



Bharat Desh

by Subramania Bharati

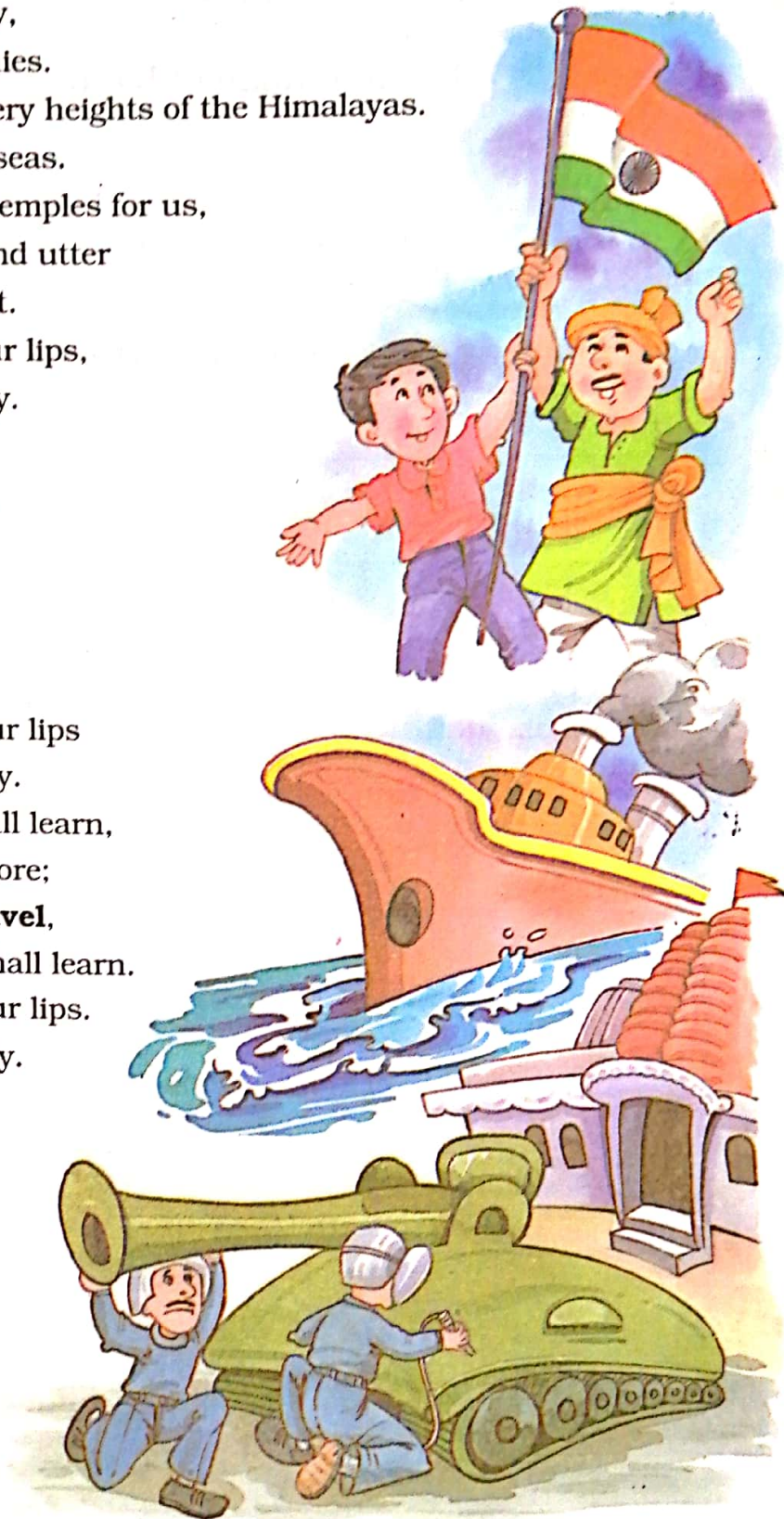
Pre-reading Task

Working with your friends, list the names of any five national heroes and the reason for their fame.

National Heroes	Reason for Fame
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Now read the poem.

With the name of Bharat Desh on our lips,
let us shake off our fears and poverty,
and overcome our sorrows and enemies.
We shall stroll on the snow-clad silvery heights of the Himalayas.
Our ships shall sail across the high seas.
We shall set up schools—all sacred temples for us,
and proudly thump our shoulders and utter
the name of this land of ours, Bharat.
With the name of Bharat Desh on our lips,
let us shake off our fears and poverty.
We shall make tools and weapons.
We shall produce paper.
We shall open factories and schools.
We shall never be lazy or weary.
We shall be ever generous.
We shall always speak the truth.
With the name of Bharat Desh on our lips
let us shake off our fears and poverty.
Both scriptures and sciences we shall learn,
the heavens and oceans we will explore;
the mysteries of moon we shall **unravel**,
the art of street-sweeping, too, we shall learn.
With the name of Bharat Desh on our lips.
let us shake off our fears and poverty.



unravel: to discover

I Understanding the Poem

- A. Now read the gist of the poem given below. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words or phrases:

Through the poem Bharat Desh, the speaker wants us to _____ off our fears and _____ and set up _____ for the students. He wants us to produce tools, _____ and paper. He advises us not to be _____ or _____ and try to be _____. He wants his countrymen to know more about _____, _____ and _____. Following all this, our country shall rise high and prosper.

- B. On the basis of your understanding of the poem, match the following phrases appropriately (as done in the example):

A

shake off
stroll on
sail across
set up
thump
make
produce
open
never be
ever be
speak
learn
explore
unravel

B

mysteries of moon
scriptures and sciences
the truth
generous
heavens and oceans
fears and poverty
lazy or weary
tools and weapons
our shoulders
the high seas
paper
snow-clad silvery heights
schools, all sacred temples
factories and schools

C. Read the following extracts:

- (a) We shall set up schools
all scared temples
- (b) We shall set up schools
all as sacred as temples.

In extract (a) the comparison between schools and temples is not direct but implied. This implied comparison is called a **metaphor**.

In extract (b) the schools are being compared to temples directly. This direct comparison between two things is called a **simile**.

D. Given below are a few examples of metaphor. Complete these by filling in the blanks with appropriate words from the box given below. One has been done for you as an example.

monkey, lion, cheetah, rabbit

1. The baby has a soft skin. Her rabbit skin fascinated me.
2. Ravi is the bravest soldier in the army. He is a _____ amongst others.
3. Shiv is a very swift child. He is the _____ of his class.
4. Chintu imitates his elder brother. His brother gets irritated by this little _____

II HOTS

What should be our priority—our personal growth or our motherland's growth? Why?

III Life Skills

- A. Some children of your class often speak about going abroad for further studies and their plans to settle there. You strongly feel that one should stay in one's own country. How will you help them see your point of view?
- B. Why is it important to learn scriptures as well as sciences? Discuss with your partner.

IV Values

The poem 'Bharat Desh' highlights certain important values, which the citizens of a country need to embed in themselves to make their country progress. Can you shortlist them?

V Writing Skills

Write a short paragraph: 'I am proud to be an Indian.'

About the Author

Popularly known as 'Mahakavi', Bharati enjoys the same status as Shakespeare did among the English speaking people. His poetry is remarkable for its patriotic undercurrent.

