

A Talkative Tortoise



- What do you see in these pictures?
- Have you heard the story about the cranes and a tortoise?

Let's read.

Long ago, there were two cranes named Sankat and Vikat and a tortoise named Kambugriva. They were good friends. They lived near a pond. Kambugriva was a chatterbox. One year, there was no rain, so the pond started to dry. The cranes and the tortoise were worried and discussed about it.

Cranes : We have to go away from here. There is a big lake nearby. Let's go there.



Tortoise : Are you leaving me alone here to die?

Cranes : What else can we do? The pond is drying now. If we stay here, we will die of starvation.

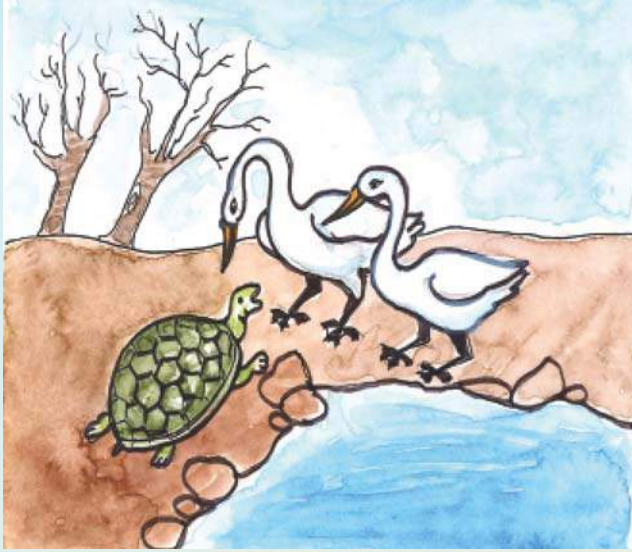
Tortoise : Please save me. Take me also with you.

Cranes : But how?

Tortoise : I have an idea. Bring a long stick. Both of you hold it at the either end of it with your beaks. I will hold the stick tightly in the middle with my mouth. And we will fly away to the lake.

Cranes : That's a great idea. But you are so talkative. Keep your mouth shut while flying, or you will fall down.

Tortoise : Oh, I shall not do such a foolish thing.



The cranes brought a long stick and held it with their beaks. The tortoise held it in the middle. They flew over the fields and a village. The villagers laughed watching such a strange scene and shouted.

Villagers: Look at that! That foolish tortoise will certainly fall down.



Tortoise : (opening its mouth) You are stupid people.
The tortoise fell down and died.

Glossary

- chatterbox : one who speaks too much; talkative; बातूनी
pond : a small area of fresh water; पोखर
starvation : suffering or death caused by lack of food; भुखमरी
strange : not common, unfamiliar; विचित्र

Activity – I

A. Choose the correct alternative.

1. The cranes and the tortoise were worried about....
a. big lake
b. stick
c. drying pond
d. village ()
2. Who spoke too much?
a. villagers
b. cranes
c. tortoise
d. all of them ()

B. Say whether the following statements are True or False.

1. The tortoise helped the cranes. ()
2. The pond started to dry as there was no rain. ()
3. The tortoise held the stick at the one end. ()

4. People in the village were foolish. ()
5. The tortoise kept its mouth shut and reached the big lake. ()
6. We should think before saying something. ()

C. Answer the following questions.

1. Who helped the tortoise in taking him from the pond to the big lake?
2. 'I have no idea.' Who said this and what was the idea?
3. The pond started to dry.' Why?
4. What did the cranes advise the tortoise when they took him to the big lake?
5. Should we talk too much? If yes, why? If no, why not?

Activity – II

Match the words in column A with their meanings in column

B.

A

chatterbox
starvation
idea
foolish
beak
earth
rain
stick

B

unwise/ having no wisdom
water drops falling from the clouds
land
thought
a long thin piece of wood
the state of without eating food
one who talks too much
a long mouth of birds

Activity – III

Look at the sentences given below from the text and understand their meanings.

1. We will die of starvation.
2. That foolish tortoise will certainly fall off.
3. I shall not do such a foolish thing.

In the above sentences will/shall has been used to say about the action which will happen in future time. We can talk about future time activity using will / shall.

Generally **shall** is used with 'I' or 'We' and **will** with other persons like 'you', 'he', 'she', 'it', 'they' and names. In modern English 'will' is used very largely.

Now fill in the blanks with the verb using will/shall.

1. I (study) in class VI next year.
2. India (be) super power in 2025.
3. Virat Kohli (lead) Indian Cricket Team after Mahendra Singh Dhoni.
4. Tanya (buy) a new pen tomorrow.
5. You (learn) about many inventions in near future.

Activity – IV

Let's play *Antyakshari*.

The class is divided into two groups.

A student from first group would speak out a word from the text. Then a student from the other group would speak a new word that starts with the last letter of the previous word. Now a student from the first group would speak the word beginning with the last letter of the word spoken by the student from the second group.

Group A

pond

English

I.....

Group B

die

hotel

.....

Activity V

Here is the format of an informal letter. Complete the letter telling your friend about your future plan. You may take help of the following words given in the box.

Prepare for the entrance exam, follow my teachers' advice, study sincerely, give extra time to studies....

Shiv Sadan
Nariya Mohalla
Shahabad
21 Nov., 2016

My dear Pooja/Dear Pooja,
I am quite well here and hope that you will also be fine there. You asked me about my future plan. After passing fifth class I want to take admission into *Navodaya Vidyalaya*.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Now write to me where you will go in winter vacation.
Convey my best regards to your parents.
Yours friendly/Yours lovingly/Your loving friend,
Sana

Imagine that you are Pooja. Write a letter to Sana in reply to the above letter. A box with format is provided to you.

