



## 4. Hard to Believe

*Share some amazing facts with your classmates.*

One morning when Mummy was opening a new packet of detergent powder to wash Monty's dirty uniform, a small booklet peeped out of it. Mummy handed it to Monty. Monty was very happy to see it. There was a puzzle which she had to solve. The company promised a mystery gift for children who would win the contest.

By evening, Monty had searched the answers for all the questions and the puzzle was worked out quite fast. Monty asked her Daddy to send it to the company's address.... And it was sent.

Fifteen days later, Monty recieved her mystery gift—a beautiful little book. It was full of interesting facts and pictures. Monty was excited.

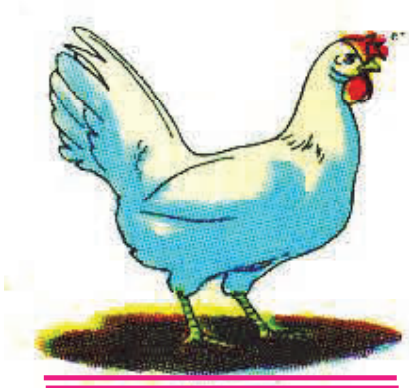
That weekend Monty's headmistress announced a competition on 'Amazing Facts'. Each class had to make a presentation. The best three selections were then put on the school display board. Monty's selection was also there!

### CONTESTANT - 1

#### WINGED VICTORIES !

A stolen parrot was brought to the court as a witness in New Delhi.

It could identify its real owner by repeating the names of her owner's children !



In 1936, a hen was trapped in a crate when a violent storm destroyed the town of Gainesville, Georgia. Forty seven days later, it was rescued and it had survived by eating its own eggs.

## **CONTESTANT - 2**

### **MIRACLE MEN!**

Francesco Lentini of Sicily, Italy, was a master musician. He lived in the 1930s. He was a famous soccer player. He had three legs and that was a great advantage for him as a player.



Liew Thow Lin of Gunung, Rapat, Malaysia, can lift more than 60 pounds of weight attached to a metal plate against his chest or stomach. Lin is 71 years old and is called the Magnet Man. Nuts, bolts and tools can be seen dangling from his bare chest. In 2001, he pulled a car hooked to a chain attached to a plate stuck to his chest. All the three sons of Lin and his two grand children also have the magnetic ability.

## **CONTESTANT - 3**

### **'THE MUDDY SCENE !'**

Scottsdale, Arizona, organizes the Mighty Mud Mania festival every year. People sling mud on each other. In the month of July, kids of all ages slip and slide over mud-filled tunnels. More than 240,000 pounds of mud is prepared for this event.





Elephants in Myanmar are very clever. They stuff the bells hanging around their necks with mud. They do this so that bells won't ring. They can then quickly steal bananas from farms at night.

Now,  
Judge for yourself.  
The best of these three is .....!!

*- Compiled by the writers' group*

### ***Word Meanings***

detergent	liquid or powder that contains soap for washing
to hand	to give something to a person concerned or in authority
contest	a competition
display board	a flannel board made for drawing and other presentations
slide	to move smoothly over a surface
ramps	a slope that has been built to connect two places that are at different levels
soccer	football
sling	to throw something at someone from a distance
stuff (v)	to fill something tightly with soft material
witness	one or many people in the court of law who tell what they saw or what they know about a crime or event
crate	a box made of wood or plastic that is used for carrying fruits, bottles, etc.
survive	stay alive
dangle	to hang loosely or make something hang

## Reading Comprehension

1. Put a tick ( ✓ ) mark to choose the correct word or phrase to get a true statement.

- (i) Mummy handed a booklet / a puzzle / a packet of detergent / to Monty.
- (ii) Monty's gift was a book of interesting facts / painted pictures / poems.
- (iii) One / two / three / presentations were on the school display-board.
- (iv) The Mud-Mania festival is organized in the month of January / June / July.
- (v) Elephants stuff their bells / trunks / necks with mud.
- (vi) The hen lived by eating grains / eggs / chicks.

2. Complete the information asked for in the table about the selections on the display board. Notice that each selection talks about two facts. One of them is done for you :

	Who	What (festival / event)	Where (place)
1.	(a) (b)		
2.	(a) (b)		Gunung, Malaysia
3.	(a) people (b) elephants	Mighty Mud Mania Stealing bananas	Scottsdale, Arizona

3. Look at the title of the selections on Monty's school display-board. Now answer the following questions.

(i) Title : THE MUDDY SCENE

- (a) Do you like it ? -----
- (b) What is common in the festival  
and elephant under the title ? -----

(ii) Title : THE WINGED VICTORIES

- (a) What does the word 'winged'  
stand for ? -----
- (b) What were the victories? : (i) -----  
(ii) -----

(iii) Title : MIRACLE MEN

(a) Who are the miracle men ? -----

-----

(b) What is miraculous in them ? -----

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**4. Mention the paragraph numbers which contain the following facts / ideas.**

1. People of all ages slip and slide over mud in the month of July.

2. A large quantity of mud is required for the Mud-Mania festival.

3. Stuffed bells help elephants in stealing bananas.

4. No other bird could have known the names of a client's children.

5. If the hen had not eaten its eggs, it would have died.

6. The magnetic ability of Lin was passed on to the next generations.

7. Lentini played football.

8. Monty won a book of amazing facts as the mystery gift.

**Vocabulary**

**1. Given below are sentences that describe some actions. Choose the words from the box that match the descriptions and write them in the space provided.**

slinged, stuffed, rescued, steal, dangled, stick

1. He always threw the keys to me from a distance.

2. I used rough cotton and pieces of cloth to fill in the rabbit that mother stitched for me.

3. No one had seen Bittu taking out sweets from the kitchen.

4. The fire men saved two children from the top storey of the building on fire.

5. It was easy to snatch at the chain of the watch that hanged out from grandpa's pocket.

6. Do not paste advertisements on the walls of the school building.

**2. Match the two columns to make compound words.**

Column I

mud  
forty  
magnetic  
three  
display  
head  
railway  
cassette  
quiz  
detergent

Column II

field  
filled  
board  
seven  
mistress  
legged  
powder  
station  
player  
contest



**3. Give one word related to the following family of words that occur in the text. The first one is done for you.**

(a) screw-drivers, hammer, saw

T O O L S

(b) witness, judge, client

C   R

(c) take away quietly without permission

S    L

(d) competition, prize, win

N   S

(e) name, house number, village

A  D    S

(f) soiled, dirty, rain

M    Y

**4. Francesco Lentini lived in the 1930s (Nineteen thirties). The period between 1930-1939 is called the 1930s. Now, complete the following information.**

(i) 1960-1969 — .....

(ii) ..... — 1990s

(iii) 1950—..... — 1950s

(iv) 1890-1899 — .....

(v) 1840—..... — .....

