

What is your hobby?

There are many hobbies like reading, playing, cooking, collecting stamps, etc.

Here is a story of a boy who loves to be with computer and play video games.

Let's read the story.....

Abhay was mad about computers and video games. He would spend hours together in front of the screen. Even though his parents didn't like it, he really enjoyed every minute of it. He hardly left his seat, when his parents encouraged him to get involved with normal life, he would respond:



“This is my doorway to the world, there is much more than you realise.”

Among all his games there was one he especially liked. In that game he enjoyed collecting rats at many levels. He was a real expert at it. Still, he wished to go for higher levels. For this purpose he continued to play this game.



One day when he got home from school, everything had changed. As soon as he arrived, he ran to his room to switch on the computer. But this time he heard some strange sounds like breaking of glass. Suddenly, the window broke and from there came dozens, hundreds, then thousands of little rats.

They filled every square inch of his bedroom. Abhay was stunned. He couldn't believe what was happening. He re started the computers many times. He called his parents to see if he was not dreaming this. As it happened, he had to accept that on that day something very strange had taken place.

On entering his room, the parents were Shocked. They wanted to ask Abhay what was going on. Abhay couldn't explain. So they decided to make the rats his responsibility.

Abhay was upset. It was more than he expected. It was a dirty thing which he never wanted to do. As days passed by, he studied their diet, their habits and he



began to think up ways to feed them. He also tried to trick them out of his room, but it never worked. Gradually, he got used to live among rats, and actually began to enjoy it. He liked playing with them, showing them tricks and calling them by their names.

Now, Abhay used to talk about his rats with his friends, parents and even with his teachers. He now much preferred living with his rats, and spent his free time with them.

One day as he returned from school, he found the rats missing. His parent were worried that he would return to his video



games, and go back to be grumpy, but this didn't happen. Abhay didn't shed a tear

for the missing rats. Instead, he emptied his savings from his piggy bank and shot straight down to the pet shop. He returned with a pair of parakeets, and wanted to look after it.

And even today he is fond of keeping parakeets as his pets. Now he uses computer to find new things about animals, birds and nature. Now, if anyone asks him about his hobby, he says, **“They're definitely my doorway to the world, there's a lot more to them than you'd realise.”**

Glossary:

encourage :	to give somebody support
stunned :	surprised
dreaming :	a series of images, events and feelings that happen in your mind while you are asleep.
responsibility :	duty to deal with, take care of somebody
grumpy :	to complain about somebody or something
piggy bank :	a container with a narrow opening in the top for putting coins in, used by children to save money.
parakeet :	a small bird of the parrot family, usually with a long tail.

Activity I

1. Choose the correct alternative:—

- Abhay was fond of —
a. books b. animals c. computers d. magic
- Abhay emptied his piggy bank to buy—
a. rats b. video games c. parakeets d. a computer

2. State whether the following sentences are True or False:

- Abhay used to play computer for hours. ()
- Abhay's parents liked his playing video games. ()
- Abhay found a number of animals in his bedroom. ()
- Rats brought the change in Abhay's life. ()

3. Answer the following questions in 10-15 words each:

- i. What was Abhay's hobby in the beginning?
- ii. What answer did Abhay give when he was encouraged to get involved with normal life?
- iii. What was Abhay's favourite game on computer?
- iv. Why were Abhay's parents shocked?
- v. What duty was assigned to Abhay by his parents?
- vi. How was Abhay attracted towards nature?
- vii. Who do you think has planned to put rats in Abhay's room?
- viii. What pet would you prefer if you were in Abhay's place?

Activity II

1. Find one word for the group of words given below:

- I. Mother and father. _____
- ii. An electronic device on which Abhay played games. _____
- iii. A pot in which money is kept as savings. _____
- iv. A kind of a parrot. _____

2. Match the words given in column A with their meanings in column B

A	B
encourage	unusual
purpose	give confidence
responsibility	aim
strange	sense of duty

3. Fill in the blanks with correct words:

collect, diet, empty, expert

- i. Abhay was an _____ in playing video games.
- ii. The teacher asked Ramesh to _____ his books from his desk.
- iii. We can hear an echo of our voice in an _____ hall.
- iv. Proper _____ is the secret of good health.

Activity III

Study the underlined words in the following sentences:

- i. He wished to go for higher level.
- ii. It is the highest tower in the city.

The underlined word 'higher' is used to compare two things/persons, etc. The word 'highest' is used to make comparison between more than two things/persons. It is made by -er to 'high'. It is made by -est to 'high'.

1. Look at the following words and complete the table below:—

i. costly	costlier	costliest
ii. fair	fairer	fairest
iii.	higher	highest
iv. ugly
v. 1.....	largest

2. Fill in the blanks by choosing the suitable degree of the given adjectives in the box.

tall, good, big, long

- i. Farmers work hard every year and hope for _____ crops.
- ii. Aishwarya is _____ than Rani.
- iii. A football is _____ than a cricket ball.
- iv. The river Ganga is _____ than the river Yamuna.

Activity IV

Read the given story aloud before the class.

Smart Work versus Hard Work

Once two men had a heated argument with each other. Who could cut more firewood from morning till four in the afternoon? They decided to find out. The next morning the two men started their work. At first, they worked at the same speed. But in an hour one of them found that the other had stopped cutting. Realizing that this was his chance, the first man started cutting wood with double effort.

Ten minutes passed, and he heard the second man working again. Then the first man found that his opponent had stopped again. The first man started working, sensing the smell of victory. This lasted for all day long. Every hour one of them stopped for ten minutes and the other continued to work. When the time expired, the first man who worked without stopping was absolutely sure that he would win the prize. But he was surprised to know that he was mistaken.

'How did that happen?' he asked his partner.

'Every hour I found that you stopped working for ten minutes. How could you cut more firewood than me? It's impossible!'

'It's very simple, in fact,' answered the second man, 'Every hour I stopped the work for ten minutes and when you were cutting, I was sharpening my axe.'

After reading, answer these questions orally:

1. Who was smarter the first man or the second man?
2. Who won the prize and why?

Activity V

You have a pet dog named Sheru. Your friend Rahul/Reeta daily comes to play with Sheru in the evening. But the previous day Rahul/Reeta was not only shocked by Sheru's behaviour but also received quite a few scratches and small cuts either caused by the dog or resulting from his/her rolling on the ground. He/she therefore decided to go to the veterinary doctor the next day.

Now Rahul/Reeta is really frightened by Sheru's behaviour and thinks something might be seriously wrong with him. There is a canine club in his town, of which his/her father is a member. They provide good veterinary service.

Now find out with the vet's help how Sheru needs to be examined.

Write a paragraph with the help of the words given below.

[pet dog, its strange behaviour, rushes and barks at people, sometimes bites, neighbours afraid, decided to take to veterinary doctor, got examined, vaccinated (anti-rabies), got nails cut, brushing, deworming,]