

Activity 6

There are some habits which people can stop if they wish. Mention four such habits in the given space. Use the word 'can' while writing each sentence. One is done for you.

- (1) People **can stop smoking** if they make a firm decision to do so.
- (2)
- (3)
- (4)

Activity 7 (a)

Fill in the blanks with the words given below :

therefore, here, carefully, fluently, tomorrow

1. He crossed the road
2. My uncle will arrive
3. Wait for sometimes.
4. She speaks
5. He is unhappy.

Activity 7(b)

Some more words are given below. Fill in the blanks choosing appropriate words from these. Note that some extra words are given.

completely, happily, quite, closely, partly, rather, deeply

- (1) Her words are true.
- (2) The man is ruined.
- (3) The old man walks slowly.
- (4) He was moved by the incident.
- (5) The girl is lovable.

Activity 8

There are two blanks in each sentence. There are some words given in the list of words. Use the same word to fill both blanks of a sentence.

friendly, early, fast

- (a) Though he is an riser, he never starts for the station.
- (b) He likes cars, but he never drives..... .
- (c) Though he has a smile, he doesn't always behave in a manner.

Activity 9

Fill in the blanks with words from the given list of words:

loud, cheerful, joy, weary, lap

- (a) She made the announcement in a very..... manner
- (b) The champion team was overwhelmed with.....
- (c) A mother's is the best shelter in the world .
- (d) He spoke in a voice so that everyone could hear him .
- (e) The man looked at the end of the day .

Let's talk :

What is your favourite sport ? Discuss with your friends . Tell the class why you are so fond of this particular sport.

Let's do :

Activity 10

Write a short rhyme expressing your love for nature. Work in pairs.

Let's work together :

Stick pictures of various trees in your scrap book. Under each picture write the name of the tree.

Lesson : 11

The Axe

R.K. Narayan

Resipuram Krishnaswami Narayan (1906-2001) was one of the foremost Indian writers in English . He wrote many short stories and novels. Some of his well-known books are *The Man-Eater of Malgudi* , *The Guide* , *The Sweet Vendor* and *The English Teacher* . He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 1964. The present text is an edited version of his short story 'The Axe'.



Let's share :

- ❖ What do you see in the picture?
- ❖ Have you ever planted a tree?



UNIT I

Let's read :

Velan was perfectly **contented** and happy. He demanded nothing more of life.

As far as he could see, the people in the big house too seemed to be equally at peace with life. One saw no reason why these good things should not go on and on for ever. But Death **peeped** around the corner. One midnight he was awakened and told that the master was dead. "What is to happen to the garden and to me? The sons are no good," he thought at once.

And his fears proved to be not entirely **groundless**. The sons were no good, really. They stayed for a year more, quarrelled among themselves and went away to live in another house. A year later some other family came in as tenants. The moment they saw Velan they said, "Old gardener? Don't be up to any tricks. We know the sort you are. We will **sack** you if you don't behave yourself." Velan found life intolerable. These people had no regard for a garden.

Fortune, however, soon favoured him. The tenants left. The house was locked up for a few years. Occasionally one of the sons of the late owner came round and inspected the garden. Gradually even this ceased. They left the keys of the house with Velan. Occasionally a prospective **tenant** came down, had the house opened and went away after remarking that it was in ruins. A year later another tenant came, and then another, and then a third. No one remained for more than a few months. And then the house **acquired** the reputation of being **haunted**.

Even the owners dropped the practice of coming and seeing the house. Velan was very nearly the master of the house now. The keys were with him. He was also growing old.

When the mood seized him (about once a year) he opened the house and had the floor swept and **scrubbed**. But gradually he gave up this practice. He was too old to bother about these things.

Years and years passed without any change. It came to be known as the "Ghost House," and people avoided it. Velan found nothing to **grumble** about in this state of affairs. It suited him excellently.

Word Nest

contented : satisfied; **peeped** : looked through a narrow aperture; **groundless** : baseless; **sack**: to remove from the present position or office; **tenant** : a person who rents property from a landlord; **acquired** : gained; **haunted**: believed to be visited by ghosts; **scrubbed** : cleaned by hard rubbing; **grumble** : complain

Let's do :

Activity 1

Identify which of the following statements are True and which are False. Give a supporting statement for each of your answers:

- (1) Velan was very happy in the big house.
- (2) The other people of the big house were not so happy.
- (3) No tenant remained in the house for more than a few months.
- (4) People started avoiding the house.

Activity 2

Complete the following sentences with information from the text :

- (a) One midnight he was told
- (b) The sons of the late owner left the keys of the house.....
- (c) The house acquired
- (d) Even the owners dropped

Activity 3

Answer the following questions:

- (a) Who was Velan ?
- (b) Did the tenants have any regard for the garden ?
- (c) Did the owners of the house visit the house frequently ?
- (d) How did the house acquire the reputation of a 'Ghost House' ?

Let's talk :

Have you ever seen a beautiful garden ? Where have you seen it? Tell the class why you liked the garden so much.

Unit II

Let's continue :

But one day a car sounded its horn angrily at the gate . Velan **hobbled** up with the keys.

"Have you the keys? Open the gate," commanded someone in the car.

"There is a small side-gate," said Velan **meekly**.

"Open the big gate for the car!"

Velan had to **fetch** a spade and clear the vegetation which blocked the entrance. The gates opened on rusty hinges, **creaking** and groaning.

They went round the garden and said,"We have to clear every bit of this jungle. All this will have to go....." Some mighty person looked Velan up and down and said, "You are the gardener, I suppose? We have not much use for a garden now. All the trees, except half a dozen on the very boundary of the property, will have to go.

A week later one of the sons of his old master came and told Velan, "You will have to go back to your village, old fellow. The house is sold to a company. They are not going to have a garden. They are going to build small houses by the **score** without leaving space even for a blade of grass."



There was much **bustle** and activity, much coming and going , and Velan retired to his old hut. When he felt tired he lay down and slept; at other times he went round the garden and stood gazing at his plants. He was given a fortnight's notice .Every moment of it seemed to him precious. He would have stayed till the last second with his plants. The sound of an axe which stirred him out of his afternoon **nap**. It was just two days after he was given notice. The dull noise of a blade meeting a tough surface reached his ears. He got up and rushed out. He saw

four men **hacking** the **massive** trunk of the old margosa tree. He let out a scream: "Stop that!" He took his staff and rushed at those who were hacking. They easily avoided the blow he aimed. "What is the matter?" they asked.

Velan wept. "This is my child. I planted it. I saw it grow. I loved it. Don't cut it down.."

"But it is the company's orders. What can we do? We shall be dismissed if we don't obey, and someone else will do it."

Velan stood thinking for a while and said, "Will you at least do me this good turn? Give me a little time. I will bundle up my clothes and go away. After I am gone do what you like". They laid down their axes and waited.

Presently Velan came out of his hut with a bundle on his head. He looked at the tree-cutters and said, "You are very kind to an old man. You are very kind to wait." He looked at the margosa and wiped his eyes. "Brother, don't start cutting till I am really gone far, far away."

The tree-cutters **squatted** on the ground and watched the old man go. Nearly half an hour later his voice came from a distance, half-indistinctly: "Don't cut yet. I am still within hearing. Please wait till I am gone farther."



Word Nest

hobbled : walked lamely; **meekly**: quietly, without expressing one's own opinion; **fetch** : bring; **creaking** : harsh and grating sound; **Score** : twenty; **bustle**: busy movement; **nap** : short sleep; **hacking** : cutting roughly; **massive** : large and heavy; **squatted** : sat

Let's do :

Activity 4

Fill in the chart below with information from the text :

Cause	Effect
(i)	(i) Velan hobbled up with the keys.
(ii) Velan cleared the vegetation which blocked the entrance.	(ii)
(iii)	(iii) Velan was ordered to go back to his village.
(iv)	iv) The tree – cutters laid down their axes.

Activity 5

Complete the following sentences with information from the text :

1. Someone from the car ordered Velan to
2. One of the sons of the old masters told Velan that
3. Velan retired to
4. Velan rushed out and saw

Activity 6

Answer the following questions:

1. Who bought the house?
2. Did they need a garden?
3. What was the order of the company?
4. What was Velan's request to the tree-cutters ?

Let's learn :

Sujoy runs **faster** than Rana. (Comparative adverb)

Sujoy runs the **fastest** in class. (Superlative adverb)

Leena dances **more gracefully** than me. (Comparative adverb)

Leena dances the **most gracefully** among us. (Superlative adverb)

Thus we see that when we compare the actions of two people, we use comparative adverbs and when we compare the actions of more than two people, we use superlative adverbs.

Let's follow the chart to see how comparative form and superlative form of the adverbs are formed :

adverbs	one-syllable adverbs	more than one syllable adverbs
Comparative form	adverb + 'er' ending soon – sooner late-later	more + adverb beautifully-more beautifully slowly-more slowly
Superlative form	adverb + 'est' ending soon-soonest late-latest	most+adverb beautifully-most beautifully slowly-most slowly

- ❖ The comparative and superlative forms of the adverb **early** are **earlier** and **earliest**, respectively.

Some adverbs have irregular comparative and superlative forms.

Positive Adverbs	badly	less	much	well
Comparative Adverbs	worse	lesser	more	better
Superlative Adverbs	worst	least	most	best

Example: Runa sang **well** in the function.

Mehuli sang **better** than her in the function.

Sukanya sang the **best** among them.

Let's do :

Activity 7

Choose the correct alternative from the bracket and fill in the blanks:

- (a) Binota studied (harder / more harder) than me .
- (b) Rupa sang(most sweetly / more sweetly) than her sister.
- (c) Mita did (worse/ more badly) than Ruby in the music competition.
- (d) Among the gymnasts in the championship ,Mihir scored the (less / least).

Activity 8

Choose the correct adverb from the box and fill in the blanks. One is done for you.

more gracefully , radiantly ,least nervous, earliest, more composed

There was no one in the hall when Sumana arrived . She was the earliest there. Soon, other dancers came . Sumana looked the _____ among the competitors . Her steps were _____ than the other girls on the stage . Her face glowed _____ as she performed _____ than the other dancers on the stage .

Activity 9

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb:

- (a) The news (is / are) shocking.
- (b) The children (plays /play) cricket in the park.
- (c) Both Laboni and Soma.....(love/loves) outdoor games.
- (d) The hotel manager and his staff (make / makes) the guests feel comfortable.
- (e) Many women today (works / work) outside the home.

Activity 10

Fill in the blanks with the words given below :

retired ,blocked ,excellent ,orders, tenant

- (a) We have a new in our house.
- (b) The singer has an voice.
- (c) The road was due to an accident.
- (d) The job was done according to the of the manager.
- (e) My father from his job last year.

Activity 11

Write the appropriate Plural Nouns of the following. One is done for you:

- a. more than one woman : Women
- b. more than one man :
- c. more than one person :
- d. more than one goose :
- e. more than one mouse :
- f. more than one barrack :
- g. more than one deer :
- h. more than one syllabus :
- i. more than one focus :

Let's write :

Activity 12 (a)

Write a letter to your friend inviting him / her to the marriage ceremony of your uncle .

Activity 12 (b)

Imagine yourself to be the friend whom the letter was sent to. Now write a reply to the letter accepting the invitation.

Activity 13

Write a story with the help of the following points:

Frogs lived in a pond — boys hit stones and hurt the frogs — a frog asked, “Why are you throwing stones ?” — boys replied, “We are playing” — frogs said , “It is death to us” — boys felt sorry — stopped sport

Let’s work together :

Making a garden with paper and cardboard

Things needed : paper, cardboard, scissors, glue, watercolour/colour pencils.

- ❖ Take a sheet of chart paper and a large square of cardboard.
- ❖ Use your scissors to cut out shapes of trees, flowers, birds and butterflies from the cardboard.
- ❖ Colour them.
- ❖ Stick them with glue on the sheet of chart paper to form a pleasing composition.
- ❖ Use your watercolours/colour pencils to colour around the cut-out cardboard shapes so that the entire sheet looks bright and colourful.
- ❖ Your garden is now ready. Show it to the class.
- ❖ Write on a piece of paper how your garden is different from the other groups.

Lesson : 12

My Diary

Anne Frank

Let's start :

The following excerpts have been taken from the book titled *Anne Frank: the diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank. Anne Frank was born on June 12, 1929 in Frankfurt, Germany. In her diary, Anne Frank records her experiences during 1942 when she and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went hiding for the next two years in the "Secret Annexe" of an old office building. The extract deals with the experiences just before she and her family went into hiding.



Let's share :

- ❖ Where do you write down your experiences or the private thoughts that you have each day?
- ❖ Can you name some famous persons who wrote diaries?
- ❖ Have you ever heard of Anne Frank?

Let's read :

Unit I

Sunday, 14 June, 1942

On Friday, June 12th, I woke up at six o'clock and no wonder, it was my birthday. But of course I was not allowed to get up at that hour, so I had to control my **curiosity** until a quarter to seven. Then I could bear it no longer, and went to the dining room, where I received a warm welcome from Moortje (the cat).

Soon after seven I went to Mummy and Daddy and then to the sitting room to **undo** my presents. The first to greet me was you, possibly the nicest of all. Then on the table there were a bunch of roses, a plant and some **peonies**, and more arrived during the day.

I got masses of things from Mommy and Daddy, and was thoroughly spoiled by various friends. Among other things I was given **Camera Obscura**, a party game, lots of sweets, chocolates, a puzzle, a **brooch**, Tales and Legends of the Netherlands by Joseph Cohen, Daisy's Mountain Holiday (a terrific book), and some money. Now I can buy The Myths of Greece and Rome – grand!

Then Lies called for me and we went to school. During **recess** I treated everyone to sweet biscuits, and then we had to go back to our lessons.

Now I must stop. Bye-bye, we're going to be great **pals**!

Word Nest

curiosity: the wish to know or learn about something; **undo**: open; **peonies**: a garden plant with large red, pink or white flowers; **camera obscura**: a type of pinhole camera; **brooch**: a piece of jewellery for women which is fastened onto clothes with a pin; **recess**: a period of free time between classes at school; **pals**: friends

Let's do:

Activity 1

Choose the correct answer from the given alternatives:

(a) Anne Frank's birthday was on

- (i) 14th June
- (ii) 12th June
- (iii) 20th June

(b) Moortje is Anne's

- (i) pet dog
- (ii) pet bird
- (iii) pet cat

- (c) During recess in the school Anne treated everyone with
 - (i) sweet biscuits
 - (ii) chocolates
 - (iii) sweets

Activity 2

Answer the following questions:

- (a) What did Anne do when she could no longer control her curiosity?
- (b) Which present did Anne see first? Why does she refer to it as 'you'?
- (c) Who is the author of the book "Tales and Legends of Netherlands"?
- (d) What did Anne want to do with the money that she got as birthday gift?

Activity 3

Arrange the following sentences in the proper sequence:

- (a) Anne went to the dining room.
- (b) Anne went to school with her friends.
- (c) Anne went to the sitting room.
- (d) Anne woke up.
- (e) Anne went to her mummy and daddy.

Let's continue:

Unit II

Monday, 15 June, 1942

I had my birthday party on Sunday afternoon. We showed a film The Lighthouse Keeper, which my school friends thoroughly enjoyed. We had a lovely time. There were lots of girls and boys. For years Lies Goosens and Sanne Houtman have been my best friends. Since then I've got to know Jopie de Waal at the Jewish Secondary School. We are together a lot and she is now my best friend. Lies is more friendly with another girl, and Sanne goes to a different school, where she has made new friends.

Let's do:

Activity 4

Answer the following questions:

- (a) When did Anne have her birthday party?
- (b) What is "The Light House Keeper"?
- (c) Who had been Anne's best friend for years?
- (d) Where did Anne meet her present best friend?

Let's continue:

Unit III

Saturday, 20th June, 1942

I haven't written for a few days because I wanted first of all to think about my diary. It's an **odd** idea for someone like me to keep a diary; not only because I have never done so before, but because it seems to me that neither I – nor for that matter anyone else – will be interested in the **unbosomings** of a thirteen-year-old school girl. Still, what does that matter? I want to write, but more than that, I want to bring out all kinds of things that lie buried deep in my heart.

There is a saying that "paper is more patient than man" ; it came back to me on one of my slightly **melancholy** days, while I sat chin in hand, feeling too bored and **limp** even to make up my mind whether to go out or stay at home. Yes, there is no doubt that paper is patient and I don't intend to show this cardboard-covered notebook, bearing the proud name of "diary" to anyone. Unless I find a real friend, boy or girl, probably nobody cares. And now I come to the root of the matter, the reason for my starting a diary. It is that I have no such real friend.

Let me put it clearly, since no one would believe that a girl of thirteen feels herself quite alone in the world, nor is it so. I have darling parents and a sister of sixteen. I know about thirty people whom one might call friends. I have relations – aunts and uncles, who are darlings too, a good home, no – I don't seem to lack

anything. But it's the same with all my friends, just fun and joking, nothing more. I can never bring myself to talk of anything outside the common round. We don't seem to be able to get any closer, that is the root of the trouble. Perhaps I lack confidence, but anyway, there it is, a **stubborn** fact and I don't seem to be able to do anything about it.

Hence, this diary. In order to **enhance** in my mind's eye the picture of the friend for whom I have waited so long, I don't want to set down a series of **bald** facts in a diary like most people do, but I want this diary itself to be my friend, and I shall call my friend Kitty. No one will grasp what I'm talking about if I begin my letters to Kitty just out of the blue, so, **albeit** unwillingly, I will sit by sketching in brief the story of my life.



My father was thirty-six when he married my mother, who was then twenty-five. My sister was born in 1926 in Frankfort-on-Main, I followed on June 12, 1929, and we **emigrated** to Holland in 1933, where my father was appointed Managing Director of Travies N.V.

The rest of our family, however, felt the full impact of Hitler's anti-Jewish laws, so life was filled with anxiety. In 1938 my two uncles (my mother's brothers) escaped to the U.S.A. My old grandmother came to us, she was then seventy-three. Granny died in January 1942, no one will ever know how much she is present in my thoughts and how much I love her still.

In 1934 I went to school at the Montessori Kindergarten and continued there.

It was at the end of the school year, I was in form 6B, when I had to say good-bye to Mrs. K. We both wept, it was very sad. In 1941 I went, with my sister Margot, to the Jewish Secondary School, she in to the fourth form and I into the first.

So far everything is all right with the four of us and here I come to the present day.

Word Nest:

odd: strange or unusual; **unbosoming**: to reveal one's thoughts or feelings; **melancholy**: sadness; **limp**: soft and weak; **stubborn**: adamant; **enhance** : improve the quality of something; **bald**: plain and clear; **albeit**: although; **emigrated**: to leave a country permanently and to settle in another country;

Let's do:

Activity 5

Choose the correct answer from the given alternatives:

- (a) Anne has a sister who is
 - (i) thirteen years old
 - (ii) sixteen years old
 - (iii) fourteen years old
- (b) Kitty is Anne's
 - (i) friend
 - (ii) sister
 - (iii) diary
- (c) The above text is a
 - (i) biography
 - (ii) diary
 - (iii) short story
- (d) Anne had to say goodbye to
 - (i) Mrs. K
 - (ii) Margot
 - (iii) her parents

Activity 6

Fill in the following chart with information from the text:

Year	What happened
1926	
	The author was born
1933	
1938	
	The author's grandmother died

Activity 7

Answer the following questions:

- (a) What is the saying that came back to Anne on one of her melancholy days?
- (b) Why does Anne consider her diary to be a dear friend?
- (c) Where was Anne's father appointed when they emigrated to Holland?
- (d) Why was Anne's life filled with anxiety?

Activity 8

Identify which of the following statements are True and which are False. Give a supporting statement for each of your answers:

- (a) Anne thought that no one will be interested in the unbosomings of a thirteen-year-old school girl.
- (b) In her diary Anne wanted to bring out all kinds of things that lay buried deep in her heart.
- (c) Anne seemed to lack everything.
- (d) Anne was born in Holland.
- (e) Anne was admitted in the fourth form in the Jewish Secondary School.

Let's talk:

❖ In her diary Anne Frank speaks about herself, her parents, her sister, her friends and even about her pet cat. Now take a minute to think about yourself, your family and friends and share your thoughts with your class.

❖ This text has been titled 'My Diary'. Can you think of an alternative title for the text? Form groups of four and discuss.

Let's do:

Activity 9(a)

Find the antonyms of the following words from the text. You will find the words in the paragraphs mentioned in the brackets:

- (a) familiar: [Para-1]
- (b) imaginary: [Para-2]
- (c) inside: [Para-3]
- (d) hate: [Para-6]
- (e) happy: [Para-7]
- (f) past: [Para-8]

Activity 9(b)

Make sentences with the words that you have found in Activity 9(a).

Activity 10

Fill in the gaps with the words given below:

series, stubborn, control, recess, terrific

- (a) We should try to _____ our anger.
- (b) Maradona was a _____ footballer.
- (c) Rahul is a _____ boy.
- (d) We took our lunch during the _____.
- (e) He drew a _____ of pictures.

Let's learn:

Look at the following sentences from the text:

- ❖ Soon after seven I went to Mummy and Daddy and then to the sitting room to **undo** my presents.
- ❖ It's an odd idea for someone like me to keep a diary; not only because I have never done so before, but because it seems to me that neither I – nor for that matter anyone else – will be interested in the **unbosomings** of a thirteen-year-old school girl.

Now look at the red-coloured words in the sentences. In the first sentence, the word **undo** means to uncover or to open. And in the second sentence, the word **unbosoming** means to reveal the thoughts or feelings in one's bosom or heart.

In the word “undo” and “unbosoming”, “**-un**” is a **prefix** used in English to form **verbs** expressing a reversal of some action or state, or removal, deprivation, release, etc. (unbend; uncork; unfasten, etc)

Again, “**-un**” is a **prefix** meaning “not,” freely used as an English formative, adding a negative or opposite sense in **adjectives** and their derivative **adverbs** and **nouns** (unfair; unfairly; unfairness; unfelt; unseen; unfitting; unformed; unheard-of etc), and less freely used in certain other nouns (unrest; unemployment).

Let's do:

Activity 11

Make as many words as you can with the prefix “-un”. Make sentences of your own with those words.

Activity 12 (a)

Put an apostrophe ['] in appropriate places to make possessives:

- (a) Ravis father is a doctor.
- (b) Nila wants Riyas pen.
- (c) Tendulkar is Indias pride.
- (d) Sunils and Rahims bicycles are new.
- (e) Rajus brother lives in the boys hostel.

Activity 12 (b)

Put an apostrophe ['] in appropriate places to make contracted verb forms:

- (a) **I am** writing a letter now.
- (b) **You are** a good boy.
- (c) **She is** drawing a picture.
- (d) **He would have** done it.
- (e) **They have** gone to school.

Activity 13 (a)

Fill in the blanks with appropriate possessive pronouns given below:

ours, mine, theirs, yours, hers

- (a) This picture is _____.
- (b) I found Seema's book but I couldn't find _____.
- (c) All the essays were good but _____ was the best.
- (d) Your photos are good. _____ are terrible.
- (e) Rita and Mohan don't like your drawing. Do you like _____?

Activity 13 (b)

Fill in the blanks with appropriate possessive adjectives given below:

their, your, my, our, its

- (a) This is _____ book.
- (b) I like _____ new pen.
- (c) The dog is licking _____ paw.
- (d) We have sold _____ house.
- (e) The students thanked _____ teacher.

Activity 14

Underline the participle adjectives in the following sentences. Be careful, all the sentences do not have participle adjectives.

- (a) A barking dog seldom bites.
- (b) The dog was barking loudly.
- (c) Mathematics is an interesting subject.
- (d) It was an amusing story.
- (e) The teacher was instructing his students.

Activity 15

Punctuate the following passage:

anil went to rahuls house yesterday morning he asked rahul are you going to school today rahul said no I am going to darjeeling its such a beautiful place anil said but rahul the tests are starting from next week rahul answered don't worry I have prepared well for them anil came back home a little sad but he was happy for rahul

Activity 16

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate forms of the verbs given in brackets:

- a. I _____ (see) you tomorrow.
- b. The students _____ (write) a summary.
- c. Ali _____ (read) this book since morning.
- d. I _____ (finish) my work when Mukta came to see me.
- e. When I visited her, she _____ (sing).
- f. He told me that his mother _____ (be) ill for six days.
- g. He _____ (come) here tomorrow.
- h. I _____ (live) in Kolkata for five years.
- i. The train _____ (leave) before they reached the station.
- j. The cold wind _____ (blow) hard.

Activity 17

A biography is a detailed account of someone's life written by some other person. Now write a short biography of Raja Rammohan Roy using the following information:

Name: Raja Rammohan Roy

Date of birth: 22nd May, 1772

Father and Mother: Ramakanta Roy and Tarini Devi

Education: Learnt Arabic, Persian, Sanskrit

Scholar in English, Latin, Greek, French, Tibetan

Countries visited: Tibet, England

Achievements: Champion of the Brahmo Samaj, abolished the cruel custom of Sati, wrote books on various subjects

Death: 27th September 1833, buried in Bristol, England

Activity 18

Write a summary of the following prose passage:

The story of “Androcles and the Lion” is very famous. Androcles had hid himself in a cage when he saw a lion coming towards him. He feared that the lion would eat him. But the lion was limping and it appeared to be in great pain. Androcles approached the lion with courage, took up the lion's paw and took out the large splinter of wood which had caused the flesh to rot. The lion was soon relieved of pain and it was very grateful to Androcles. Afterwards, when Androcles was taken prisoner and sent to Rome to be delivered up to the wild beasts, a lion was let loose to eat him. It was the same lion that Androcles had relieved in his pain. The animal remembered with gratitude its saviour and instead of eating him rubbed its head on the feet of Androcles.

Activity 19

Suppose you are celebrating your birthday next week. Now write a letter to your class teacher inviting him/her to your birthday party. You may begin like this:

Dear Mrs. Bose,

I am celebrating my birthday on the 7th of October. It will be my 13th birthday.....

Let's learn:

A Diary is a personal record of events, experiences, thoughts, and observations. They are great ways to keep track of your past and plan about your future. You can also create pen-portraits of others, express your experiences, hopes, fears, joys, sorrows, etc.

While writing a diary we need to keep the following points in mind :-

- ❖ A diary must be written in the first person narrative. Use “I”, “me”, “us”, “we”, etc.
- ❖ Put the date or some sequence information at the top of the page.
- ❖ If you want, you can also draw on certain pages to mark special days or incidents. This will help to make your diary more attractive.
- ❖ The best time to write a diary is at night because then you can write about your entire day.
- ❖ Always be truthful as far as possible.
- ❖ You may imagine that the diary is a real person and not a non-living object.
- ❖ Do not be afraid to write about your feelings and emotions. After all, it is a personal diary and you can share everything with it.
- ❖ Start writing!

Let's work together:

Get a diary. Write about any celebration or disaster that had happened recently. Put your pen to the page and write whatever is on your mind. You can also write down personal facts, important information, advice, tips, ideas, anything you want to keep secret...the list goes on and on.

Ghosts on the Verandah

Ruskin Bond

Let's start:

Ruskin Bond (1934 —) is an Indian author of British descent. In 1992, he received the Sahitya Akademi Award for his short story collection, *Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra*. His famous works include *Room On the Roof*, *A Flight of Pigeons*, *Angry River*, *The Blue Umbrella*. The present text is an edited version of his short story *Ghosts on the Verandah*.



Let's share:

- ❖ Have you ever seen an old house?
- ❖ Do you believe that ghosts can be found in old houses?
- ❖ Do you believe in spirits and charms?

Unit I

Let's read:

Anil's mother's memory was stored with an **incredible** amount of **folklore**, and she would sometimes astonish us with her stories of spirits and mischievous ghosts.

One evening, when Anil's father was out of town, and Kamal and I had been invited to stay the night at Anil's upper-storey flat in the bazaar, his mother began to tell us about the various types of ghosts she had known. Mulia, the maid-servant, having just taken a bath, came out on the verandah, with her hair loose.

"My girl, you ought not to leave your hair loose like that," said Anil's mother. "It is better to tie a knot in it."

"But I have not oiled it yet," said Mulia.

"Never mind, but you should not leave your hair loose towards sunset. There are spirits called *Jinns* who are attracted by long hair and pretty black eyes like yours. They may be tempted to carry you away!"

“How dreadful!” exclaimed Mulia, hurriedly tying a knot in her hair, and going indoors to be on the safe side.

Kamal, Anil and I sat on a string cot, facing Anil’s mother, who sat on another cot. She was not much older than thirty-two, and had often been mistaken for Anil’s elder sister.

“Can you see *Jinns*, aunty?” I asked.

“Sometimes,” she said.

“There was a Mathematics teacher in our locality, whose pupils were about the same age as you. One of the boys was very good at his lessons. One day, while he sat at his desk in a corner of the classroom, the teacher asked him to **fetch** a book from the cupboard which stood at the far end of the room. The boy,

who felt lazy that morning, didn’t move from his seat. He merely stretched out his hand, took the book from the cupboard, and handed it to the teacher. Everyone was astonished, because the boy’s arm had stretched about four **yards** before touching the book! They realised that he was a *Jinn*; that was the reason for his being so good at games and exercises which required great **agility**.”

“Well, I wish I was a *Jinn*,” said Anil. “Especially for volleyball matches.”

Anil’s mother then told us about *Munjia*, a mischievous ghost who lives in lonely peepul trees. When a *Munjia* is annoyed, he rushes out from his tree and upsets tongas, bullock-carts and cycles. Even a bus is known to have been upset by a *Munjia*.

“If you are passing beneath a peepul tree at night,” warned Anil’s mother, “be careful not to yawn without covering your mouth or snapping your fingers in front of it. If you don’t remember to do that, the *Munjia* will jump down your throat and completely ruin your digestion!”

Word Nest

incredible : unbelievable; **folklore**: the traditional stories of a country or community; **fetch** : bring; **yards** : an unit of distance. 1 yard is approximately 3 feet.; **agility** : ability to move quickly and easily



Let's do :

Activity 1

Complete the following table with information from the text:

Statement	Reason
(a) The author went to stay at Anil's house	
(b) Anil's mother told them ghost stories	
(c) The boy in the classroom could stretch his hands four yards	
(d) Anil wished to be a Jinn	

Activity 2

Answer the following questions:

- (a) What attracts a Jinn?
- (b) List the activities of an annoyed Munjia.
- (c) Why must one be careful while yawning under a peepul tree at night?
- (d) How did the boy in the class show that he was a Jinn?

Activity 3

Fill in the blanks by choosing appropriate words from the box given below. You may need to change the form of the words:

incredible, fetch, cupboard, agility

- (a) Since she is a gymnast, she has great _____.
- (b) Tuhin _____ a bucket of water.
- (c) Your story is _____.
- (d) The utensils are kept inside a _____.

Activity 4

Complete the following comparisons by correctly choosing the word from the box given below:

cold, hot, black, proud, brave, green, heavy, gentle, firm, busy

- (a) as _____ as coal

- (b) as _____ as a lion
- (c) as _____ as a bee
- (d) as _____ as a lamb
- (e) as _____ as a peacock
- (f) as _____ as grass
- (g) as _____ as a rock
- (h) as _____ as lead
- (i) as _____ as ice
- (j) as _____ as fire

Activity 5

Rewrite the following sentences using the adverbs given in brackets in the appropriate place:

- (a) This exercise is easy. (too)
- (b) The train is fast. (fairly)
- (c) The bottle is full. (quite)
- (d) We won the match. (nearly)
- (e) We are late, let us hurry. (rather)
- (f) She has come in. (just)
- (g) He makes a mistake. (never)
- (h) I get up early in the morning. (always)
- (i) I am sorry. (very)
- (j) He was intelligent to solve the problem. (enough)

Unit II

Let's continue :

In an attempt to change the subject, Kamal mentioned that a friend of his had found a snake in his bed one morning.

"Did he kill it?" asked Anil's mother anxiously.

"No, it slipped away," said Kamal.

"Good," she said. "It is lucky if you see a snake early in the morning."

“It won’t bite you if you let it alone,” she said.

By eleven o’clock, after we had finished our dinner and heard a few more ghost stories – including one about Anil’s grandmother, whose spirit paid the family a visit – Kamal and I were most **reluctant** to leave the company on the verandah and retire to the room which had been set apart for us. It did not make us feel any better to be told by Anil’s mother that we should recite certain magical verses to keep away the more mischievous spirits. We tried one, which went –

Bhoot, prê, pisach, dana
Chhoo mantar, sab nikal jana...
which, roughly translated, means –
Ghosts, spirits, goblins, sprites,
Away you fly, don’t come tonight...



But the more we repeated the verse, the more uneasy we became, and when I got into bed (after carefully examining it for snakes), I couldn’t lie still, but kept twisting and turning and looking at the walls for moving shadows. Kamal attempted to raise our spirits by singing softly, but this only made the atmosphere more **eerie**. After a while we heard someone knocking on the door, and the voices of Anil and the maidservant. Getting up and

opening the door, I found them looking **pale** and anxious. They, too, had succeeded in frightening themselves as a result of Anil’s mother’s stories.

“Are you all right?” asked Anil. “Wouldn’t you like to sleep in our part of the house? It might be safer. Mulia will help us to carry the beds across!”

“We’re quite all right,” protested Kamal and I, refusing to admit we were nervous; but we were hustled along to the other side of the flat as though a band of ghosts was **conspiring** against us. Anil’s mother had been absent during all this

activity but suddenly we heard her screaming from the direction of the room we had just left.

“Rusty and Kamal have disappeared!” she cried. “Their beds have gone, too!”

And then, when she came out on the verandah and saw us dashing about in our pyjamas, she gave another scream and collapsed on a cot.

After that, we didn’t allow Anil’s mother to tell us ghost stories at night.

Word Nest

reluctant : unwilling; **eerie** : strange or unnatural; **pale** : whitish;
conspiring : secretly planning with other people to do something evil or harmful

Let’s do:

Activity 6

Complete the following sentences with information from the text:

- (a) Anil’s mother thought that seeing a snake _____
- (b) Kamal and the author did not want to go to their room because _____
- (c) When Anil’s mother saw the boys rushing about, she _____
- (d) Kamal sang softly because _____

Activity 7

Answer the following questions:

- (a) Why did Anil and Mulia appear “pale and anxious”?
- (b) What did Anil’s mother think when she saw the room empty?
- (c) What was the effect of Kamal’s singing on the author?
- (d) Do you think Anil’s mother believed in ghosts? Give a reason for your answer.

Activity 8

Fill in the blanks with suitable modals:

- (a) I _____ speak English.
- (b) We eat so that we _____ live.

- (c) You _____ go now.
- (d) _____ you have good luck!
- (e) We _____ be rewarded.
- (f) I _____ not surrender.
- (g) You _____ be able to do it in no time.
- (h) We _____ help the poor.
- (i) I _____ never tell lies.
- (j) Tomorrow we _____ have a holiday.

Activity 9

Fill in the blanks with the correct tense of the verb given in brackets:

- (a) She ran so fast that I _____ (can) not overtake her.
- (b) I thought I _____ (see) you yesterday.
- (c) He helps his neighbours more than he _____ (help) his family.
- (d) When I saw her, I _____ (speak) to her.
- (e) The more he learned, the more he _____ (want) to learn.
- (f) There was a rumour that he _____ (die) in the accident.
- (g) We thought that she _____ (will) succeed.
- (h) I shall nurse her that she _____ (may) recover.
- (i) I left the place as soon as I _____ (hear) the news.
- (j) Honesty _____ (be) the best policy.

Activity 10

Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct verb given in brackets:

- (a) All that glitters _____ (is/are) not gold.
- (b) The great poet and novelist _____ (is/are) dead.

- (c) Each of the boys _____ (was/were) given a prize.
- (d) Salim as well as his friend _____ (is/are) honest.
- (e) Time and tide _____ (wait/waits) for none.
- (f) Neither of the girls _____ (has/have) brought her book.
- (g) None but the brave _____ (deserve/deserves) the fair.
- (h) Three-fourths of the meal _____ (was/were) eaten.
- (i) Either you or he _____ (has/have) done it.
- (j) Slow and steady _____ (win/wins) the race.

Activity 11

Fill in the gaps in the following table with appropriate forms of adjectives:

POSITIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
good		
	darker	
		mildest
wise		
	harder	
soft		
high		
	brighter	
		least
beautiful		
		worst
	more intelligent	
serious		
	lesser	
		swiftest

Activity 12

Pick out the adjectives from the following sentences and write their degree:

- a. Which is the best book?
- b. December is colder than other months.
- c. He is my eldest brother.
- d. Nothing moves as fast as light.
- e. Success is sweeter than failure.

Let's talk :

What type of stories do you like? Discuss in groups and tell the class.

Let's do :

Activity 13

Write a story in which you and your two friends are forced to spend a night in an old, desolate building far away from home.

Activity 14

Write a paragraph on a magic show. Use the following points:

Place – the atmosphere – dress of the magician – tricks that he performed – how you liked the show – did you feel interested in performing magic by yourself – conclusion.

Let's work together :

Make a list of superstitious practices that you see in your society. Write a few sentences about the harmfulness of superstitious practices.

Teachers' Guidelines

The new English textbook for class VII 'Blossoms' is written in accordance with the National Curriculum Framework, 2005 and the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009. This textbook aims to make learning

- ❖ joyful
- ❖ learner-centered
- ❖ activity-based
- ❖ integrated with the learners' live experience

Efforts have been made to ensure that acquisition of various language skills takes place effortlessly. The teacher plays the role of a facilitator in the learning process.

This textbook includes a balanced assortment of prose and poetry. The poems are interspersed with the prose pieces. In a time when the National Curriculum Framework, 2005 has been championing the cause of softening subject boundaries and voicing forth an across-the-curriculum view, there is no reason to separate prose and poetry.

The various rubrics that have been used in the textbook for facilitating classroom transactions are briefly explained below:

Let's start : A brief account of the life and works of authors/poets has been presented under this rubric. This has been done so that the learner may have a preliminary idea about the author/poet.

Let's share : The purpose of this section is to prepare the learners for the lesson. This section may be used to help the learners to focus upon the learning context.

Activities for ice-breaking, warming-up, brain-storming may be undertaken to facilitate the process of contextualization.

Let's read : The focus is on silent reading. The teacher may guide or monitor the reading process by following both top-down, bottom-up strategies. This will help the learners to go from part to whole and from whole to part.

Let's learn : This textbook is a learning tool. Activities are set in such a pattern that leads towards self-learning.

Let's do : Activities are designed to facilitate constructive knowledge and skills through individual and group work. These activities will ensure that multiple interpretations are constructed. These will act as evidences of learning.

Activities regarding writing are set in a graded manner. These activities will enable the learners to develop their language skills. These open-ended activities will provide the learners with ample scope for using and developing their critical and creative thinking.

Let's talk : This is meant to enhance listening and speaking skills. Activities are based on real-life situations to ensure greater participation of the learners.

Let's work together : The activities offer enough scope for practical application of language in life-centric situations. Activities are designed to initiate collaborative work leading to multiple manifestations of acquired skills.

This textbook provides scope for Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation at the time of classroom transaction. The lessons may be transacted in the following number of periods:

	Revision Lesson	:	8 periods
Lesson 1	- The Book of Nature	:	20 periods
Lesson 2	- The Riddle	:	17 periods
Lesson 3	- We are seven	:	8 periods
Lesson 4	- The Beauty and the Beast	:	19 periods
Lesson 5	- Uncle Podge Hangs a Picture	:	15 periods
Lesson 6	- The Vagabond	:	14 periods
Lesson 7	- Mowgli's Brothers	:	19 periods
Lesson 8	- The Story of Proserpine	:	19 periods
Lesson 9	- J.C. Bose : A Beautiful Mind	:	16 periods
Lesson 10	- The Echoing Green	:	12 periods
Lesson 11	- The Axe	:	15 periods
Lesson 12	- My Diary	:	20 periods
Lesson 13	- Ghosts on the Verandah	:	18 periods

This list is only indicative. Teachers can vary the number of teaching periods according to the needs of the students.

MY PAGE

What do you feel about the book?