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A Tale of Two Birds

LET'S BEGIN

- *A mother bird and her two young ones lived in a forest.*
- *The mother was killed in a storm and the young birds were separated from each other.*
- *Each found a different home.*

There once lived a bird and her two new-born babies in a forest. They had a nest in a tall, shady tree and there the mother bird took care of her little ones day and night.

One day, there was a big storm. There was thunder, lightning and rain, and the wind blew down many trees. The tall tree in which the birds lived also came down. A big, heavy branch hit the nest and killed the bird. Fortunately for the baby birds, the strong wind blew them away to the other side of the forest. One of them came down near a cave where a gang of robbers lived. The other landed outside a rishi's ashram a little distance away.





Days passed and the baby birds became big birds. One day, the king of the country came to the forest to hunt. He saw a deer and rode after it. It ran deep into the forest followed by the king. Soon the king lost his way and didn't know where he was.

He rode on for a long time till he came to the other side of the forest. Very tired by then, he got off his horse and sat down under a tree that stood near a cave. Suddenly he heard a voice crying out, "Quick! Hurry up! There's someone under the tree. Come and take his jewels and his horse. Hurry, or else he'll slip away." The king was amazed. He looked up and saw a big, brown bird in the tree under which he was sitting. He also heard faint noises emanating out from the cave. He quickly got on to his horse and rode away as fast as he could.

- *The king was amazed to hear a similar voice again.*
- *He came to know the birds' true story.*
- *He met the rishi who explained the behaviour of each bird.*

Soon, he came to a clearing which looked like an ashram. It was the *rishi's* ashram. The king tied his horse to a tree and sat down in its shade. Suddenly he heard a gentle voice announce, "Welcome to the ashram, Sir. Please go inside and rest. The *rishi* will be back soon. There's some cold water in the pot. Please make yourself comfortable." The king looked up and saw a big, brown bird in the tree. He was amazed. 'This one looks like the other bird outside the cave,' he said to himself aloud.



"You are right, Sir," answered the bird. "He is my brother but he has made friends with robbers. He now talks as they do. He doesn't talk to me any more." Just then the *rishi* entered the ashram.



“Welcome, Sir,” he said to the king. “Please come inside and make yourself at home. You look tired. Rest for a while. Then you can share my food.”

The king told the *rishi* the story of the two birds and how each had behaved so differently though they looked so alike. “The forest is full of surprises,” he said.

The holy man smiled and said, “After all, one is known by the company one keeps. That bird has always heard the talk of robbers. He imitates them and talks about robbing people. This one has repeated what he has always heard. He welcomes people to the ashram. Now, come inside and rest. I’ll tell you more about this place and these birds.”

(Anonymous)

Glossary

cave:	a dark hollow in a cliff, hill or underground
gang:	groups of criminals who work together
rishi:	a hermit; saint
ashram:	a place of religious retreat for Hindus
amaze:	surprise, wonder

THINKING ABOUT THE TEXT

1. How did the two baby birds get separated?
2. Where did each of them find a home?
3. What did the first bird say to the stranger?
4. What did the second bird say to him?
5. How did the rishi explain the different ways in which the birds behaved?
6. Which one of the following statements sums up the story best?
 - (i) A bird in hand is worth two in the bush.



(ii) One is known by the company one keeps.

(iii) A friend in need is a friend indeed.

LANGUAGE WORK

Fill in the blanks with appropriate words:

landed amazed hit flew surprises

1. The strong wind _____ the birds away deep into the forest.
2. One of the birds _____ outside a rishi's ashram.
3. The king seemed _____ to hear a similar voice again.
4. The heavy branch _____ the nest and killed the bird.
5. Life is full of _____.

Write down the meaning of the following phrases:

1. blew away
2. rode after
3. rode away
4. got off
5. look up
6. make friends

Writing

1. Sum up the moral of the story in your own words.
2. Write 100 to 200 words on 'A man is known by the company he keeps'.

GRAMMAR WORK

Direct and Indirect Speech

When the exact words used by a speaker are reproduced within quotes or quote/unquote, it is called Direct Speech: (Please avoid saying 'Inverted commas begin and inverted commas close').



e.g.: The teacher said to me, “You are a good boy.” (Direct Speech)

Reporting Verb(RV) Reported Speech(RS)

The exact words of the speaker which are put within quotes is called Reported Speech.

Who says and to whom

The verb that introduces the Reported Speech is called Reporting Verb.

Basic Rules:

Rule 1: If the Reporting Verb is in the present or future tense, the tense of the Reported Speech remains unchanged though pronouns change.

Direct : The Principal says, “The English teacher will teach narration on Monday.”

Indirect : The Principal says that English teacher will teach narration on Monday.

Direct : Ravi will say, “I like films.”

Indirect : Ravi will say that he likes films.

Direct : Sauna says, “Her father is at the office.”

Indirect : Sauna says that her father is at the office.

Rule 2: : If the reporting verb is in the past tense, the tenses in the Reported Speech are changed into corresponding Past Tenses.

a) Simple present is changed into simple past:

Direct : Anu said, “She studies late in the night.”

Indirect : Anu said that she studied late in the night.

Direct : Andleep said. “Sukini works very hard.”

Indirect : Andleep said that Sukini worked very hard.



However, if the Reported Speech conveys some universal truth or a habitual fact, the simple present tense in the reported speech remains unchanged.

- Direct : The teacher said, "The sun rises in the east."
Indirect : The teacher said that the sun rises in the east.
Direct : Rahim said, "I get up early in the morning."
Indirect : Rahim said that he gets up early in the morning.

Change the narration of the following:

1. The teacher says, "Rahul will pass."
2. The servant will say, "Dinner is not ready."
3. Mona says, "Sana will do her work on Tuesday."
4. Saba said, "I will join the college."
5. Rama says, "I will study at the University."
6. Bashir said, "I will take up science subjects."
7. Kiran says, "I will take up arts subjects."
8. Raja will say, "I cannot study mathematics."
9. Suhana will say, "My favourite actor is Shahrukh Khan."
10. Ragini will say, "I want to become a painter."