

Lesson 8

I Love My Country



You have probably heard or read about people who took part in the freedom movement of India. Look at the pictures of the people below and say what is common among them. Arrange the letters to find out the answer.

They are all

o	r	f	e	d	e	m
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

f	g	i	e	h	t	r	s
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Can you name them? If you can, write their names under the pictures. Your teacher will help you with the answers.



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Now read about an Assamese freedom fighter Bhogeswari Phukanani.

Ananta : Do you know who Bhogeswari Phukanani was?

Priya : I have heard her name, but there's very little I know about her.

Ananta : Let's read about her then.

Bhogeswari Phukanani was a freedom fighter who was born in a noble Ahom family of Nagaon. Her parents were Atmaram Buragohain and Nileswari. She married Bhogeswar Phukan, and they had six sons and two daughters.



Bhogeswari Phukanani was living a peaceful family life till she reached her late 50s. During this time, the freedom movement led by Mahatma Gandhi was at its peak. The Quit India Movement started in 1942 and thousands of people came out to the streets. Bhogeswari Phukanani too could not stay away; she joined the movement with her children and grandchildren.

Bhogeswari Phukanani was the leader of the women's wing of the movement in Barhampur near Nagaon. She was so inspiring that more and more people joined the movement eagerly. On September 16, 1942 the British government imposed a ban on the Volunteers' Training Camp at Barhampur and arrested the volunteers. In protest against this action, a public rally was organized at Barhampur on September 18, 1942. Hundreds of people gathered there. Pratap Chandra Sharma presided over the meeting. Soon, a troop of soldiers arrived to disperse the gathering and Pratap Chandra Sharma was arrested.

But the freedom fighters could not be stopped. A large crowd of around two hundred and fifty people led by Bhogeswari Phukanani and Ratnamala Phukan began to arrive at the meeting ground. They were stopped on the way by the British forces. One British officer tried to take away the flag from Ratnamala forcefully. Seeing this, Bhogeswari Phukanani could not remain calm, and she started beating the officer with the pole of her flag till he fell unconscious. After a few minutes he recovered but he could not bear the insult. So, in anger, he took out his pistol and shot at Bhogeswari Phukanani from a close range.

Bhogeswari Phukanani fell on Ratnamala's lap and became unconscious. Two days later, on September 20, 1942, she breathed her last at her own house. She died a martyr's death, laying down her life for her country's freedom.

ACTIVITIES

1. Let's check our understanding:

(a) **Bhogeswari Phukanani was a**

- (i) freedom fighter
- (ii) martyr
- (iii) freedom fighter and martyr
- (iv) volunteer

(b) **Bhogeswari Phukanani lived a peaceful life till she reached her**

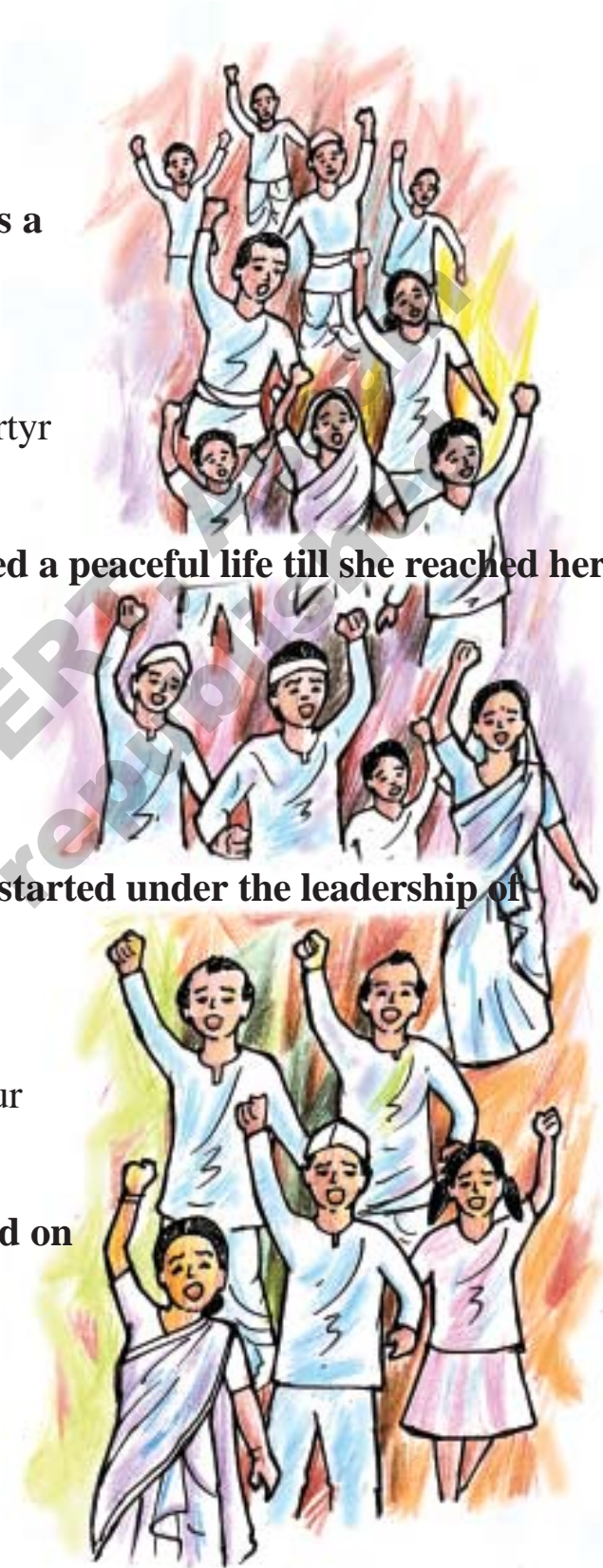
- (i) late 80s
- (ii) late 20s
- (iii) late 50s
- (iv) late 60s

(c) **The Quit India Movement started under the leadership of**

- (i) Bhogeswari Phukanani
- (ii) Mahatma Gandhi
- (iii) Volunteers of Barhampur
- (iv) Pratap Chandra Sharma

(d) **Bhogeswari Phukanani died on**

- (i) September 20,1943
- (ii) September 18,1942
- (iii) September 16,1942
- (iv) September 20,1942



2. Rearrange the following sentences about the lesson in the proper sequence taking the help of information from the lesson.

- Bhogeswari Phukanani inspired many people to join the protest rally at Barhampur.
- When he recovered, he shot her with his pistol from a close range and she died.
- She soon became the leader of the women's wing of the movement in Barhampur.
- When thousands joined the Quit India Movement in 1942, Bhogeswari Phukanani could not remain idle.
- Bhogeswari Phukanani started beating the officer with the pole of her flag.
- Bhogeswari Phukanani was leading a peaceful family life with six sons and two daughters.
- At the rally, a British officer tried to take away the flag from Ratnamala forcefully.

3. (a) Here are the meanings of some new words you read in the lesson:

martyr: one who dies or suffers greatly for a great cause

rally: a large public meeting

disperse: to move apart and go away in different directions

(b) Fill in the blanks to check your understanding:

- (i) A _____ was organised in protest against British rule.
- (ii) The police _____ the crowd.
- (iii) Bhogeswari Phukanani was a freedom fighter and she died a _____ death.

4. Now look at the dictionary to find out the meanings of the following words. Write them in the space given:

ban: _____

calm: _____

lap: _____

unconscious: _____

5. Look at the pictures. They are all freedom fighters. Can you match their names with the pictures? Now say a few sentences about a freedom fighter that you know:



Kushal Konwar

Bhagat Singh



Mohandas
Karamchand Gandhi



Sarojini Naidu

Kanaklata Barua



6. Listen to your teacher read and tell you more about our freedom fighters. As you listen, fill in the blanks in the sentences:

Complete the following sentences by noting the correct words as you listen:

- (a) Kanaklata Barua was an Indian freedom fighter from_____.
- (b) The Quit India Movement started in 19_____.
- (c) Kushal Konwar was a _____ fighter.
- (d) Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi is better known as _____.
- (e) Bhagat Singh is often referred to as _____ Bhagat Singh.
- (f) Sarojini Naidu was a nationalist and _____.

7. Let's read to know some interesting events of Gandhiji's life.

- Gandhiji went to South Africa to practise law. But soon he found his practice disgusting. He then decided to work for the common people. He led a very simple life. He used to wash his own clothes and do other household chores with his wife, Kasturba. They washed dishes and even cleaned their own toilets themselves. Many Indian and European guests used to come to their house. The new guests did not know about their system and so sometimes Kasturba had to clean toilets for their guests. One day she said, "Why should I clean the toilets of others? I hate doing it." "Are you sure you won't do it? I'll do it then," said Gandhi. Tears rolled down from Kasturba's eyes. She realized her fault.
- Gandhiji always wanted to do something good. Once a leper came to his door. He offered him shelter, dressed his wounds, and began to look after him. Later on, he sent him to a hospital. Gandhiji used to work a few hours in a hospital daily. It brought him to a close touch with the suffering Indians. Most of them were labourers. This experience inspired Gandhiji to work for the common people in India.

Work in groups and try to collect information of other freedom fighters. Share the interesting events or incidents with other groups.

8. (a) Some of the words in the passage are missing . Read the passage carefully and complete it with suitable words from the box:

freedom brave love won pride work rule sacrificed

Once India was under the _____ of the British. Many _____ men and women fought for its _____. Some of them even _____ their lives. They did this out of their _____ for the country. The freedom of our country was _____ after a lot of hard _____ and sacrifice. We should take _____ in their sacrifice. Freedom is precious.

- (b) Now, think and write how you can show your love for your country:

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9. Collect or draw pictures of a few freedom fighters of Assam and paste them in the given space. Write at least three sentences about one of them.

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10. Let's practise some grammar.

Work in groups. Read the lesson quickly once more and find words that describe Bhogeswari Phukanani, such as 'freedom fighter' and 'noble'. Then put all the words in the columns below. One has been done for you.

Nouns	Adjectives	Verbs
freedom fighter	noble	fought

11. What do you learn from Activity 10? Word classes like nouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs are words that carry the meaning of a sentence. Word classes like prepositions, articles or conjunctions support the words that carry meaning. Now let us look at a few more adjectives. Let us look at the uses of few and little in these sentences:

- (a) We use **few** before a countable noun to mean there is hardly any number of something and **little** to mean there is hardly any amount of something.
 - (i) There are **few** girls in the class.
 - (ii) I have **little** time to spare as I am very busy.
- (b) We use **a few** to mean a small number of something and **a little** to mean a small amount of something.
 - (i) There are **a few** books on the table.
 - (ii) There is **a little** milk in the cup, you can take it.
- (c) We use **the few** to refer to whatever number of something is there and **the little** to refer to whatever amount of something is there.
 - (i) I rely on **the few** friends I have.
 - (ii) **The little** water in the bucket is muddy.

Fill in the blanks with few, a few, the few, little, a little or the little:

- (i) There is _____ milk in the pot; it should be enough for your cup of tea.
- (ii) I have _____ time for a cup of tea; I have to rush back to office.
- (iii) I bought _____ books from the book fair. I wanted to buy more, but I did not have enough money.
- (iv) The train stopped for _____ minutes, so I managed to go out and buy a bottle of water.
- (v) There were _____ boys in the room; it was mostly filled with girls.

12. Read the following paragraph.

When Bhogeswari Phukanani led the crowd of freedom fighters at the public rally, the people were carrying flags in their hands. The organizers had asked everyone to bring flags. Many volunteers brought some extra flags to the rally.

Talk to your friend and find out the colours of our National Flag. Do you know what the different colours of the national tricolour stand for?

The top band is saffron in colour and stands for strength and courage.

The white middle band with the Dharma Chakra indicates peace and truth.

The last band is green in colour. It stands for fertility, growth and auspiciousness of the land.

Ask your elders and learn more about our National Flag.

13. Fun Time

- Use chart paper, colour pencils, glue and sticks and make your national flag.
- Take out a class rally in your playground with one of you playing the role of Bhogeswari Phukanani. The rest can be the other freedom fighters who joined the rally.

14. Recite:

My Land

*rare: something
not seen very often*

She is a rich and rare land:
Oh! she's a fresh and fair land;
She is a dear and rare land—
This native land of mine.
No men than hers are braver,
Her women's hearts ne'er waver;
I'd freely die to save her
And think my lot divine.

— Thomas Osborne Davis

*waver:
become
weak or
unsteady*

*divine: wonderful/
connected with good*

lot: a person's luck

*native: connected with a place
where you were born and lived for
the first few years of your life*

For the Teacher

In this lesson, learners will learn to read, discuss and write about an important historical moment in our freedom struggle. They will be able to learn words, sentences and ideas to describe historical events in their own lives. The lesson will also generate a discussion on love for one's country.

- The pre-reading activity will help the learners revise their knowledge of important freedom fighters. They can also revise spelling and vocabulary through this activity.
- Comprehension and vocabulary enrichment activities in 1, 2, 3 and 4 can be discussed orally before learners do the writing exercises. This will also prepare them for the speaking activity in Activity 5. Activity 6 is a listening activity- the teacher should read aloud the passage given at the end of the book to give learners practice in listening to English spoken at a normal conversational speed.
- Activities 7, 8 and 9 are meant to help learners listen, speak and write about freedom fighters in their own words using the newly learnt vocabulary. Activity 10 and Activity 11 practise an important grammar point, and since they are connected to the theme of the lesson, learners will be able to learn their use in a familiar context.
- Activities 12 and 13 are fun activities and these will create interest and give learners an opportunity to work together. The poem 'My Land' is meant to add to the theme and familiarize learners with another way of expressing feelings for one's country.

Learning Outcomes:

The learner:

- participates in activities in English like role play group discussion, debate, etc.
- recites and shares poems, songs, jokes, riddles, tongue twisters, etc.
- responds to announcements and instructions made in class, school assembly, railway station and in other public places
- reads a variety of texts in English/Braille and identifies main ideas, characters, sequence of ideas and events and relates with his/her personal experiences
- uses synonyms, antonyms, appropriately deduces word meanings from clues in context while reading a variety of texts
- writes word/phrases/simple sentences and short paragraphs as dictated by the teacher
- uses meaningful sentences to describe/narrate factual/imaginary situations in speech and writing
- refers to dictionary to check meaning and spelling and to suggested websites for information
- writes grammatically correct sentences for a variety of situations, using noun, pronoun, verb, adverb, determiners, etc.
- visits a language laboratory

Passages for Listening

Lesson 8, Activity 6

Kanaklata Barua was an Indian freedom fighter from Assam. She was shot dead while leading a procession bearing the National flag during the Quit India Movement of 1942.

Kushal Konwar was a freedom fighter. He happened to be the only martyr in India who was put to death during the last phase of the Quit India Movement 1942-43.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi better known as Mahatma Gandhi, was the leader of the nationalist movement in India leading to its freedom from British rule. The Quit India Movement was launched at the Bombay session under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. It was an important landmark in India's struggle for freedom.

Bhagat Singh was an Indian nationalist. He is considered to be one of the most important revolutionaries of the Indian independence movement. He is often referred to as Shaheed Bhagat Singh.

Sarojini Naidu was an Indian nationalist and poet. She was a follower of Mahatma Gandhi and fought for the attainment of *Swaraj*. Her collection of poems earned her literary fame.



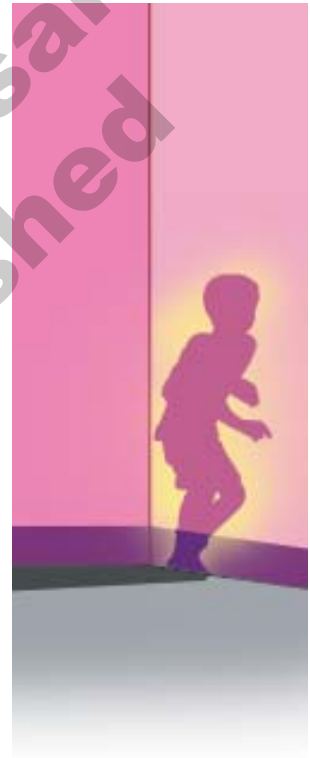
READ FOR PLEASURE

This section in the textbook titled **Read for Pleasure** aims at providing students with stories, poems, biographies, etc. which they will read for information and pleasure. It is hoped that such efforts towards reading for pleasure will encourage students to read similar passages on their own which will contribute towards development of their reading skills.

My Shadow

I have a little shadow
that goes in and out with me,
And what can be the use of him
is more than I can see.
He is very, very like me
from the heels up to the head,
And I see him jump before me
when I jump into my bed.
The funniest thing about him
is the way he likes to grow –
Not at all like proper children,
which is always very slow;
For he sometimes shoots up taller
like an India-rubber ball,
And he sometimes gets so little
that there's none of him at all.

– R.L. Stevenson



2. Forgiveness

Have you heard of Leo Tolstoy? He was a great Russian writer. Here is a story by Tolstoy about a man named Martin, the old shoemaker, and how he spread God's message of Love.

An old woman was carrying a basket of apples and a sack of wood-shavings. The sack was too heavy for her, and as she walked, she shifted the sack from one shoulder to the other. Just then a boy walked up to her, grabbed an apple, and tried to run off with it. But the old woman was too quick for him. She caught him with both hands, pulled his hair and shook him hard. The boy screamed, and the woman screamed even louder. She cursed him and tried to take him to the police station. The boy said that he was innocent, but the old woman would not listen to him.

Martin the old shoemaker, who had watched the whole scene from his window, rushed up to them and tried to separate the two. "Let him go, please, Grandma," he said. "In God's name, forgive him." "Why should I?" the woman screamed. "He has stolen my apple! I have plucked each apple with so much care, and I have travelled a long way to deliver them."

"I haven't stolen any apple," protested the boy angrily. "I was only trying to count them." "Come on- boy," said Martin. "I saw you take that apple, so don't try to make up stories. Say sorry to Grandma, and she will forgive you." The boy started crying, "O do forgive me, Grandma. I'm very sorry. I won't do it again."

"That's the way! Here, take this apple," Martin picked up an apple and gave it to the boy. "I have taken your apple, Grandma, and I will pay you for it." She grumbled. "You have only spoiled him more now. What he deserves is a good beating!" Martin tried to calm her. "I am only following God's wish, Grandma. He has commanded us to forgive, otherwise he will not forgive us. We should forgive everyone-especially naughty little boys!"

Finally, the old woman agreed. "All right, all right. I forgive him. But children these days are really very spoilt." "Pardon me, Grandma," replied Martin, "but isn't it the duty of elders like us to teach them what is right?" "O do forgive me, Grandma," pleaded the boy once again, "I won't steal apples again."

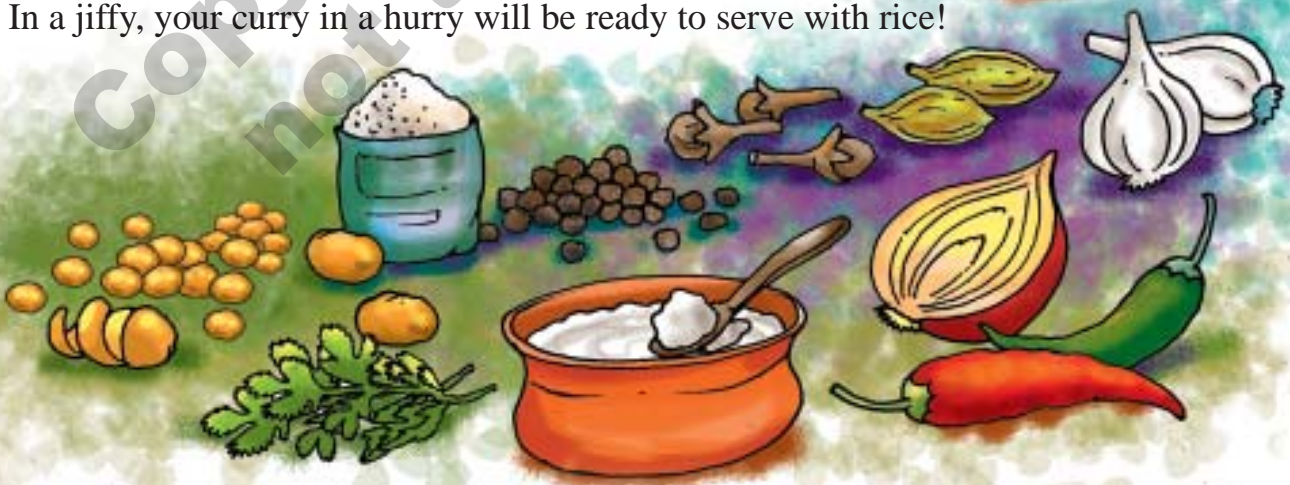
The old woman started to leave, and just as she was about to lift her sack, the boy ran forward and said, "Let me help you, Grandma. I'm going your way, and I will carry that for you." Tears came to the old woman's eyes. "Thank you, young man. Now my journey won't seem so long." The two walked away together, and the old woman even forgot to ask Martin for the money.



Curry in a Hurry!

If you want to serve plain rice with some curry,
But don't know what to do because you're in a hurry,
Don't waste time in worry –
Rush! Don't tarry.

Pick some green peas and red cherry tomatoes,
To tickle the palate with the colours of the mistletoe.
Use the baby potatoes in their brown jackets,
Take out the spices from their packets.
Now toss in the vegetables in heated oil,
Add the salt, pepper, curd, herbs and some spice,
Pour in warm water, simmer, let boil,
In a jiffy, your curry in a hurry will be ready to serve with rice!



Sleeping Beauty

Once upon a time in a far-off land there lived a king and a queen. For many years they had no children. Then, one day, the queen gave birth to a pretty little girl.

“She is so beautiful,” said the king. “We must celebrate her birth,” said the queen. They invited all the fairies to see the baby girl. Each one of them blessed her.

One said, “You will be beautiful.”

One said, “You will be kind.”

Another said, “You will be graceful.”

A fourth one said, “You will have a sweet voice.”

Thus they all blessed her.

But there was a wicked fairy too. She whispered, “You shall sleep for a hundred years.”

Years passed by. This baby became a beautiful young woman. On her sixteenth birthday, an old woman visited the palace. She taught the princess how to use a spindle. As the princess ran downstairs to show her mother the spindle, she fell down. The spindle pricked her finger. With a cry of pain she fell down. Then she fell asleep.

Everyone in the palace fell asleep too. The king, the queen, the cook, the dog, and even the trees and flowers fell into a deep sleep.

A hundred years passed by. One day, a handsome young prince came to that country. He heard about the king’s palace and the princess. As soon as he entered the palace, a strange thing happened. Everyone woke up. The king, the queen, and the beautiful princess woke up. The princess was very happy to see the handsome prince. Soon they got married and lived happily ever after.



Can Mice Eat Iron?

Once upon a time there lived a merchant in a town. Though he worked hard he wasn't able to earn much. So, he decided to move to another town and start a new business. But he had a big iron beam which he got from his father. It was too heavy to carry. So, he decided to leave it in the custody of his dear friend till he returned.

The merchant settled down in the new town and started his new business. He was successful in his business.

After a few years, the merchant came back to his old town. He went to his friend's house to bring back the iron beam. He asked his friend to return the beam. But his friend was greedy and he did not want to return the beam to him. He said, "Dear friend, I am sorry to say that the iron beam was eaten by mice though I kept it in a very safe place."

The merchant could understand the evil intention of his friend but he didn't show it. With a clever smile he said, "What a pity! Don't worry much about it as nothing is lost forever." Saying this, he left for home.

The merchant made a plan to teach his friend a lesson. On the following day, he came to his friend's place and said to him, "I am going for a bath in the river, I don't want to go alone. Would you mind sending your son with me?" The friend readily sent his son with the merchant.

After some time the merchant left the boy in his house and returned to his friend's house alone. He said to his friend, "I am very sorry. I could not save your son. He was carried away by a hawk when I was bathing in the river." Hearing this, the friend got very angry and said, "What a lie! Can a hawk carry away a boy of his age! I will go to the court to get justice."

Both of them went to the magistrate. The merchant's friend said, "Sir, can a hawk lift and carry away a fifteen year old boy?"

The magistrate could smell something fishy. He questioned the merchant and asked him to relate the story. Once again, the merchant very calmly retold the story about the iron beam. He said, "If mice can eat an iron beam, why can't a bird carry away a boy?"

The magistrate at once realized the evil intention of the merchant's friend. He ordered him to return the iron beam immediately to the merchant. He asked the merchant to bring back the boy and return him to his father.

The merchant's friend was ashamed of his behaviour and promised not to trick anyone in future.

Gulliver I



Once upon a time there lived a man named Lemuel Gulliver. One day, he set off on a voyage in a ship called the Antelope. A few days later his ship hit a rock and was wrecked. Gulliver managed to swim to the shore. But he was very tired and fell into a deep sleep.

At daybreak, Gulliver opened his eyes and was about to sit up, but he found himself tied to the ground. He could not move his arms or legs. He was very surprised. He was even more surprised when he saw about forty men standing on his chest. Each man was about six inches tall. When Gulliver tried to turn his head, the strings that bound his arms snapped.

The tiny people were very frightened. They shot hundreds of sharp arrows at him. Gulliver was hurt and lay still. They called him Man-mountain.

Gulliver II

The king of the little people ordered that food and wine be given to Gulliver. The little people who were known as Lilliputians set to work immediately. They brought baskets of bread, meat and wine. After his meal Gulliver fell fast asleep.

While Gulliver was fast asleep, these little people made a platform on wheels. They hoisted Gulliver on to the platform. Nine hundred men pulled the platform and brought Gulliver- the Man-mountain that the king had captured to show to the people of the city. Soon the people of Lilliput and Gulliver became good friends.

One day a fleet of fifty ships from the Blefuscu islands invaded Lilliput. The people of Blefuscu were also like the Lilliputians. Gulliver waded out to sea and dragged the whole fleet of ships to Lilliput. However, Gulliver knew that the people of Blefuscu were innocent. He visited Blefuscu and made friends with the people there. Meanwhile Gulliver saw a sailing ship heading for England. He boarded the ship and arrived in England. His friends were very happy to see him. He told them about his strange adventure in the land of Lilliput. He even showed them the tiny cows and sheep which he had brought to England. It was indeed a strange adventure,
(adapted)



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