yes. I mustn't lose money.

Mr Higgins : That's right. If you lose money, you're not the right assistant for me.

Tom : But you'll be in the shop today, won't you?

Mr Higgins : I have to go out for a short while, for about an hour. But it's all right. Remember, I've marked the price on things. If you're not sure, don't sell.

Tom : All right. I'll take care.

Mr Higgins : Look, there's a man outside the shop now. He's coming in. Listen to me and you'll learn something. (The man comes into the shop.)



Mr Higgins : Good morning, sir.

First Customer : Good morning. I wanted to look round your shop.

Mr Higgins : Yes, of course, sir. Are you looking for something special?

First Customer : I'm interested in glass things.

Mr Higgins : Glass? I have a few good pieces of glass. Allow me to show them to you, sir. (He takes out some pieces of glass and puts them in front of the man). Do you like any of these? (The man picks up two or three pieces and looks at them.)

First Customer : This flower vase is rather nice.

Mr Higgins : Yes, it is. Isn't it? It's quite an old piece. I haven't many pieces like that.

First Customer : My wife likes glass things. I'm looking for a present for her.

Mr Higgins : Well, she'll certainly like this.

First Customer : How much is it?

Mr Higgins : Three pounds, sir. Not much for a vase like this.

First Customer : I know. But I don't want to spend three pounds.

Mr Higgins : All right. You can have it for two pounds 75 pence. I paid two pounds 50 pence for it. I must make a small profit, mustn't I?



First Customer : That's a fair price. All right. I'll take it.

Mr Higgins : You won't be sorry, sir. Your wife will like it. (Mr Higgins puts the vase in some paper. The customer pays Mr Higgins and takes the vase.)

Mr Higgins : Thank you, sir. (The customer goes out. Mr Higgins and Tom are alone in the shop.)

Mr Higgins : Well, do you understand the idea?

Tom : Yes, but you didn't make much profit. Only 25 pence.

Mr Higgins : Of course I did. I made quite a good profit.

Tom : But you paid two pounds 50 pence for the vase.

Mr Higgins : Oh, I said that. But in fact I paid one pound 50 pence. So I made a profit of one pound 25 pence. That's not bad, is it?

- Tom** : It's very good.
- Mr Higgins** : And you must do the same, young man. Well, I'm going out now. I'll be back before twelve. Remember, if you're not sure, don't sell.
- Tom** : I won't forget, Mr Higgins. (Mr Higgins puts on his hat and coat and goes out.)

SCENE 2

Tom is alone in the shop. He walks round and picks up certain things. He wants to learn the prices. A young man and woman come into the shop.

- Tom** : Good morning. Can I help you? Are you looking for something special?
- Young Man** : Yes, we wanted to look at some rings.
- Tom** : With pleasure, sir. We have a few rings. I'll show them to you. (Tom puts some rings in front of them.)
- Young Man** : Have a look at these, dear. Do you like any of them?
(to the woman)



- Young Woman** : (Picking up two or three rings) They're all rather heavy. Ah, here's a nice one.
- Young Man** : And it's the right size. We'll take it if you like it.
- Young Woman** : But what's the price?
- Young Man** : How much does it cost?
(to Tom)



Tom : There's a small card on the ring. Let me see. (The woman gives Tom the ring). Yes, twelve pounds.

Young Woman : Can we have it for eleven?
(to Tom)

Tom : I'm sorry, madam. I can't change the price. I'm only an assistant.

Young Man : It's all right. We'll take it. (He takes out twelve pounds from his pocket and gives it to Tom).

Tom : Thank you, sir. Good day. Come again!
(The young man and woman go out of the shop.)

Tom : Well, that wasn't bad. I didn't make a profit, but I didn't lose any money. Perhaps I'll make a profit next time!

(After some time, the next customer comes in. She is wearing very good clothes and is clearly rich.)

Tom : Good morning, madam. Can I help you?

Rich Lady : Good morning. I want to see some pictures. Have you got any good ones?

Tom : Yes, madam. Do you like that one? (He points to the big picture near the window.)

Rich Lady : (Going to the picture) Yes, it's rather nice. How much does it cost?



Tom : (Thinking quickly) Well, the price is thirty pounds, but you can have it for twenty-eight.

Rich Lady : Twenty-eight. No, I'll give you twenty-seven for it.

Tom : All right, madam. Do you want to take it or shall I send it?

Rich Lady : I'll take it. I have my car outside.

Tom : I'll wrap it in some paper. It'll take a few minutes. Please look round the shop.

(The rich lady walks around in the shop. She stops in front of a large blue vase. It is very ugly.)

Rich Lady : Oh, I like this. It's very old, isn't it?

Tom : (Quickly) Yes, Mr Higgins said it was old. He knows about these things. It's Chinese.

Rich Lady : How much is it?

Tom : I'll have a look. (He picks up the vase and looks under it. The numbers are not very clear, so he takes it to the window.) Ah yes, one hundred and ten pounds. Quite a lot of money! Of course you don't often see Chinese vases like this.



Rich Lady : A hundred and ten pounds. Well, it may be worth it, but I don't want to pay that price. I'll give you a hundred pounds for it.

Tom : I can't take off ten pounds, madam. I'm only an assistant here. I'm not the owner of the shop. But you can have it for a hundred and five pounds.

Rich Lady : No, a hundred. It may be worth only ninety. Who knows?

Tom : I'm sorry, madam.

Rich Lady : Well, it doesn't matter. I've saved a hundred pounds. Will you bring the picture to my car?

Tom : Of course, madam. With pleasure.

(The woman pays Tom for the picture and goes out of the shop. Tom takes the picture to the car and comes back.)

Tom (to himself) : Let me see. How have I done this morning? I sold the ring for the right price and I made two pounds on the picture. I didn't sell the vase, but perhaps the woman will come back. I hope this will please Mr Higgins.

SCENE 3

Later that morning. Mr Higgins has come back to the shop.

Mr Higgins : Well, young man, how have you done? What have you sold this morning?

Tom : A young man and woman came in. They bought a ring. They paid twelve pounds for it. I got the right price for it.

Mr Higgins : Good.

Tom : Then a rich lady came to the shop.

Mr Higgins : And she bought the picture. How much did you get for it?

Tom : Twenty-seven pounds. I asked for twenty-eight, but she only wanted to pay twenty-seven. So I accepted it.

Mr Higgins : Good! Good! That's a profit of twelve pounds. It was worth fifteen pounds only. You're learning quickly! Did she buy only the picture?

Tom : Yes, that was all. Oh, she also wanted that blue vase.

Mr Higgins : The ugly one? Why didn't you sell it to her? It doesn't cost much.



Tom : But the price is rather high. It's Chinese, isn't it?

Mr Higgins : One pound ten pence isn't much money!

Tom : One pound ten pence? Are you sure? (He looks at the price on the vase). Yes, you're quite right.

Mr Higgins : Of course I'm right. Why, how much did you ask for it?

Tom : I asked for a hundred and ten pounds.

Mr Higgins : (Laughing) A hundred and ten pounds! For that ugly old vase! Well, of course she didn't want to pay that.

Tom : No, but she offered me a hundred pounds.

Mr Higgins : Is this a joke? (He is not laughing now.)

Tom : No, it isn't a joke, Mr Higgins. She offered me a hundred pounds.

Mr Higgins : And you didn't take it?

Tom : Well, no sir. I thought that it was worth a hundred and ten pounds. I asked for one hundred and five, but she didn't want to pay that. I didn't want to lose money, sir.

Mr Higgins : (very angry) You didn't want to lose money! You've lost nearly a hundred pounds. I have sold old things for forty years, and no one has offered me a hundred pounds for an old vase. And you said NO!

Tom : I'm very sorry, Mr Higgins.

Mr Higgins :!



—Bonn Byrne

A.2. On the basis of your reading of the play, complete the following statements.

- (a) Mr Higgins felt that he made a mistake when he bought the silver pot because _____ more than _____.
- (b) Mr Higgins told Tom that he would prove to be the right assistant for him only _____.
- (c) Tom could not change the price of the ring because _____
_____.
- (d) The actual price of the picture was _____
and Tom sold it for _____.
- (e) The rich lady didn't buy the vase because _____
_____.
- (f) At the end of the play, Mr Higgins was angry at Tom because _____
_____.

A.3. Tom's Performance Appraisal

Good sales assistants should possess certain attributes. Some attributes are mentioned below. Put a tick (✓) against the ones which you think Tom had.

Good sales assistants should—

- be polite,
- have good product knowledge,
- be ready to assist customers,
- be sincere in their duties,
- be good negotiators,
- be confident.

A.4. HOTS

How many stars would you give Tom for his performance on the first day at work? Give reasons.

I would give Tom _____ stars out of five because _____

_____.

A.5. Life Skills

‘Oops! I made a mistake.’

“I’ve sold them all my life, but I still make mistakes,” says Mr Higgins. All human beings are fallible. All of us commit mistakes.

Please indicate how often you react in the following manner when you realise that you have committed a mistake.

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
I feel sorry and cry a lot.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I brood over it endlessly.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I take it casually.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I learn from my mistakes and try to improve.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I share the experience with my friends and discuss what I should have done.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Which reactions are appropriate? Why? Discuss in a group.

A.6. While reading the play, you must have come across a few pairs of opposite expressions, e.g.

I’ve marked the price **behind** the picture.

Tom puts some rings **in front of** them.

Seven pairs of opposite words are hidden in the grid below. Identify them and write them in the space provided. Move diagonally, vertically or horizontally to locate them. One is done for you.



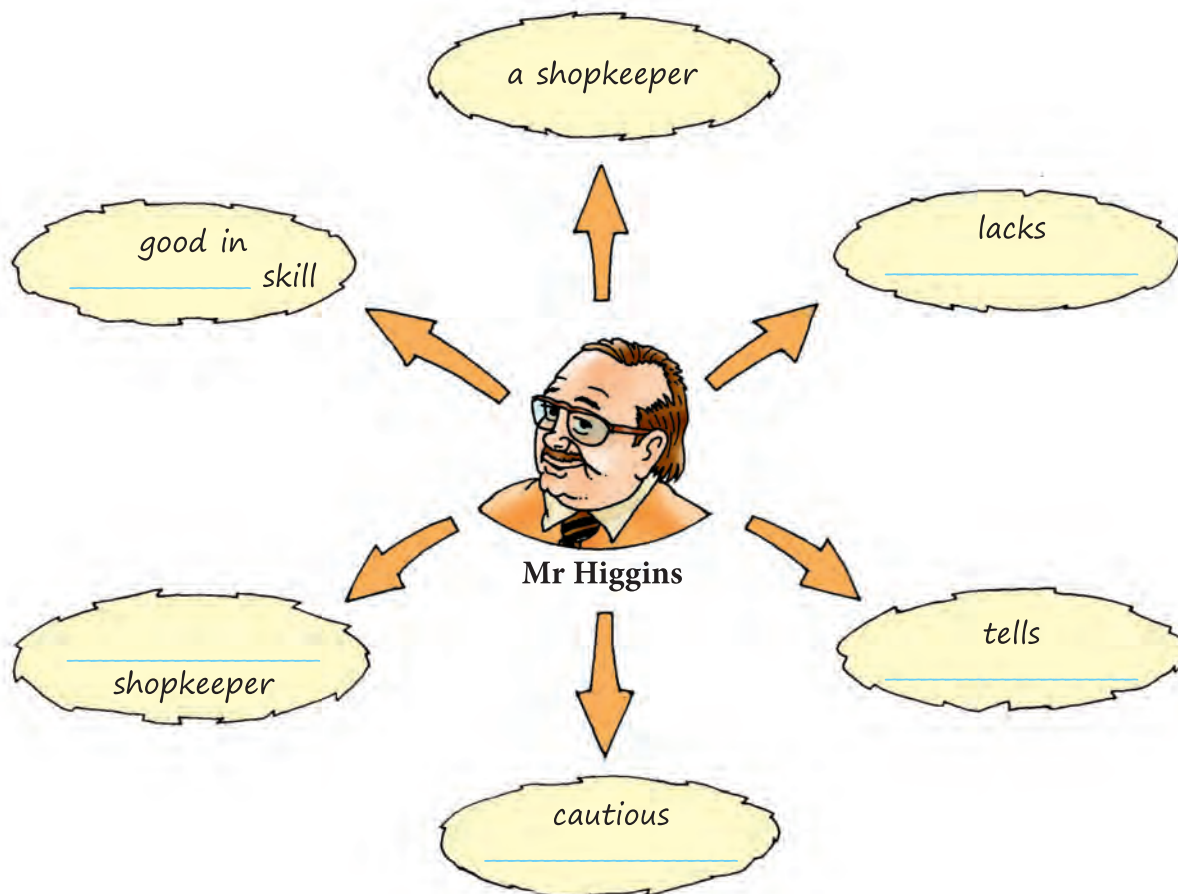
a	e	u	b	p	g	o	o	d	b
h	y	b	u	h	n	f	i	x	i
e	l	a	y	u	e	t	v	e	g
a	b	k	g	h	w	s	e	l	l
v	a	e	h	y	o	m	w	r	k
y	d	y	t	z	v	a	f	c	l
d	z	a	n	d	e	l	t	o	i
q	k	b	o	j	r	l	o	m	g
e	y	o	b	v	g	i	v	e	h
x	g	l	t	i	m	i	d	s	t
u	n	d	e	r	g	i	r	x	b



take	give

Listen to the audio compilation titled *Listen & Comprehend* (Class-VII). After listening, answer the questions asked related to the script verbally. Listen to the tape script once again and attempt the given question. The tape script is given on page no. 32.

A.7. Listen to what Tom feels about Mr Higgins at the end of his first day at the shop. As you listen complete the given blanks.



A.8. Cast your vote.

Read the following questions.

1. Do you think Tom was responsible for the loss of hundred pounds to Mr Higgins?
2. Did Tom prove to be a good assistant?

Now ask all the students to cast their votes and find out what percentage of students says 'Yes' and what percentage says 'No' for the above two questions.

For the Teacher

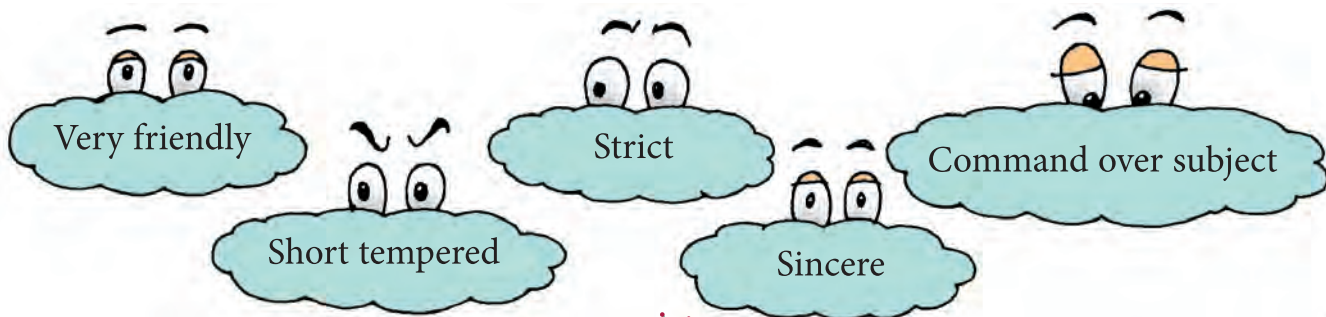
- Divide the class into two groups for a discussion.
- To ensure maximum participation, tell the students that each speaker will get only one chance to present his/her argument.
- Encourage the students to present counter-arguments.

A.9. Imagine you are Tom. You wonder whether your not selling the vase was a mistake. Write a diary entry expressing your feelings.

Date _____ Time _____
Day _____

B

Which of the following traits of a teacher would make him/her your favourite teacher?



- B.1.** Now read this poem about a teacher who prays to God to enable her to perform her duties sincerely and properly.

► **Teacher's Prayer**

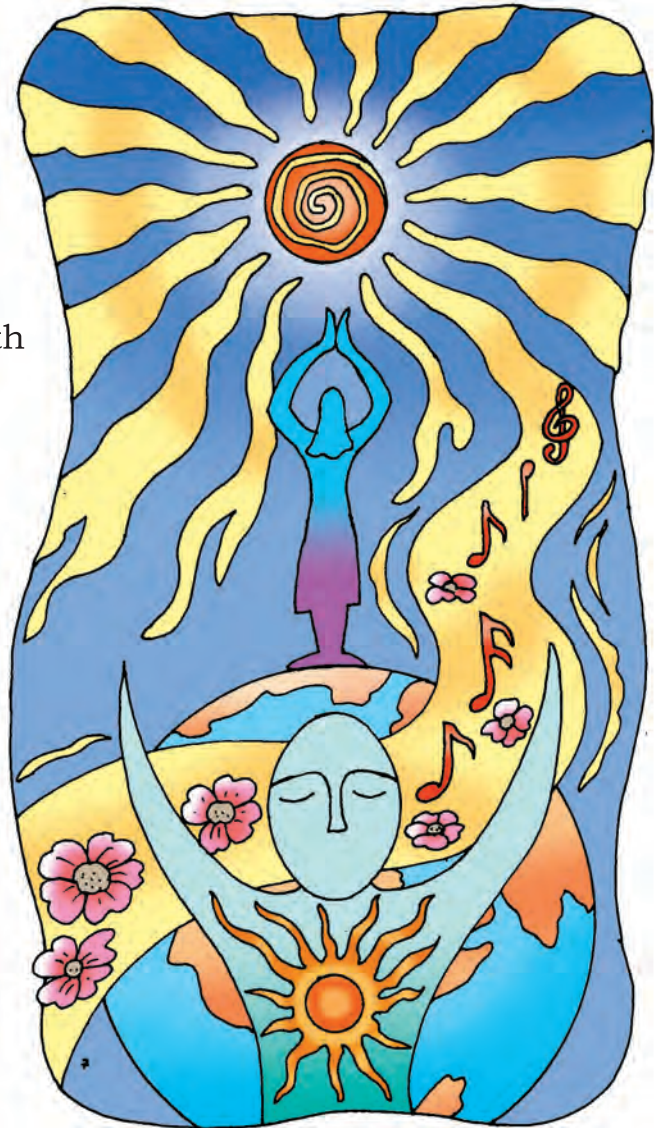
I want to teach my students
how to live this life on earth,
To face its struggle and its strife
and improve their worth.

Not just the lesson in a book
or how the rivers flow,
But how to choose the proper path
wherever they may go.

To understand eternal truth and
know the right from wrong,
And gather all the beauty
of a flower and a song.

For if I help the world to grow
in wisdom and in grace,
Then, I shall feel that I've
won and I have filled my place.

And so I ask for guidance, God,
that I may do my part,
For character and confidence
and happiness of heart.



—James J. Melcalf

- B.2.** On the basis of your understanding of the poem, complete the summary of the poem.

The teacher wants to teach her students how to lead their life nicely on this earth, how to overcome the _____ and _____ that one faces and how to improve their _____.

She doesn't want her students to have only _____ knowledge. What is more important is that they should be able to choose the _____ path. They should be able to distinguish between _____ as well as appreciate the _____ of nature.

She feels that she'll have done her duty sincerely if she can teach the children to develop _____ and _____.

Finally, she prays to God to _____ her in making this world full of individuals who have _____, _____ and _____.

B.3. Select an appropriate title for each stanza from the choices given below.

[a satisfied soul, a prayer, the guiding force, correct judgments]

Stanza 1

Stanza 2, 3

Stanza 4

Stanza 5



B.4. Select any four students in your class for a survey. Speak to them and find out whether they have been influenced by a teacher who brought about any change in their—

• behaviour

• personality

• academic performance

Complete the following table on the basis of your survey.

Name of the student	Name of the teacher/s	Subject/s taught	Change brought about in the student



B.5. HOTS

In the poem the teacher wants to teach her students 'improve their worth'.

(a) What does the expression 'improve their worth' mean?

(b) How can students 'improve their worth'?

B.6. Values

In the poem the teacher wants that her students should be able to make a distinction between the right and the wrong. Why is it important for us to tread the righteous path?

B.7. Read this diary entry of a Maths teacher who is very thrilled about the result of his entire class, especially of a student, Vaibhav, who has shown a very positive change.

July 7, 2020

10:30 p.m.

Tuesday



Today, I am very thrilled to see the performance of VII B in Maths. All the students have done so well in exams that the average result of this section is the best among all. To think that it was once considered to be the worst performing section in Class-VII! These students have made me feel proud of them.

I am especially happy about Vaibhav, who has shown a wonderful result and kept his promise of becoming a disciplined student. His changed behaviour and attitude have impressed the students as well as the teachers. I am so happy to be teaching a bunch of such sweet children.

B.8. Imagine yourself to be Vaibhav. Write a diary entry expressing your feelings of happiness and a sense of achievement on performing so well. Also, mention your feelings of gratitude to your teacher, who has been the guiding force behind you.



Today when my Maths teacher _____



Write the things sold by the following people with the help of the Clue Box.

- (a) draper _____
- (b) butcher _____
- (c) pharmacist _____
- (d) jeweller _____
- (e) green grocer _____
- (f) baker _____
- (g) stationer _____
- (h) confectioner _____
- (i) news-vendor _____

Clue Box

meat

newspapers

cakes, sweets

bread

paper, pens

medicines

fruit, vegetables

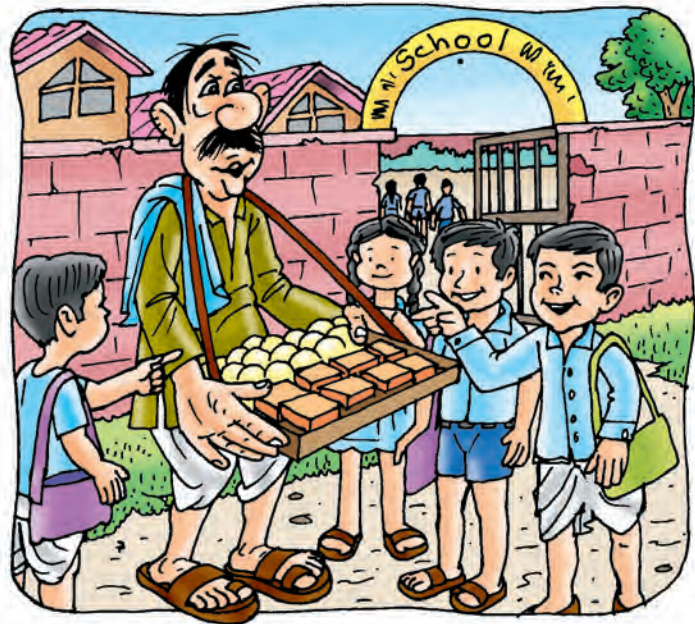
ornaments

cloth

- C.1. Now read a story about Munisamy, who is a street vendor and sells sweets to school children. One day, while going for work, a small accident brings about a change in him. Read yourself to find out what happens to him and how he turns a new leaf in his life.

▶ The Vendor Of Sweets

He was a vendor of sweets. He had his own peculiar method of advertising and doing business. He never depended upon others for help and worked hard all alone. I speak of Munisamy—the man who sold sweets. His customers were children, the future citizens of the world.



At the stroke of nine in the morning, Munisamy would stand in front of the school with his tray of sweets. Till about eleven, the sale would be brisk. After that he moved off to other places. Even when the sweets became sticky in the heat, his business never **slackened**.

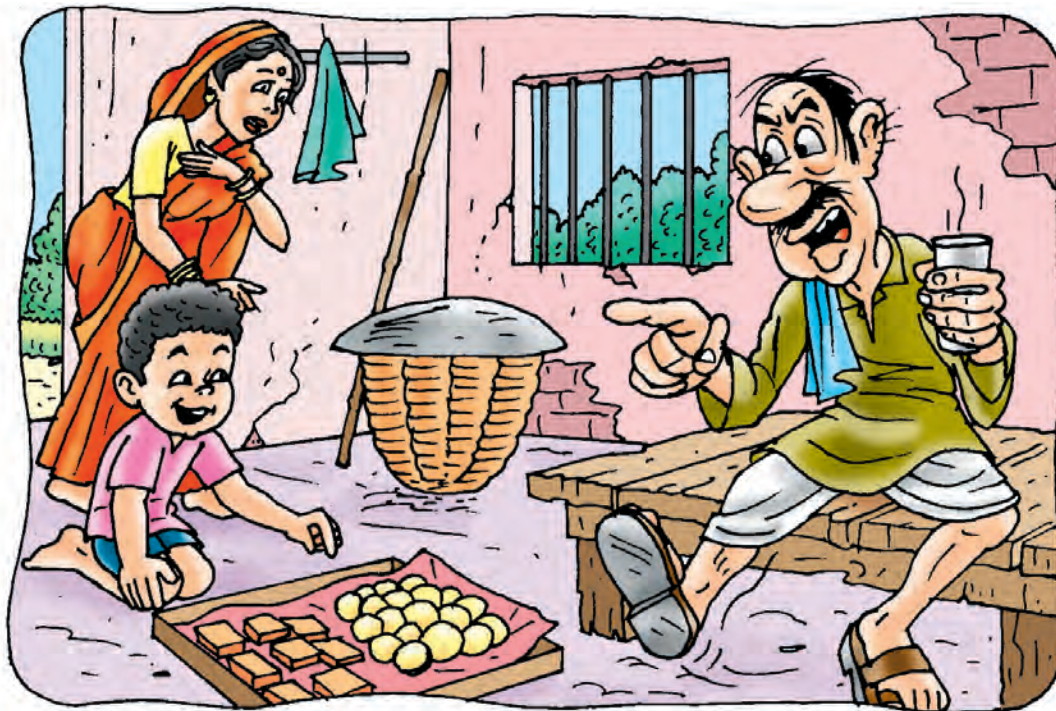
At five minutes to one in the afternoon, he again presented himself near the school. Between one and two, the lunch hour for children—he did good business, and at two-thirty went away to sell in the streets. He would go round every nook and corner of the town and try his luck and present himself again at the school at four.

Thus, Munisamy found a thriving business in vending sweets. There was depression in his trade only when the holidays came.

His child was now two-years old—an age at which a child is apt to put all kinds of things into its mouth. Munisamy, however, would not let him touch even the little crumbs that dropped on the ground.

‘Papa! a sweet for me,’ the little one would ask. ‘You will only have a kick,’ would come the angry voice of the father.

slackened: had fewer customers

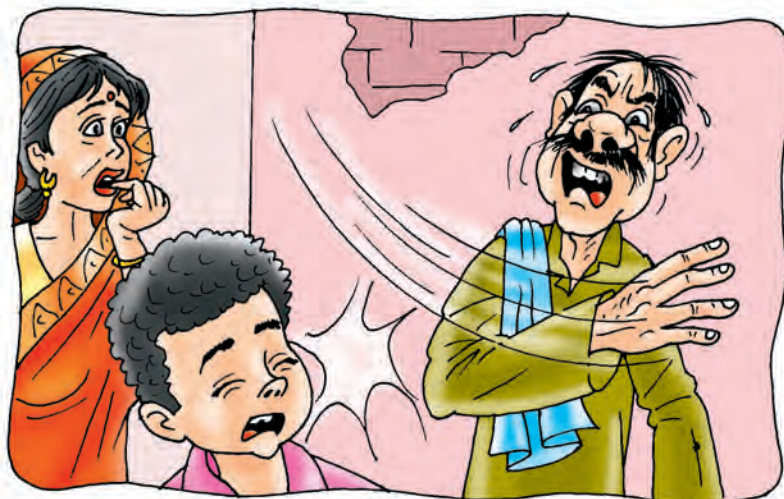


‘How you shout at a little child! What does he know?’ his wife would protest.

The child would stand crying for the sweet. The sight would fill the mother’s heart with pain, and **enrage** the father.

It was the re-opening day of the school. Munisamy got up early. He had decorated the tray with coloured paper and arranged the sweets in it. At that moment, the child approached the tray, picked up a sweet from it and put it in his mouth.

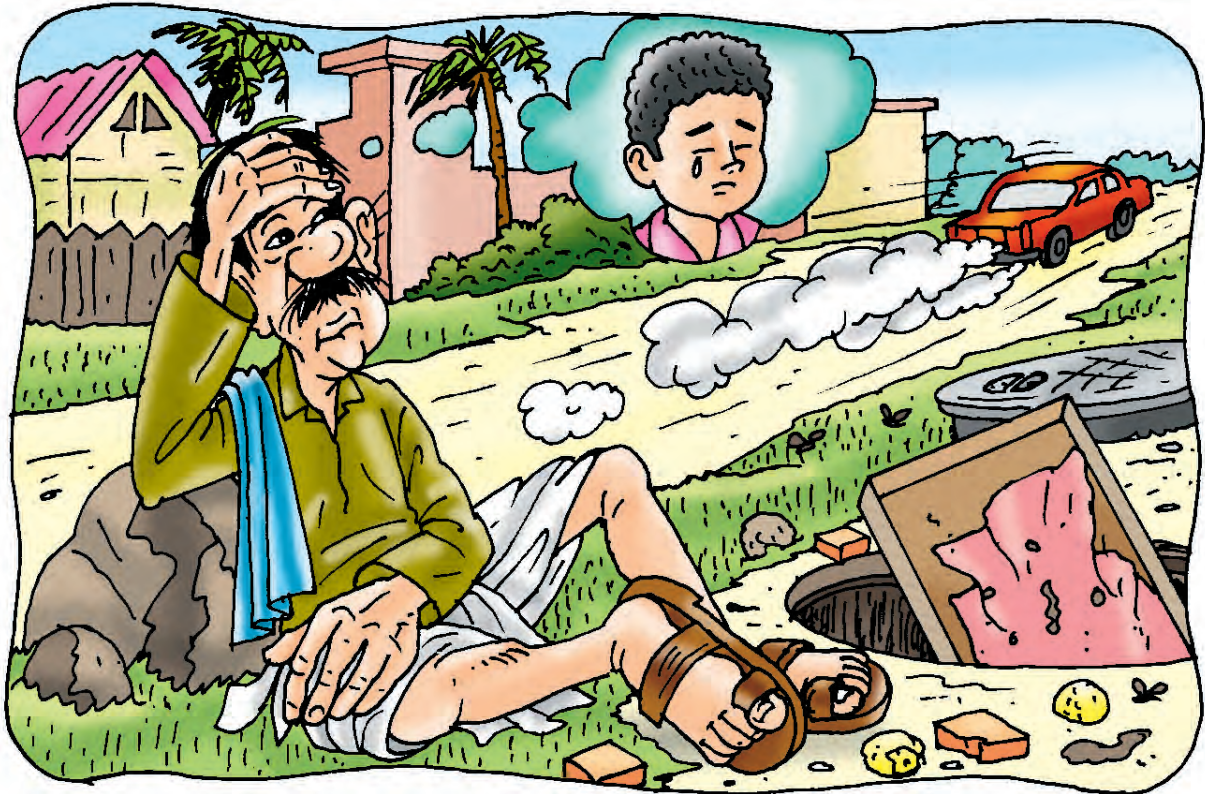
Munisamy saw it, ‘Damn the fellow!’ he cried and gave a sharp slap on the tender cheek of the child. He then hastily took up the tray and went out of the house. The child sank on the floor shrieking with pain.



Meanwhile, Munisamy was walking along very fast, with the tray on his head. ‘The little fellow’s hand has touched the sweets. It is an ill-omen. Suppose it affects the sale today!’ he reflected. Just as he was going

enrage: to make very angry

along a lane, he suddenly saw a big car **bearing down** in his direction. He hurried to a side, when his foot stumped against a big stone and he fell headlong on the ground. The sweets tray fell from his head into the gutter by the side of the road.



The sweets—the whole lot, from which he would not allow a single bit to be removed even for his own child lay in a heap before his very eyes, in the gutter. They were lost.

He beat his head and reflected bitterly, ‘I prayed to God for a good sale. But I beat the child and was not aware that he was the image of that same God.’

All at once he was filled with an intense desire to go home and see the child. He got up and started back for home. The child had cried itself to sleep. Munisamy saw the red marks of his fingers on the soft cheek. He also saw the stains of tears over his face.

Munisamy’s eyes filled with tears. He said to his wife, ‘I swear to God I’ll not touch the child again. I sinned and God has punished me.’ He broke into sobs. In this **commotion**, the child woke up from its sleep and looked at them.

bearing down: moving in a threatening manner

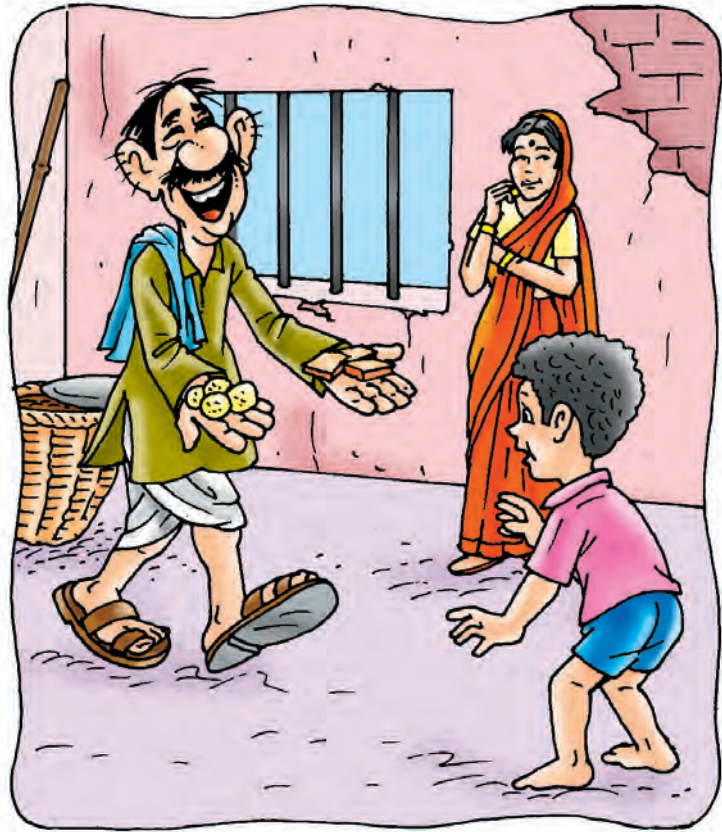
commotion: noisy confusion

Munisamy got up and went to the basket in which he stored sweets. He came back with his hands full of sweets and gave them to the child.

‘My darling! From today you will be the first to have the sweets,’ he said and kissed the cheek which he had slapped in the morning.

The child smiled. Biting a sweet, he looked at his parents and burst into a laugh.

—Sri K.V. Jagannathan

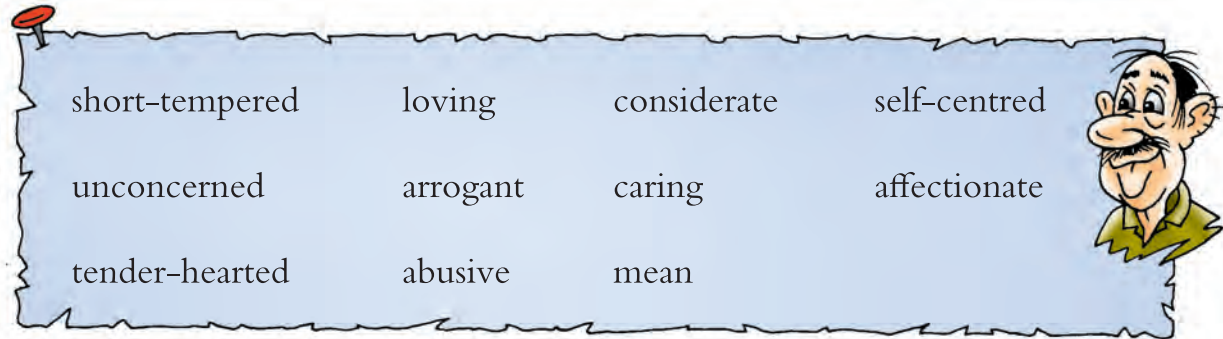


C.2. On the basis of your understanding of the text, complete the following statements.

- (a) At nine in the morning, Munisamy would stand _____
_____.
- (b) During vacation, there was _____
_____.
- (c) At the tender age of two, Munisamy’s child _____
_____.
- (d) The mother’s heart would fill with pain when she saw _____
_____.
- (e) When the child picked a sweet to eat, it _____
_____.

(f) When Munisamy was going to the school, all the sweets from the tray _____

C.3. Underline the words that tell you about the nature of Munisamy before the accident and encircle the ones that refer to new Munisamy.

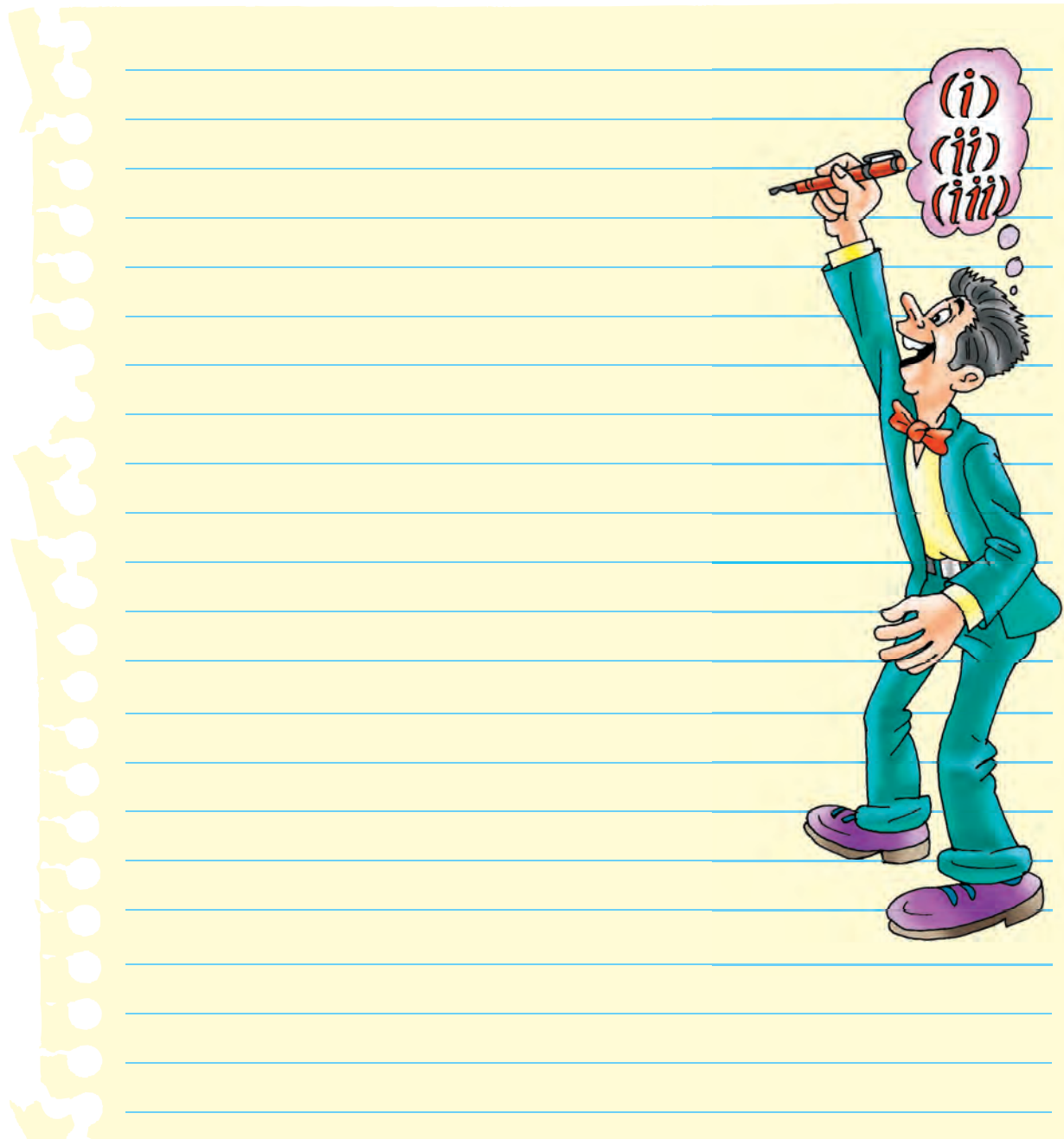


C.4. The incidents mentioned below are from the story but they are not in order. Put them in the correct order and re-write them in the form of a paragraph in the space provided on the next page.

- (i) At home, his two-year child was not even allowed to touch those sweets.
- (ii) He sold his sweets mainly to school children and was doing a thriving business.
- (iii) On his way to the school, Munisamy fell headlong on the road while trying to avoid a collision with a car.
- (iv) Once on the re-opening day of the school, Munisamy was getting ready to go out to sell sweets.
- (v) The child cried and went to sleep.
- (vi) Munisamy was a hard-working sweet vendor.
- (vii) He saw his child picking up sweets from the tray.
- (viii) His sweets fell into the gutter.
- (ix) He slapped the child in a rage and went out with his tray.
- (x) He returned home and promised to give the child the sweets before he sold them to others.
- (xi) Munisamy realised that it was God's punishment for slapping the child.



Brief Summary



C.5. HOTS

Do you think Munisamy would have realised his mistake if his tray of sweets had not fallen into the gutter accidentally?

C.6. Life Skills

Munisamy's son picked a sweet from his tray which infuriated Munisamy. He considered it an 'ill-omen'. Superstitions often put us in trouble. Imagine you have a friend who is superstitious like Munisamy. He/She stops if a black cat crosses his/her path or does not go out if someone sneezes when he/she is about to step outside. How will you explain to him/her to shun superstitions and have a rational approach towards life?

C.7. Words in a Word

A few words from the story are given below. Use a dictionary to find their meanings. Then write four words containing four letters or more using the letters of the given words. One has been done as an example.

	WORD	MEANING	FOUR-LETTER WORDS
1.	commotion	<i>noisy confusion</i>	<i>omit, coin, moon, icon</i>
2.	intense		
3.	peculiar		
4.	thriving		
5.	reflected		
6.	shrieking		
7.	protest		

- C.8. In the paragraph given below, some words are written in capital letters. The antonym along with the synonym of each highlighted word is also given in the table below the paragraph. Guess the correct word and write it in the space provided.

GOD'S JOB

A peasant driving a donkey reached a melon farm. TIRED and thirsty, he sat down and rested under the shade of a NEARBY walnut tree. Enjoying the view of the spreading vines of big watermelons, he looked up and NOTICED a few walnuts DANGLING among the very HIGH branches of a monstrously high tree. Bewildered by the work of God, he wondered why small walnuts grew on such an ENORMOUS tree, while the big watermelons hung from a flat and FLIMSAY vine. The peasant was lost in his thoughts when a falling walnut hit his head. He stretched his hands high up towards the sky and said THANKFULLY, 'O Almighty God, it was CLEVER of you not to let melons grow on big trees, for I would have been DEAD by now.'

Synonym	Antonym	Word
hanging	lying	
huge	tiny	
intelligent	foolish	
weary	fresh	
gratefully	ungratefully	
lifeless	alive	
closeby	far-away	
feeble	sturdy	
observed	ignored	
towering	low	



C.9. Look at the advertisement below. Discuss what are the essential elements in any newspaper/magazine advertisement.

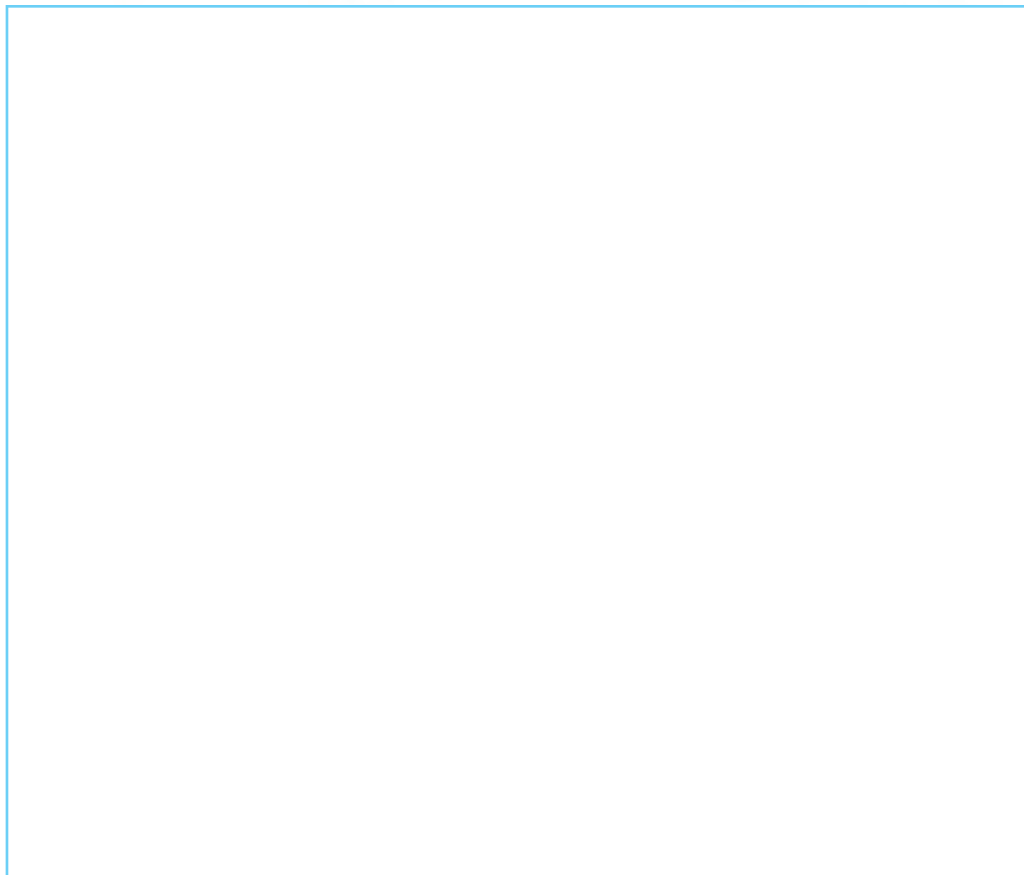


C.10. Keeping all the elements of a good advertisement in mind, design an advertisement for any one of the following:

- soft drinks
- watches
- pens



elements?





Read it Yourself

Read the experience of Iain Levison under the title ‘Caution—Man at Work’.

► Caution—Man At Work

It would be hard to single out my worst job ever. In the last ten years, I’ve had 42. It wasn’t supposed to be like this. My original plan involved writing a novel, but instead I seem to have become, without realising it, an **itinerant** worker—albeit one with a degree in English literature.

Looking back, though, I’d have to say the incident with the donkey might be right up there in the top ten worst career disasters. I’d got a job driving a truck for a company that supplied oil for heating homes. The company catered to rich people, many of whom had mansions for houses, with new sports car in every driveway. As I drove around, I wondered what these people did for a living. Did all these houses belong to geniuses and inventors of rocket engines and cures for diseases?

The hardest part was learning where the oil fill for each house was located. Every delivery notice provided a little map, but the fill itself was a metal pipe about 12 centimetres in diameter, and it was often behind bushes, under rocks—or buried completely in the snow. On the particular day I’m recalling, one house had, instead of a map, a delivery slip that said simply, ‘Fill at the donkey’s nose.’



itinerant: travelling from one place to another

I drive up and see a huge statue of a donkey in the front garden, so I go over and examine its nose. The donkey must be a heating oil tank, I decide. Its cement nostrils are large enough to accommodate an oil **hose**, though I don't see any threading in which to screw the nozzle.



I join the pump up its nostrils as far as it will go and turn on the oil full blast. Immediately, the donkey's head explodes, and I am showered with home heating oil and concrete. I **grope** around blindly for the hose. I limp back to the truck and call my bosses.

'Yes, I'm at the house. Their heating tank just broke.'

'What do you mean it broke?' Charlie who has worked for the company for 15 years, knows every delivery by heart. 'That's the one beside the donkey, right?'

Beside the donkey? What did that mean? 'Yes,' I say cautiously.

'I'll get someone out there.'

I ran over to the headless, oil soaked donkey. I scarp madly at the ground underneath where the donkey's nose had been, and my hand hits metal under the snow. I sweep the snow aside and there, laughing at me, is the oil fill.



hose: a flexible tube made of rubber or plastic, used for directing liquids

grope: to try to find by feeling with the hands

'Fill is a noun and a verb,' I explain.

'Fill at the donkey's nose is ambiguous.'

Charlie is not going to fire me because he's seen things like this before, and also because mine was not the biggest blunder.

—Iain Levison



Tape Script



Hi, I'm Tom.

Mr Higgins is a shopkeeper. He has been selling old things at his shop for last forty years. He understands that it takes a long time to learn about old things, yet he gets angry when his assistant makes a mistake on the first day of his joining. So, he lacks tolerance. Mr Higgins is a great manipulator. He makes many stories about the articles in his shop so that he could sell them. He even tells lies about the cost of his wares. He is cautious about his customers and has the ability to engage them into profitable conversation. He is a clever shopkeeper who has written the prices on the articles for sale but expects that the customer won't be able to see or understand the numbers. As shopkeeper, Mr Higgins is well-versed with negotiating or bargaining skills. He also plays upon his customers' emotions to sell his wares.



2 Relationships



Introduction

I. Read the following questions and tick (✓) the correct responses.

1. M and N are sisters. O and P are brothers. The daughter of M is the sister of P. How is N related to O?

- mother aunt
 sister wife



2. A is the father of B, but B is not the daughter of A. How is B related to A?

- brother uncle
 son father



3. A and B are brothers. C is the sister of A. D is the brother of A and E is the daughter of B. Who is the paternal aunt of E?

- A B
 C D



4. B is the husband of A. A is the daughter of D. D is the husband of C. E is the father of B. How is E related to A?

- father father-in-law
 son son-in-law



II. We have just answered a few questions related to various relationships that exist in a family. However, many relationships exist beyond the limits of a family also. List any four such relationships that you see around yourself.

1. _____ 2. _____
 3. _____ 4. _____

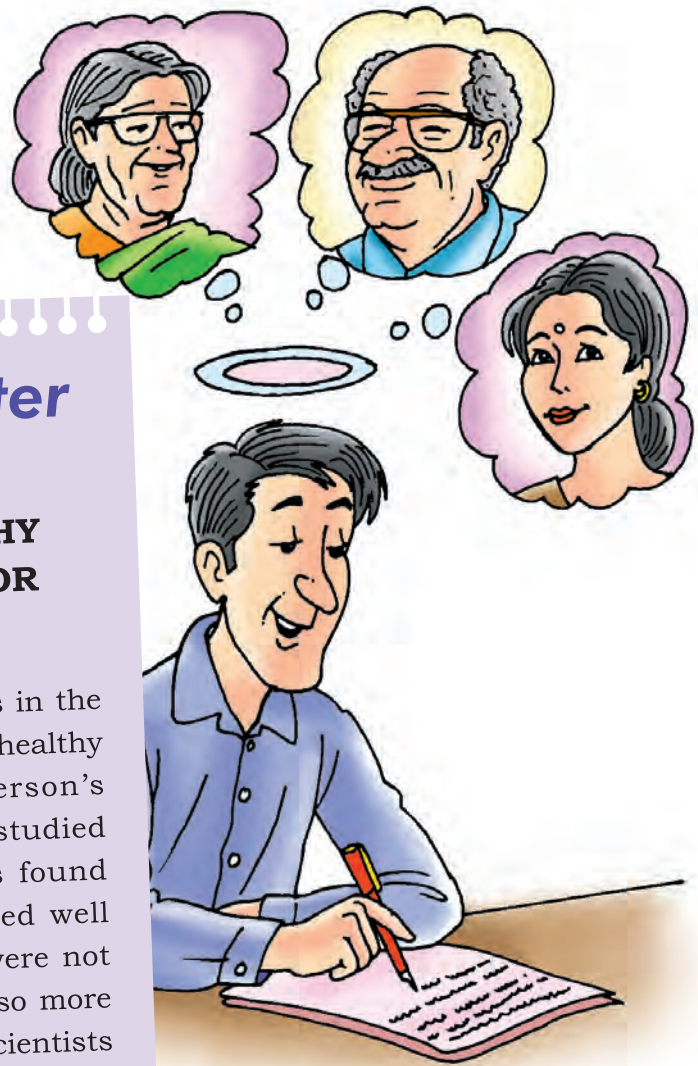


A.1. Read the following clipping.

Discovery Reporter
Science Journal

**STUDY REVEALS HEALTHY
RELATIONSHIP VITAL FOR
SUCCESS**

London, 29 September: Scientists in the UK have floated a new theory that healthy relationships are vital for a person's overall success. Scientists who studied the behaviour of 100 volunteers found out that those who communicated well with their relatives and friends were not only happier at home but were also more successful at their workplaces. Scientists believe that healthy relationships provide security and peace of mind and infuse energy and enthusiasm in life, which are essential for good living.



A.2. List four relationships that you value the most and explain why.

- (a) _____
- (b) _____
- (c) _____
- (d) _____

- A.3. Read the passage given below and find out what role grandparents play in our lives.

▶ The Wonder Of Grandparents

In emotional importance, the grandparent-grandchild bond is second only to the bond between parents and children. Grandparents bring warmth and affection to family life. Grandparents are cheer leaders in life, bestowing on their grandchildren praise and **adoration**, encouragement and support. They also have the opportunity to share their wisdom and wealth of experience with their grandchildren and to be a guiding light to them as they face life's challenges. The extra attention and nurturing a grandparent provides tells the children that someone cares for and is genuinely interested in what they think or do.

Grandparents add a sense of connection to the chain of humanity. It helps to extend life, beyond Mom, Dad and the child living in their own cubicle. There is a sense of belonging to the human race, a sense of belonging to life, and a sense that there are people out there who love them.

Grandparents also provide a whole sense of history, identity and heritage. They provide that vital connection with the past where the younger generation has come from. They can tell of changes in medicine, technology and community.

Grandparenting today is certainly different from what it used to be only a generation ago. Family structures have undergone dramatic change—increased occupational mobility, dual income families, rapid technological change, etc. Children need the stability, the time and the caring of grandparents more than ever. Grandparents can offer their grandchildren adult companionship in an often calmer, less **hectic** setting. When geographically close, grandparents can often be more generous with their time and provide that extra attention that busy families crave for. They can help to stabilise the family environment.



adoration: devotion

hectic: busy

Today's grandparents add another **perspective**. They may still provide the milk and cookies, the warm hugs and the little extras, but our vision of grandparents has changed. We no longer imagine the old, motherly woman in a house-dress knitting booties and the gray-haired man smoking his pipe in the rocker on the front porch. Grandparents today are multi-dimensional. They are still comparatively young and are doing amazing things. They are vital, active, intelligent, interesting, with a wealth of information and knowledge. They swim, lift weights and go camping.

When children see older persons continuing to live active lives, they see that good stuff comes with aging. Instead of fearing the aging process, they learn how to age gracefully. They do not view the older population as frail, unwell and scary.

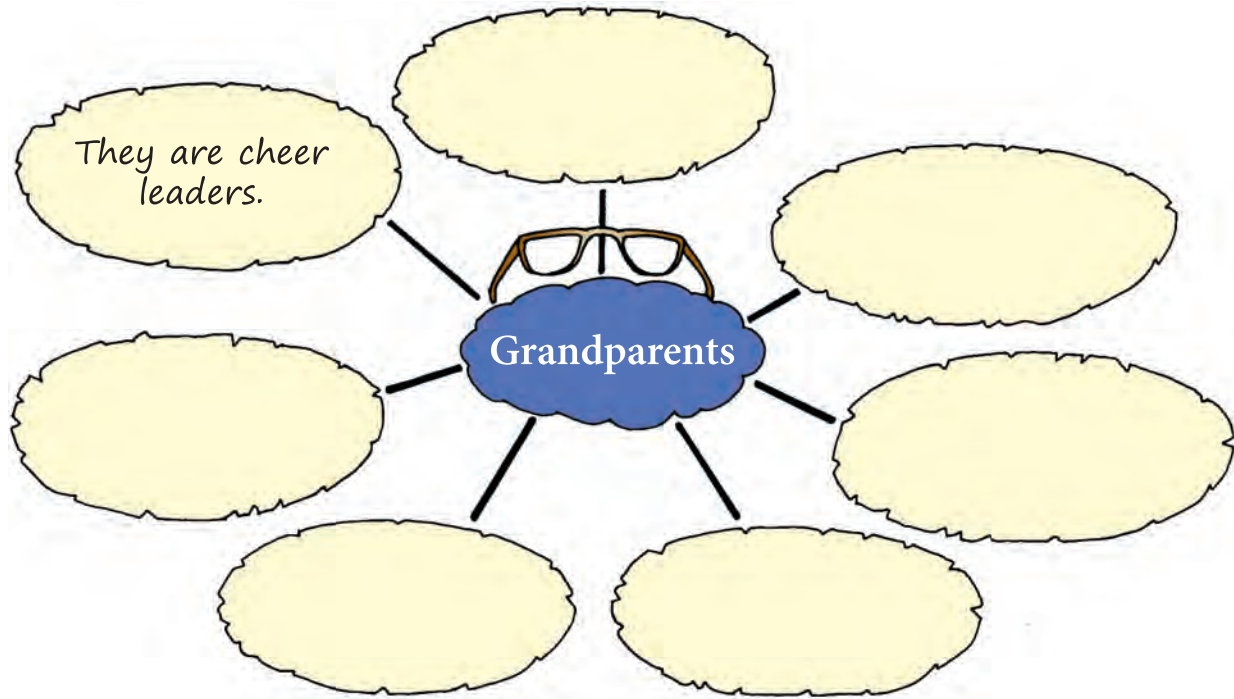
Likewise, the more the elders interact with children and young people, the less hesitant they seem to be. A lot of elders are scared of teens. But, if they sit down with one and get into a dialogue, they see the goodness in them. Similarly, if the youngsters interact with the elders, they find out a lot about their human attributes. It is beneficial to both the young and the old alike to have a relationship with someone at the opposite end of life.



These days more and more grandparents are playing a vital role in the lives of their grandchildren. Millions of elders are discovering the joy of becoming a grandparent. Children are developing a deep sense of belonging to them and are experiencing the security of unconditional love. 'It's the only relationship,' says Dr. Arthur Kornhaber of the Foundation for Grandparenting, 'in which people are crazy about each other simply because they're breathing.'

perspective: viewpoint

- A.4.** The author says, 'Grandparents bring warmth and affection to family life.' On the basis of your reading of the passage, list at least six ways in which grandparents bring joy to the family.



- A.5.** Complete the following statements.

- (a) The grandparent-grandchild relationship is the _____ important emotional relationship, the most important emotional relationship being _____.
- (b) List two extracts from the passage that tell that grandparents also provide knowledge to their grandchildren.
- (i) _____
- (ii) _____
- (c) Modern children need the companionship of their grandparents more than ever because _____.

(d) It is good for the children to observe the elderly people living actively because _____
_____.

(e) Interaction between the elderly people and the youngsters is beneficial for both. While the youngsters understand the elders' _____, the elders get to know the _____ of the young.

A.6. HOTS

(a) **A dual income family is the one in which both husband and wife work outside the home to earn, and support the family financially. This trend is fast gaining ground in India. It has its own pros and cons. Enlist a few in the space given below:**

PROS	CONS

(b) **How has the role of grandparents become all the more important in the families in which both parents are working?**

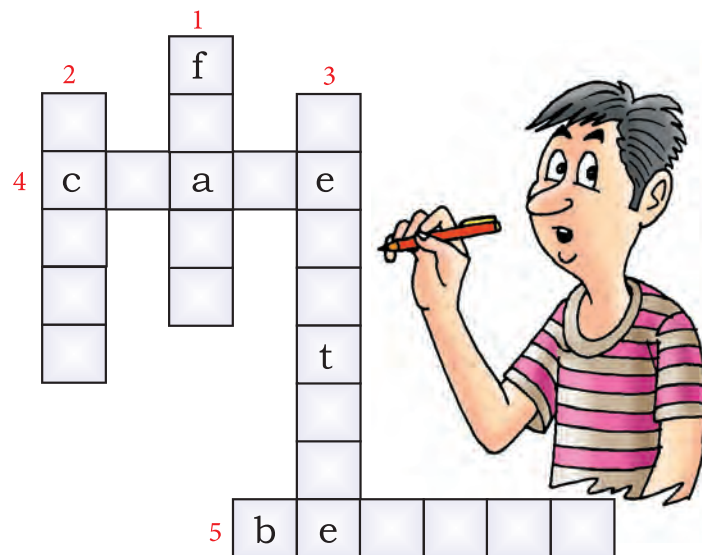
A.7. Values

'Grandparents are cheerleaders in life.' But with emerging socialising trends, the young generation tends to ignore the elderly. They spend most of their time on phones, tabs and laptops.

(a) As a grandchild what are your responsibilities towards your grandparents?

(b) How can you fulfil your responsibilities?

A.8. Find the words from the text which mean the same as the ones given in the clues and complete the following puzzle.



Across →
4 – to long for
5 – to give, to confer

Down ↓
1 – delicate, weak
2 – frightening
3 – what we get from the past

A.9. In para 3, the author says, ‘They (grandparents) can tell of changes in medicine, technology and community.’

(a) Work in groups of four and prepare a questionnaire to interview your grandparents about the changes in life and society that they have seen. You may concentrate on the following aspects:

- food
- clothes
- customs
- professions
- medicine
- technology



(b) After the interview, you should fill in the following table.

	Then	Now
Food		
Clothes		
Customs		
Professions		
Medicines		
Technology		

This information should then be read out in the class.

A.10. You are Manu, who reads the following newspaper clipping about nuclear families. Taking hints from the passage ‘The Wonder of Grandparents’ and using your own ideas, write a letter to the Editor of the Voice of Humanity, highlighting the importance of living with grandparents and other relatives in a joint family.

New Delhi, 30 December: A survey conducted in the four metropolitan cities indicates that most urban people prefer nuclear families on the lines of western culture. This trend, however, has not found favour with the elderly people, who feel that joint families provide a better living environment.

24, Vasant Apartments
New Delhi

January 5, 20__

The Editor
Voice of Humanity
New Delhi

Subject: _____

Sir

Urban people’s growing inclination towards nuclear families has become a major cause of worry.

Yours truly
Manu

For the Teacher

Explain to the students the concept of the letter to the editor of a newspaper.

Explain why we write letters to an editor.

Explain the format of a formal letter. The body of a formal letter has three parts—
Part I – The problem, Part II – Possible solutions, Part III – Closing lines

The subject should be short and precise.

B

- B.1.** Of all the relationships, a bond between the siblings is always special. A sibling can be a guide, a friend, a mentor, a competitor, a teacher—all rolled into one.
- B.2.** Write at least three words that would describe your brother/sister. Also give the reason for your choice.

	WORDS	REASONS
(a)		
(b)		
(c)		

- B.3.** List three things that you like a lot about him/her.

- (a) _____
- (b) _____
- (c) _____

- B.4.** List three things that you do not like about him/her.

- (a) _____
- _____
- (b) _____
- _____
- (c) _____
- _____



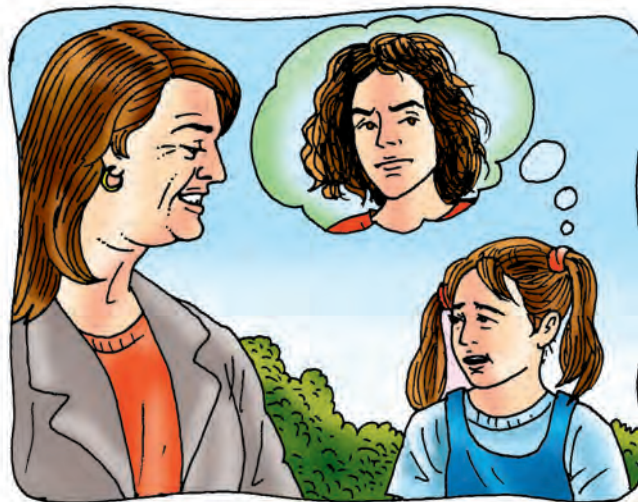
- B.5. Read this story about two sisters and find out what kind of relationship they share.

▶ Nikki's Sitter

Nikki hated Wednesdays. That's because on Wednesdays, Mama worked late and left Cara in charge.

Nikki used to like hanging around her sister. Cara had taught Nikki how to play checkers and how to blow bubbles as big as her face.

But Cara didn't seem to like doing much of anything with Nikki anymore—except telling her what to do. When Nikki asked Mama about it, Mama said it was all a part of growing up. Nikki didn't want Cara to grow up if it meant losing a sister.



Nikki walked up the flower-lined pavement that led to the *verandah*. She **stomped** up the steps and reached for the knob. Locked!

Cara should be here by now, thought Nikki. The middle school finished half an hour earlier than the primary school. Nikki rang the bell and waited. Nothing. She dropped her book, bag and pounded on the door. 'Hey, Cara!' she yelled. 'Are you in there?'

'No,' said a voice behind her.

Nikki spun around and saw that Cara had walked out from behind the house.

'What's wrong?' asked Nikki. 'Why aren't you inside?'

'You have the key,' said Cara.

'I gave it to you on Sunday so that you could get Mama's purse for her.'

Nikki thought for a moment, then said, 'Yeah, but I gave it back to you.'

'No, you didn't,' Cara said with a **sneer** that Nikki had got accustomed to.

stomped: walked heavily

sneer: a scornful smile

‘Well, I’m not sitting here until Mama gets home,’ said Cara. ‘I’m going over to Tina’s.’

‘But you can’t!’ yelled Nikki. ‘Mama said you’re supposed to stay with me until she gets home.’

‘Why do you care now? You don’t want me to watch you any other time,’ said Cara. ‘I heard you complaining about me to Mama.’ ‘Cara’s mean. Cara’s bossy.’ Cara crossed her arms and turned her back to Nikki.



Nikki didn’t know what to say. Cara’s right, she thought, I do hate that she has to watch me—like a baby. She said to Cara, ‘May be if you didn’t treat me like a baby, I wouldn’t get angry.’

‘May be if you didn’t act like a baby, I wouldn’t treat you like one,’ said Cara.

‘May be if you treated me like a sister instead of someone to boss around, I’d be nicer!’ shouted Nikki.

‘This is **accomplishing** nothing,’ said Cara. ‘I’m going to get us into the house. You can sit here and complain all you want.’ Cara stormed round to the back of the house.

Nikki could hear Cara checking the windows and the cellar door, but she didn’t go back to help. Instead, Nikki sat down on the steps and rested her head on her knees. Her lips **quivered** and her eyes burned as tears made a quiet track down her face. Nikki turned her head and was using her sleeve to dry her face when something caught her eye.

It was the stepping-stone that she and Cara had made for Mama a few years ago. It had their handprints pressed into it. Their names were scratched on it in jagged letters. Nikki smiled when she saw

accomplishing: achieving

quivered: trembled

that her *N* was backwards. She **knelt** down and placed her hand over its old impression, covering it completely. She could cover Cara's handprint, too. She and Cara had both grown a lot.

As Nikki traced the letters in her sister's name, a memory popped into her head. It was the early spring, and she and Cara had been helping Mama plant flowers. Mama had told Cara that she'd place a key under this stone, 'just in case.'



That's when Mama had asked Cara to look after Nikki. Cara didn't want to do it—wasn't sure that she could do it. Nikki had forgotten about that until just now. Maybe Cara didn't want to be a baby-sitter any more than Nikki wanted to be baby-sat.

Nikki lifted the stone and saw the plastic bag with the house key in it. She snatched it and ran towards the back of the house, calling, 'Cara, look what I have found!'

Nikki stopped short when she saw her sister wiping away tears of her own. 'Here, Cara,' she whispered, handing her the key.

'Thanks, Kiddo,' said Cara softly. 'I had forgotten all about it.' Cara unlocked the back door, and they went inside.

'Sorry,' they said at the same time.

Cara shook her head and smiled. 'I guess you're not a baby and I'm not a baby-sitter—or at least not a very good one.'

'You're OK,' said Nikki, 'but let's just say that we're sisters instead.'

'Deal,' said Cara. She hesitated for a moment, then said, 'Want to play checkers?'

Nikki smiled and ran to the games cupboard. Wednesdays were looking a whole lot better.

—Susan Schorr

knelt: sat (resting on the knees)

B.6. On the basis of your reading of the story, tick (✓) the correct responses.

(a) Nikki didn't like Wednesdays because..... .

- mama came late
- she had to stay with Cara
- both the above reasons

(b) Cara studied in..... .

- senior school
- middle school
- primary school

(c) Nikki and Cara made a stepping stone for their mother while..... .

- playing
- painting
- planting flowers

(d) They made this stepping stone in..... .

- summer
- spring
- winter

(e) Nikki found the key under..... .

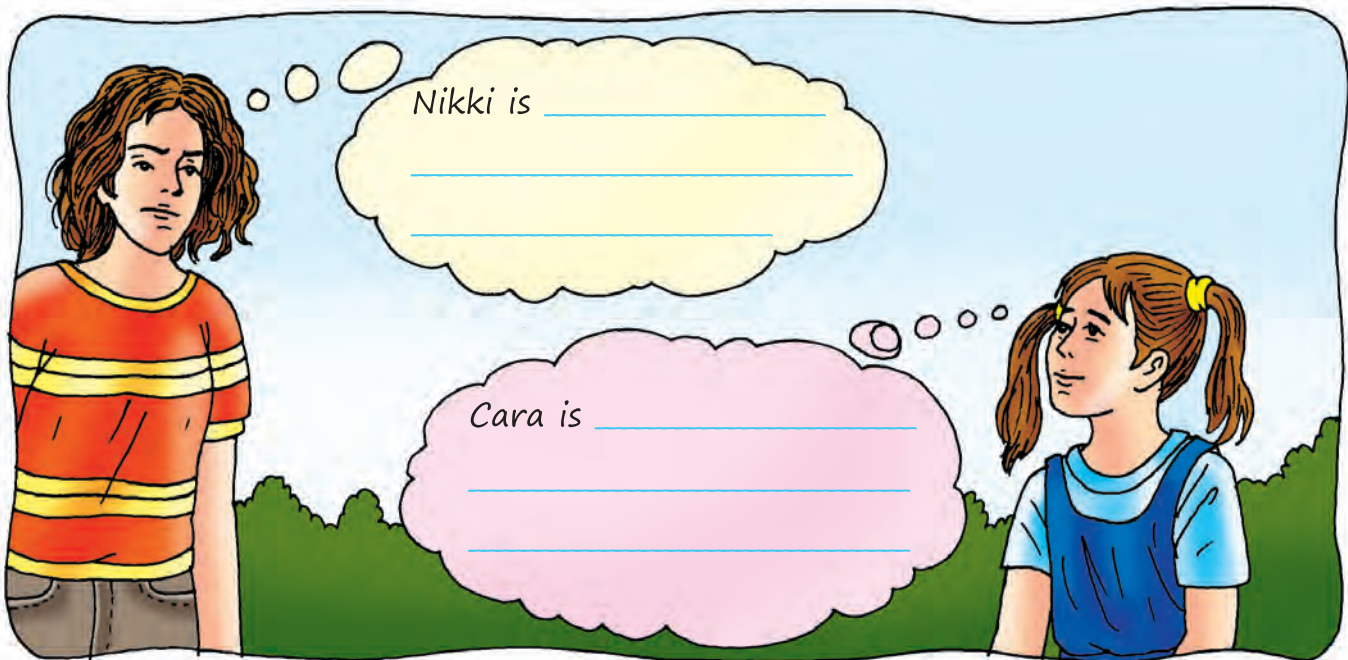
- the footmat
- the flowerpot
- the stepping stone



B.7. Complete the following statements.

- (a) Nikki had expected Cara to be inside the house because _____
_____.
- (b) The two sisters couldn't go inside their house because _____
_____.
- (c) While sitting on the steps, Nikki observed _____
_____. It reminded her _____.
- (d) The incident made her realise that _____
_____.
- (e) Cara and Nikki resolved their differences and decided _____
_____.

B.8. On the basis of your understanding of the story, write what complaint the two sisters had against each other.

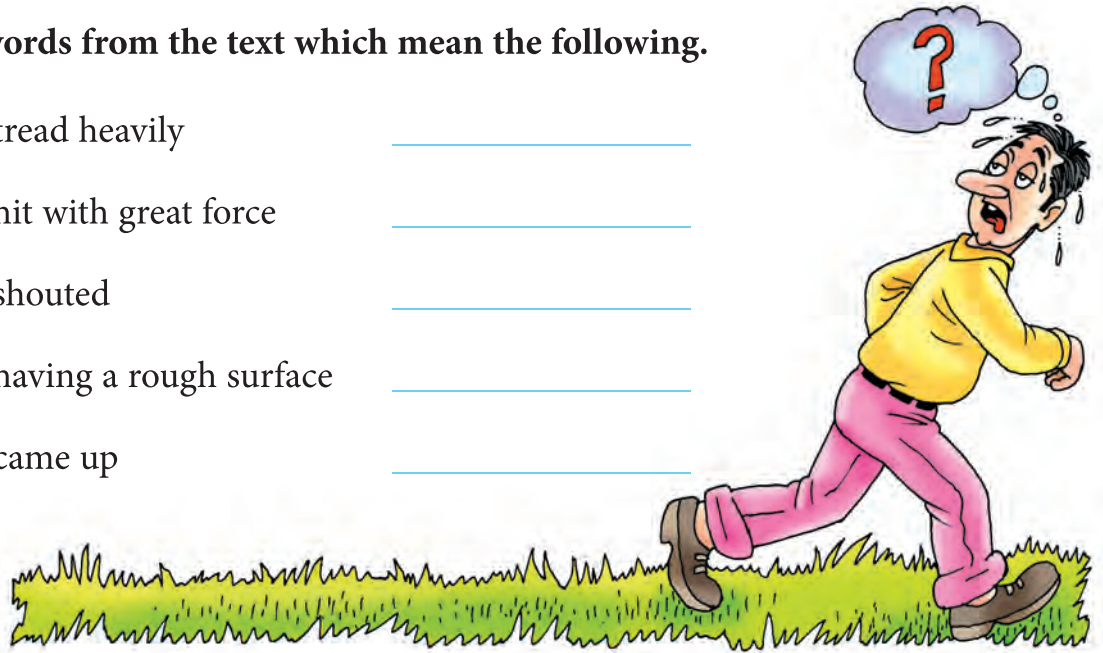


B.9. Life Skills

‘Empathising with others helps us in building life-long relationships with them.’ Nikki and Cara should understand each other’s perspective. It will help to improve their relationship. Discuss in groups of four.

B.10. Find words from the text which mean the following.

- (a) tread heavily _____
- (b) hit with great force _____
- (c) shouted _____
- (d) having a rough surface _____
- (e) came up _____



B.11. After resolving their differences, Cara and Nikki decide to write separate diary entries expressing their feelings. Divide the class into two groups. Students belonging to Group I should write the diary entry on Cara’s behalf and those in Group II should write it on behalf of Nikki. Some students from each group should then read out the diary entry in the class.

__ _ August 20__ _ 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday
I am glad that Cara has decided to act like a sister and not like a baby-sitter.

_ _ August 20_ _

9.30 p.m.

Wednesday



► Nurturing Friendship

C.1. Attempt the following self-check questionnaire. (For every first response give yourself 0, for second response 2 and for every third response award yourself 5 marks.)

(a) In the morning you prefer to have your breakfast in..... .

- (i) your room
- (ii) the kitchen
- (iii) the living room with other members of the family.



(b) How often do you say goodbye to your family before going to school?

- (i) rarely
- (ii) sometimes
- (iii) always



(c) The thought of going back home after a day's school makes..... .

- (i) you sad
- (ii) no difference to you
- (iii) you happy



(d) If you are happy/sad over something, you'd..... .

- (i) keep it to yourself
- (ii) not bother about it
- (iii) share it with your friends and family



(e) One of your friends/relatives wants to meet you urgently, but you are busy. You will..... .

- (i) tell him that you don't have time
- (ii) tell him you'll try
- (iii) take out time for him



(f) In your free time, you would..... .

- (i) watch TV
- (ii) stay in your room
- (iii) meet friends and relatives



Add the total marks and see which category do you fit in!

- 0-9** You are quite an introvert. You need to get out of your shell and communicate more with your friends and family. Remember, friends are your greatest assets!
- 10-20** You do realise the importance of family and friends but do not care about them adequately. A little more attention towards them would make you a lot happier!
- 21-30** You cherish the love of your family and friends. You care about them and are ready to help them anytime. You are a friend indeed!



C.2. We are all blessed with relatives by birth. But we make our friends ourselves. How many friends do you have? Do you think making friends and maintaining their friendship is easy? Discuss with reasons.

Listen to the audio compilation titled *Listen & Comprehend* (Class-VII). After listening, answer the questions asked related to the script verbally. Listen to the tape script once again and attempt the given question. The tape script is given on page no. 59.

C.3. Being with a friend is a great stress-buster. In today's stressful and fast paced life, friends are the best way to release tension. With your friends you can share your woes, clear your doubts and get first-hand guidance. The best way to rejuvenate yourself and get moral support in a difficult situation is through good friends.

Listen to some tips on nurturing friendship. As you listen, write T for true and F for false statements.

- (a) Prosperity tests friends.
- (b) Good listeners make good friends.
- (c) We should respect others' point of view even if we don't agree with it.
- (d) Friends ought to be greeted on their special days only if they are celebrating.
- (e) Light gossip does not harm friendship.
- (f) Besides love and care, respect is one of the pillars of friendship.
- (g) Competition is good for friendship.

C.4. Friends are integral to our life. It is difficult to imagine a day without friends. We share our sorrow and happiness with our buddies.

Think of a friend who is very special to you. Make a presentation in front of your classmates sharing what makes him/her special. Enliven your speech with a vibrant PowerPoint presentation made with pictures of your friend and the moments you spent together.

Note for the students

- Your presentation should not exceed the time limit of two minutes.
- PowerPoint presentation should be clear.
- Do not put too much information in one slide.
- Slides should not have the entire text of the speech.
- Use photographs to make your presentation effective.
- Do not put more than eight slides in your presentation.

C.5. Be a Sonneteer

Sonnet is a poem of fourteen lines. It is usually divided into three quartets (four-line stanzas) followed by a couplet (English Sonnet) or, the first stanza contains eight lines and the second six lines (Italian Sonnet).

Unleash your creative talent and compose a sonnet dedicated to your best friend.

For the Teacher

- Explain the rhyme scheme to the students. Give them a brief introduction to the rhyme scheme followed in English and Italian sonnets.
- Students can also compose their sonnet in non-traditional form.



Read it Yourself

Read the story 'A Song for Friendship' written by Ira Saxena.

▶ A Song For Friendship

'Ouch! Who is it?' cried Tara as she bumped into somebody. Quickly she regained her balance and gazed into the dark. A pair of big eyes stared back.

'Who are you?' she said again.

'Vasanthi,' said a soft voice.

'Oh, I am sorry. I was looking for my tent,' explained Tara.



The electric power came back and in the fluorescent light she looked at Vasanthi, a slim girl dressed in a green, short silk skirt and a loose mustard blouse. She had a glowing brown complexion, fine features and attractive dark eyes. Vasanthi looked at Tara and smiled. Tara smiled back.

'Er... I was only looking for my tent,' Tara repeated. Obviously Vasanthi did not understand what Tara was saying. Quickly she uttered, '*Yen per Vasanthi*' (My name is Vasanthi).

Tara nodded with a weak smile. She understood only the word 'Vasanthi'. Both giggled as they took different paths to join their groups. They had come to participate in the Inter-State School Cultural Festival.

Tara was from Bulandshahr, a district city of UP, which she was representing in the light music competition. At the district level as well as the state level she had won hands down. For her age, Tara sang with utmost ease. Singing came to her as naturally as walking to a child. Going all the way to Madras (Chennai) city to participate in the grand event had been an exciting experience. The only thing she missed was a companion of her age. The next day all the participants got together

for the preliminary music session in the auditorium. Once again Tara encountered Vasanthi, who stood with her group, near the stage. They exchanged smiles.

Vasanthi pointed to herself and grinned.

‘*Yen per Vasanthi,*’ she said.

‘Me, Tara.’

‘*Nee Delhi-wallah* (are you from Delhi)?’ she asked.

‘No. From Bulandshahr. Where do you come from?’ asked Tara.

Vasanthi looked confused and blurted out ‘Warayoor’. It was the name of her home town.

Tara tried to repeat it, but her tongue refused to twist accordingly. Vasanthi laughed aloud exposing an even row of teeth. Tara asked again, ‘Do you speak Hindi?’

‘*Ille,*’ Vasanthi shook both her thumbs and her head.

‘English?’ asked Tara although she herself was not very fluent with the language.

‘*Ille,*’ Vasanthi repeated the gestures.

Each participant sang a folk song from her or his state. When Tara burst out with a full-throated ‘*kajri*’ of eastern UP, the hall resounded with applause. A little while later Vasanthi’s ‘*kummi pattu*’—a folk song from Tamil Nadu **enraptured** the audience. She sang effortlessly at a high pitch and filled the hall with her singing. Everyone applauded vigorously.

Meera, another participant from UP and a classical music expert, whispered, ‘Tara, watch out, you have stiff competition.’

enraptured: filled with delight or joy



‘Yes, Meera-*di*,’ admitted Tara, ‘she sings very well, but I will practise hard. We must win.’

‘I am quite sure you will,’ Meera patted her shoulders reassuringly.

Vasanthi, for her part, had realised that her chief rival was Tara with whom she had sincerely wanted to be friends only a short while ago. Outside the auditorium Tara stood with her group. Vasanthi came away but the minute their eyes met, Tara turned her face and Vasanthi too moved away hurriedly. They were now potential rivals contesting for the same award.

All day long Tara practised for the final performance while Vasanthi spent longer hours on the *Veena* in the privacy of her tent. They met in the dining hall at meal time, but avoided each other the rest of the time.

The day before the grand finale, all the participants went on an excursion to Mahabalipuram. The silver sands, the glittering blue water of the sea and the cool breeze were almost bewitching and Tara quite forgot about the next day’s contest. She walked towards the far edge of the temple **precincts** where gentle waves lapped the walls. She left Meera-*di*, *Bahenji*—her teacher, and others behind. She turned and looked up at the glorious structure of the temple against the blue sky. Slowly she walked backward staring up at the **pinnacle**. All of a sudden she heard a scream. Tara shrieked and stumbled. She fell into someone’s strong grip. The roaring waves sent a light spray on her face. She was very close to the edge.

‘Oh God! I would have fallen if...’ she realised as she looked up.

It was Vasanthi, and she was still holding her. Tara regained her **composure**. She smiled weakly. ‘Thank you,’ she muttered softly.



precincts: small area surrounding a building

pinnacle: small pointed tower on top of the temple

composure: calmness and control

‘Uh’? Vasanthi raised one eyebrow, then shook her head vigorously. ‘Thank you,’ she beamed. Tara **reciprocated** as both Meera-*di* and Bahenji came running.

‘Thank God, if Vasanthi wasn’t sitting here, you.....,’ Meera-*di* gasped but Bahenji interrupted her, ‘you should be careful, Tara,’ Bahenji patted Vasanthi’s head and said, ‘Thank you.’

Colour rose to Vasanthi’s cheeks and she ran away waving her hand. ‘Thank you,’ she turned and shouted from a distance and laughed aloud. Her laughter sounded like temple bells. It erased all feelings of rivalry in Tara’s heart. Once again Tara wanted to be friends with her. But how could she repay Vasanthi for saving her life?

Tara was quiet and aloof that day.

‘I will not sing for the contest tomorrow,’ she confided to Meera-*di*.

‘Don’t be silly,’ Meera-*di* sounded shocked.

‘If I don’t sing, Vasanthi will win. After all she saved my life,’ Tara pleaded.

‘Hmm!’ Meera-*di* peered at Tara’s face. ‘I understand. But remember a true artist will not like to accept charity even if it is the title of ‘Best Singer’,’ she explained.

Tara thought for a moment. ‘Yes, you are right,’ she agreed.

‘But... then what shall I do?’ Tara banged her fist against the window pane of the bus.

‘I will stammer, I will go out of tune, Meera-*di*,’ Tara said in desperation.

‘No. Everyone knows how well you sing,’ Meera-*di* argued.

‘Then...?’ wondered Tara. A minute later she yelled with excitement. Calming down, she whispered in Meera-*di*’s ear.

‘Think again. Don’t be rash. It means forsaking your prestige not only for yourself but for your school and your State too.’

Tara was determined. After all she would remain second only to her friend.

reciprocated: returned (the same feelings)

At long last the competition began. A glance at Meera-di's face and Tara knew she wanted her to be the first.

Tara sang a *bhajan* set in *Raag Kalyan*. When she stepped down amidst loud cheers, Meera-di hugged her. One by one all the participants gave their best performances. The atmosphere turned tense as the eager audience awaited the results.

Vasanthi and Tara had tied for the top position.

'The trophy is one and there are two equally good

contenders. I request them now to sing a song each for a final decision. Tara from Uttar Pradesh,' one of the judges announced clapping all the while to welcome Tara on the stage.

'Good luck, Tara,' Meera-di clasped Tara's hand.

Tara climbed up the stage confidently and she was completely at ease as the audience gave her a hearty welcome. Once in front of the mike, Tara looked sideways at Vasanthi. Vasanthi smiled at her. She raised her folded palms and waved them high in the air to say 'good luck'.

Tara acknowledged the gesture with a nod. For a while she was silent, creating a suspense in the auditorium. Then in a soft whispering melody Tara burst into a Tamil song she had learnt in school...

'*Odi vilayad papa, nee oindirikkalagath papa...*'

(Child, you must be active, you should not be lazy.....)

She sang gradually building up the tempo into vigorous beats. The stunned audience broke into thunderous applause when Tara finished.



contenders: competitors

On her way down Tara crossed Vasanthi. Vasanthi's large dark eyes smiled at Tara with great affection.

Meera-*di* rushed towards Tara. Disappointment was **writ** large on her face. Her set smile soon froze into a frown. 'Why a Tamil song? You know you can sing better in your mother tongue,' she whispered angrily.

'I know that very well,' replied Tara with a 'you-know-why' look in her eyes. Quickly she took her place in the audience. Vasanthi was ready at the mike. With a slight gesture of her hand she requested the musicians to start playing. Vasanthi sang loud and clear in her high-pitched voice a Hindi song she had learnt at school...

'Hum honge kamyab, hum honge kamyab ek din...' (We will be successful, one day...)

Once again the audience was dumb-struck, specially Tara. She began to hum softly along with Vasanthi. The audience

broke into loud cheers. A long burst of clapping followed. The compere ran to the judges. They seemed to have come to a decision. Finally, one of them walked up to the stage and announced, 'Tara and Vasanthi.' Both went up slowly and held them up together. 'Both sang beautifully and both—Tara and Vasanthi, are the winners.'

Tara and Vasanthi smiled at each other holding their hands as a deafening applause resounded.

In the doorway stood the compere with a trophy in his hand identical to the one on the table.



writ: clear and obvious



Tape Script



Nurturing Friendship

It is truly said that prosperity makes friends and adversity tries them. A true friend will be there for you in your difficult times. Cultivating friendships is an art. A lot of effort goes into nurturing friendships. Here are some tips for cultivating and maintaining friendships.

- A good listener is more likely to have friends. Listen attentively and respect your friends' views even if you differ in your opinion.
- Make an effort to keep in touch even if you are busy. Make phone calls, send e-mails, greetings, etc.
- Make time to meet your friends at least once a month.
- Be there for your friends in their adversities as well as in their celebrations.
- Never forget to greet your friends on their birthday or anniversary, even if they are not hosting a party on the occasion.
- Do not gossip about your friends behind their back.
- Love and caring lose their meaning if there is no respect in a relationship. As Cicero has said, 'He removes the greatest ornament of friendship, who removes from it respect.'
- Keep jealousy and competition away from your friends. Jealousy kills the best of relationships.

—Dr. Jyoti Sharma

