



Introduction

- I. Which of the statements below is the most thrilling for you and why?
Discuss in pairs.

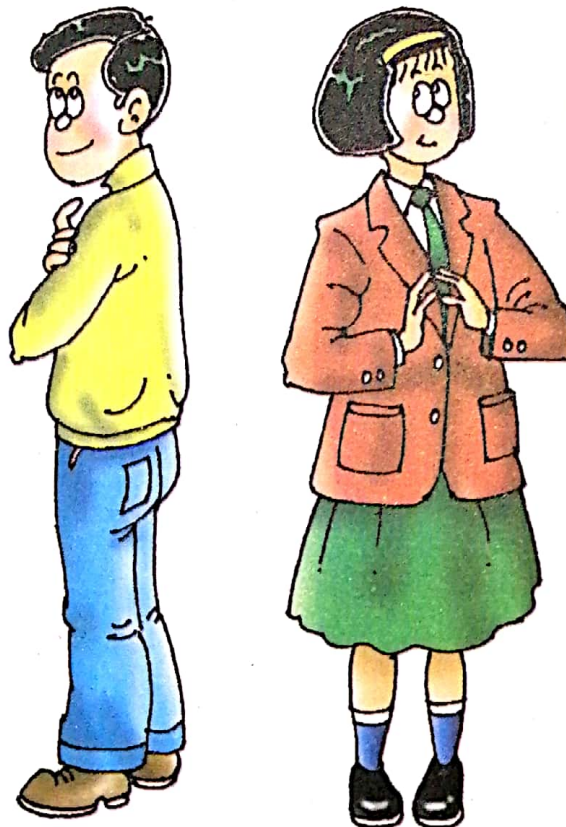
A fashion show in the school is a thrilling experience.

The selection of the class monitor is a fun.

Life is interesting with friends and adventure.

Peer group interactions are most fascinating.

A school trip to a hill station is exciting.



School friends make life exciting and thrilling, don't they?

Can you imagine a life without your friends?

- II. Narrate to your partner any of your memorable experiences at school. Write the account in detail for an unknown friend, on the basis of the headings below.

Starting point

Account of what happened

Conclusion



- A.1. Do you like your school? Are you proud of your school? Why? Discuss in groups of four.
- A.2. When did you take admission in the school? Was it difficult for you to get admitted to the school? Describe your experience.
- A.3. The play 'The Interview' given on the next page is an interesting narration of a boy's preparation for admission to a school. Read it individually and then enact it in the class.



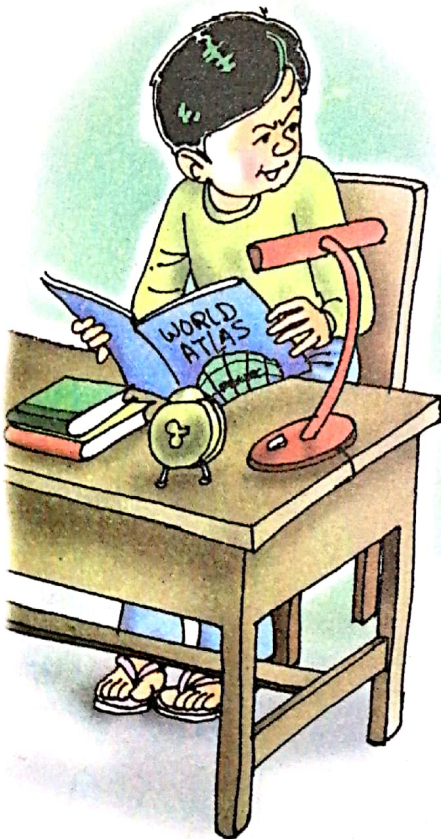
The Interview

SCENE 1

A small study. A cot is set along one wall and a table along another. On the table are a time piece and a table lamp, holding their places among a dozen books and a few pens and pencils. At the table is a boy of nine. He is short and stout. He yawns, turns the pages of *World Atlas*, checks time and mumbles, 'I have worked for three hours. I have picked up quite a bit of information. For example..' He stops on hearing footsteps, notices his sister. She is lean, older than him by about a couple of years. She has a scarf that covers her hair and ears and is knotted below the chin. Her long plaited hair fall over her front.



Ramu smiles at her. The girl mumbles, 'Poor Ramu!'



Ramu : Who says I am poor? I am richer than you, *Akka*. You spent what Uncle gave you yesterday when he called on us on that new scarf.

Akka : Now is the time for you to prepare for the interview tomorrow. Remember you are in the race. There are only five seats left in Class-VI. Twenty boys are competing. Know what your chances are?

Ramu : Hundred per cent, *Akka*. I shall get admission. I will do well.

Akka : Not if you yawn and look **bleary-eyed**. Go and look at yourself in the mirror. You look a **wreck**.

Ramu : What else can I be? A brother of a wreck can only be a wreck.

bleary-eyed: red and watery eyes

wreck: unhealthy or exhausted

Akka : (Scowls) You can play with words.

Ramu : While you can play only with dolls.

Akka : (Angrily) I can play *tabla* on your back.

Ramu : (Banters) And I on your cheek.

Akka : (Scowls) Try it.

Ramu : (Teasing tone) I will, if you ever play *tabla* on my back.

Akka : I will. But not now. Tomorrow you have to attend an interview. You can't turn up before the headmaster and the teachers with a swollen back. (She breaks off)

Ramu : Akka, I am sure to get admission.

Akka : (In a serious tone) Hey! Which world are you living in! You think admission letter drops into one's lap! On its own! Forget it. You must know the answers to the questions the members of the Board ask.

Ramu : (Instantly responds) Nobody ever knows all the answers.

Akka : Tell that to the Board.

Ramu : (Sighs) That's the trouble. If only I knew the questions the members will ask!

Akka : (In a soothing tone) Poor Ramu.

Ramu : (Voice quivers) I am not poor, my girl.

He reaches out for her plaited hair. She ducks, moves off giggling. Ramu smiles to himself and starts checking up some facts from the Atlas.



SCENE 2

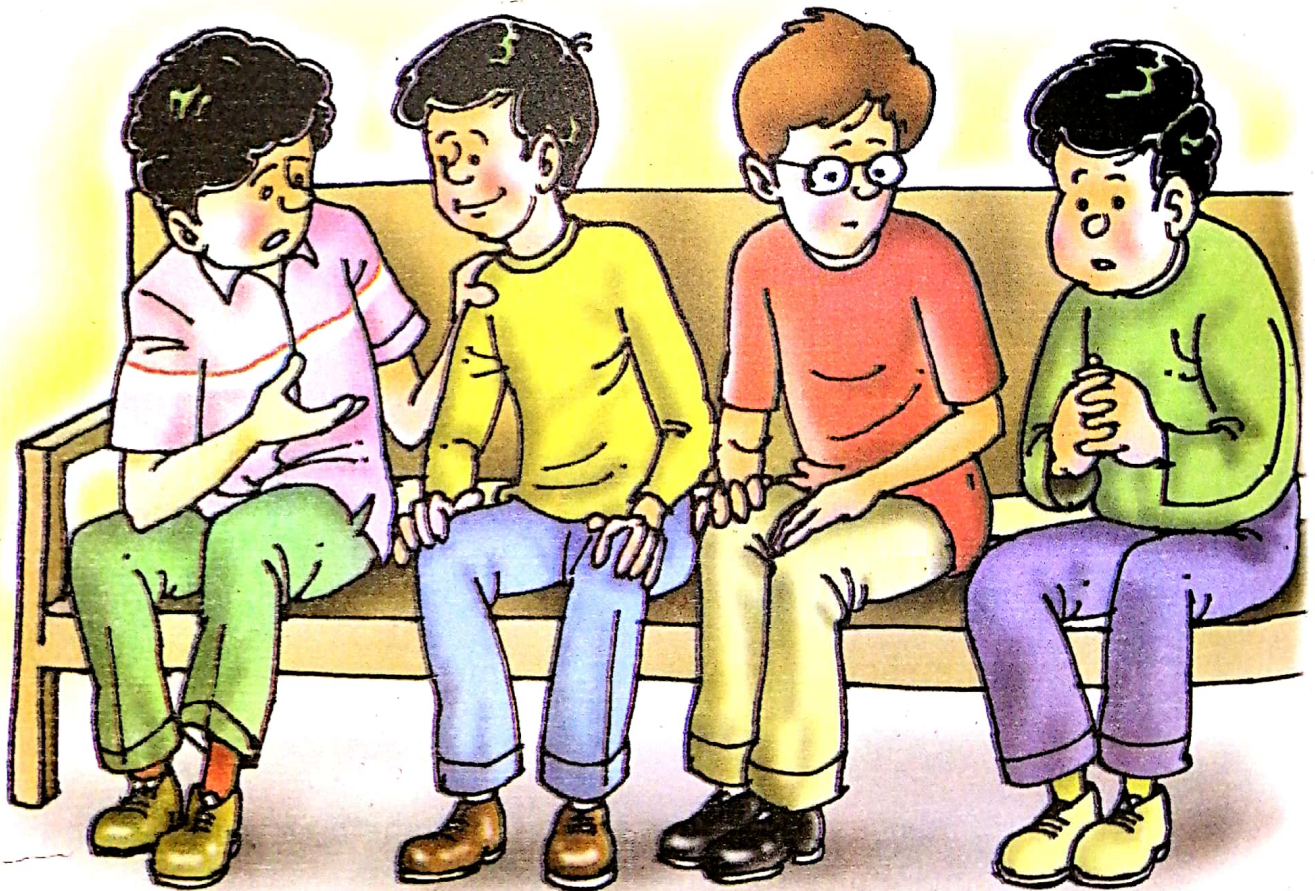
On a bench set along a wall are sitting a number of boys. They are all about nine years old. That is all that is common among them. Otherwise they are different. They are of all hues and shades, shapes and sizes. Ramu walks in, surveys the group, wonders whether he could beat them and get admission. His eyes glint when he spots a familiar face. He moves up to the boy saying, 'Balu! You here!' Balu greets Ramu. They sit side by side.

Ramu : (Happily) So your Papa too has been transferred.

Balu : (Growls) You said it. Papas are transferred. And we face admission tests. Lucky are those whose Papas are never transferred.

Ramu : (Jokingly) If wishes were horses!

Balu : (In mock anger) You are calling me a fool?



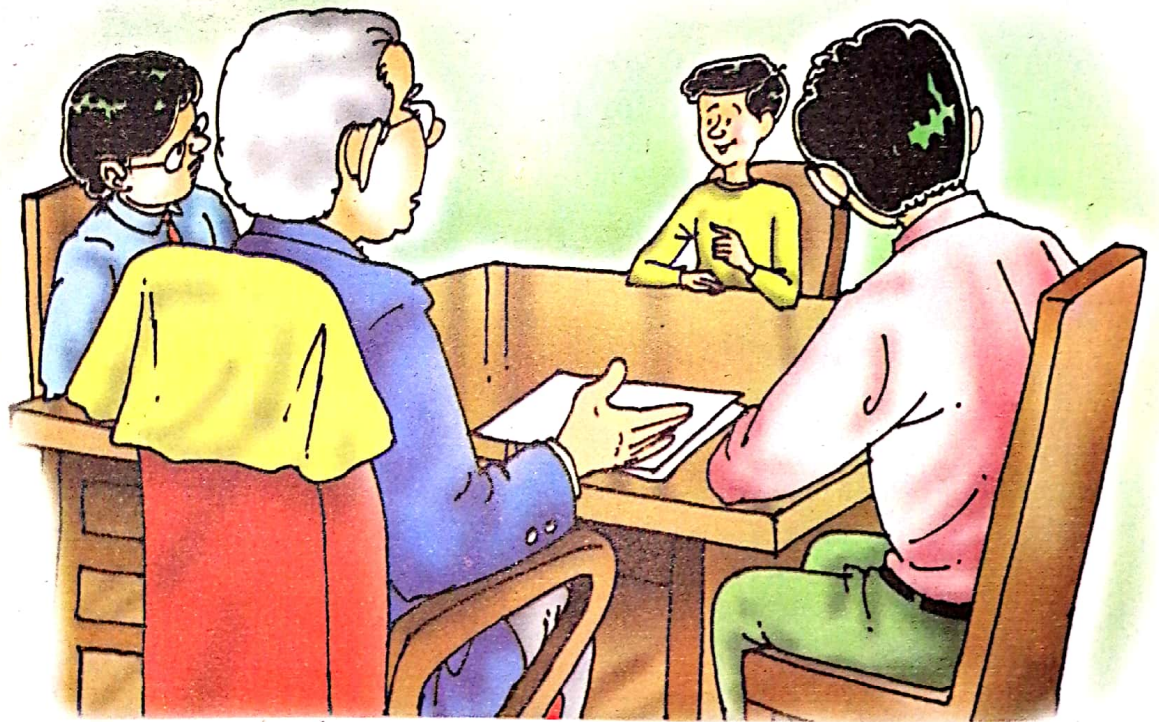
- Ramu** : (Lowers his voice) That we all are. Take, for instance, this experience. Does anyone know the answers to all the questions one can possibly ask? It is easy to ask questions. Anyone can do that. But, when it comes to answers, almost everyone is a fool.
- Balu** : All of us are fools. Fools are in a majority. The Board will have to see who among us are less foolish.
- They stop on hearing the tangy voice of a young man. He is the clerk.
- In his left hand is a writing pad. He calls out the names of the boys. One by one they respond. Then he smiles at them, calls the name, Arun. A boy stands up.
- Clerk** : Come with me Arun over to the Board room. (The man leads Arun out.)
- Balu** : (Jokes) There goes the first lamb for the slaughter.
- Ramu** : (Giggles) Nineteen more to go.
- Balu** : (In light humour) How sharp will the knife be when one of us walks into the presence of the selectors.
- Ramu** : (Perking up) I prefer a sharp knife to a dull one. It is better to be cut down in one stroke than to receive several blunt blows.



SCENE 3

Ramu is the last candidate. He follows the clerk into the room. Seated around the table are three men. The man who occupies the chair in the centre is old. He has a mop of thick grey hair. He adjusts his spectacles and peers at Ramu intently. Ramu greets him, 'Good morning, Sir.' Then he notices the other two middle-aged gentlemen and repeats, 'Good morning, Sirs.'

- The Headmaster : (In a firm, yet friendly tone) Good morning, Ramu. Take your seat.
- Ramu : (Whispers to himself) So the lamb to the slaughter is first offered a seat. (Loudly) Thank you, Sirs.
- The Headmaster : Where were you studying earlier?
- Ramu : Mother's School, Madurai.
- The Headmaster : Liked the school?
- Ramu : I was happy there.
- The Headmaster : (Removing the spectacles off his ears and scratching his nose) Why then do you seek admission here?



- Ramu : My father is a government official. He has been transferred to this town. Tiruchi!
- The Headmaster : Which is the best thing in this town?
- Ramu : (Warming up) The Uchipallayyar Kovil, the temple of Lord Ganesha atop a hillock. I ran up the steps and had a grand stand view of the town.

One of the teachers : (Butting in) How many steps did you take to reach the top?

Ramu : (Takes a second to think) The same number of steps that I took to come down.

The Headmaster : (Laughs) The answer is right, in its own way. (The spectacles go back to their duty post). When it comes to climbing, do you prefer a flight of steps or a gentle slope?

Ramu : Both have their charms, Sir.

One of the teachers : Will you explain that?

Ramu : One can race up a slope. But one needs steps to skip from step to step. Both have their fun.

The Headmaster : What's your idea of fun?

Ramu : (Eagerly) Is it not fun to be offered a seat by you. Know what? My Papa looks upon teachers as Grey **Eminences**. But only, you, Sir (looking at the Headmaster), have a crown of grey. But Papa cannot be wrong. You must all be Grey Eminences.

The Headmaster : (Lets a smile light up his face) Know where lies our fun?

Ramu : No, Sir.



eminences: highly respected people



The Headmaster

: We have fun asking little boys all sorts of questions. From the answers we judge a boy's self-confidence and readiness of mind.

Ramu

: (Hesitantly) May I ask a question, Sir?

The Headmaster

: (Nods) Go ahead, Ramu.

Ramu

: (Wiggles in his seat) You won't take it amiss.



The Headmaster

: (Firmly) Speak out, boy.

Ramu

: Have you judged me, Sir?

The Headmaster

: (Bursts into laughter) We have. But I still have a question. Tell me, aren't you rather short?

Ramu

: Yes, Sir, but...

The Headmaster

: (Leans forward) Go on.

Ramu

: Once I asked my Papa whether I would grow tall. He said chances were that I won't grow taller than 160 cm. Nobody in his side of the family is tall. Then he joked.....

The Headmaster

: What did he say?

Ramu

: He said when he appeared before a selection board, the chairman of the board asked him, 'Don't you think you are too short?' He replied, 'My legs are long enough to reach the ground.'

(The three men laugh.)

The Headmaster

: That is a joke. A fine one. Well, we have had our fun.

Ramu

: (Politely) Thank you, Sir.



The Headmaster

: You didn't ask how we have judged you.

Ramu

: (Rather eagerly) Sir.

The Headmaster

: (In a ringing voice)
You don't have
to ask. I will tell
you. You have
made it. (He writes
something on
Ramu's application
form and hands
it to him.) Go and
deposit the fees.



Ramu

: (Could not contain his joy) Thank you, Sirs. (He stands up, moves round the screen when he hears the Headmaster call after him), 'You said it, boy. Your legs do reach the ground.'

—R.K. Murthi

A.4.

Complete the following with one or two words only.

- (a) Ramu calls *Akka* poor because she has spent her money on buying _____.
- (b) Ramu is appearing for an interview to get _____ in one of the schools at _____.
- (c) Ramu and Balu consider all those appearing in the interview as _____.
- (d) According to Ramu, Tiruchi is famous for _____.
- (e) Ramu has been told by his father that all the teachers are _____.
- (f) Ramu and his father are _____ in height.
- (g) At the end of the interview Ramu _____ for admission to the school.

A.5. Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow.

'So the lamb to the slaughter is first offered a seat.'

(a) Who says these words?

(b) Who is the lamb here?

(c) Who is going to slaughter the lamb?
How?

(d) 'Lamb to the slaughter' is a figurative expression. (A figurative expression is one that conveys a meaning different from its literal meaning.) What does this expression mean to you in the given context?

(e) Pick up some more figurative expressions from the play.



A.6. HOTS

1. Balu says, 'The Board will have to see who among us are less foolish.' What does he mean by this statement?

2. Ramu was able to get admission in the school. The panel was really impressed with his answers during the interview.

Did he display wit or knowledge? Pick out instances from the play to support your answer.

A.7. Life Skills

CONFIDENCE IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS

Ramu did well in the interview. He was a confident boy.

There are many ways to boost self-confidence. Some are listed below. Discuss with your partner and add a few more to the list.

• Think Positive	•
• Plan Ahead	•
•	•
•	•

A.8. During the reading of the play, you come across a number of words like scowl, growl, etc., generally written in brackets at the beginning of a dialogue, that express different emotions. Some such words are given in the bubbles. Write what emotion each word expresses.

scowl → Look in an angry way

banter ↓ _____

← sigh _____

growl → _____

perking up → _____

← eagerly _____

← hesitantly _____

politely → _____

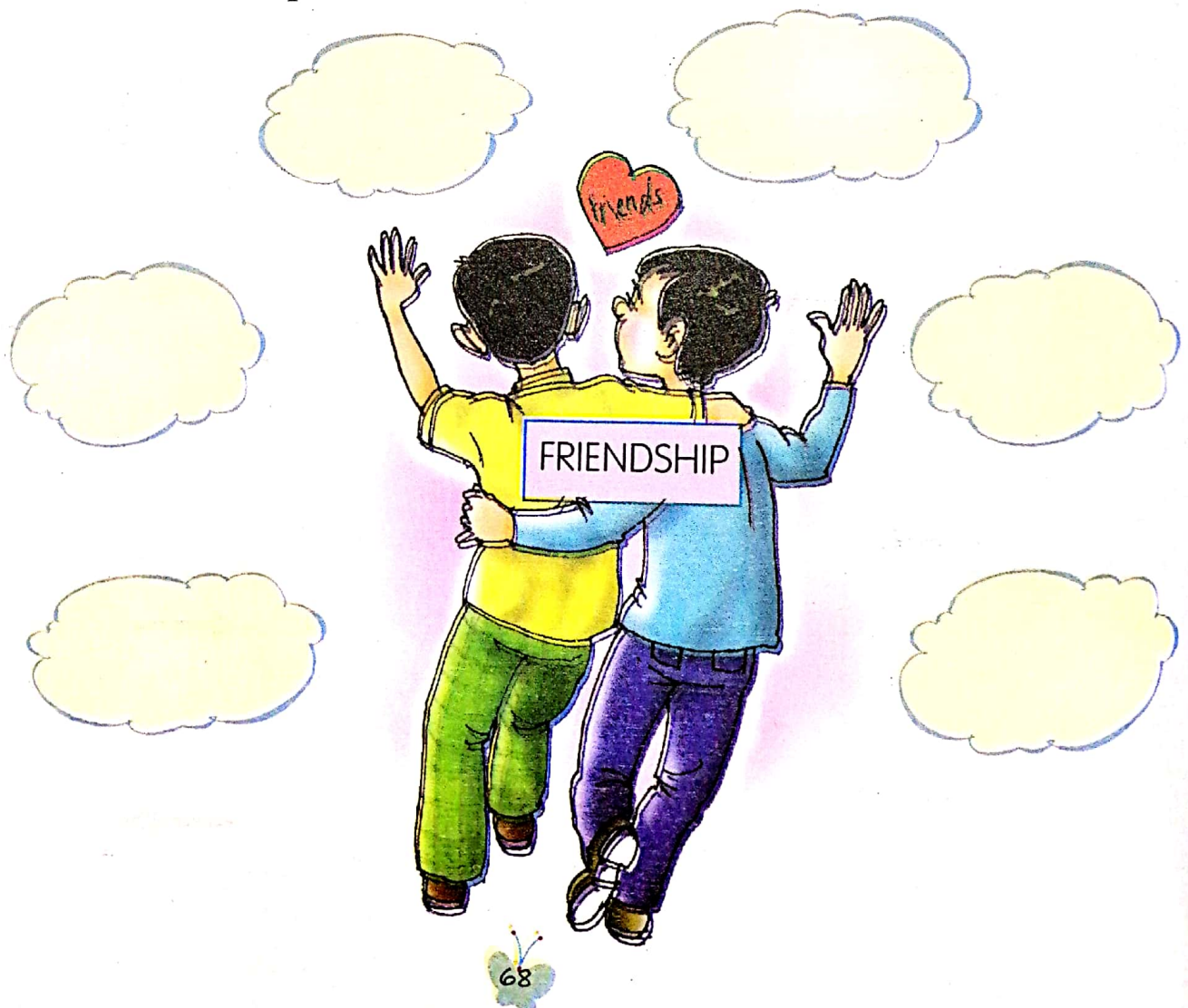
KNOW YOUR FRIENDS BETTER—A TALK SHOW

Present a talk show in your class.

- Work in groups of four.
- One of the group members can be the host and the other three the guests.
- Ask the guests about their likes and dislikes, interests and hobbies.
- Pep up your show by asking the guests to spell a few difficult words or make them say tongue-twisters.
- Don't forget to involve your audience.



B.1. Friends are human assets. Complete the chart using adjectives that can best describe friendship.



B.2. Work with your partner and write synonyms for the words or phrases given below. The first letter of each word is given as a clue.

If you are unable to guess the words, find the correct answers from the story.

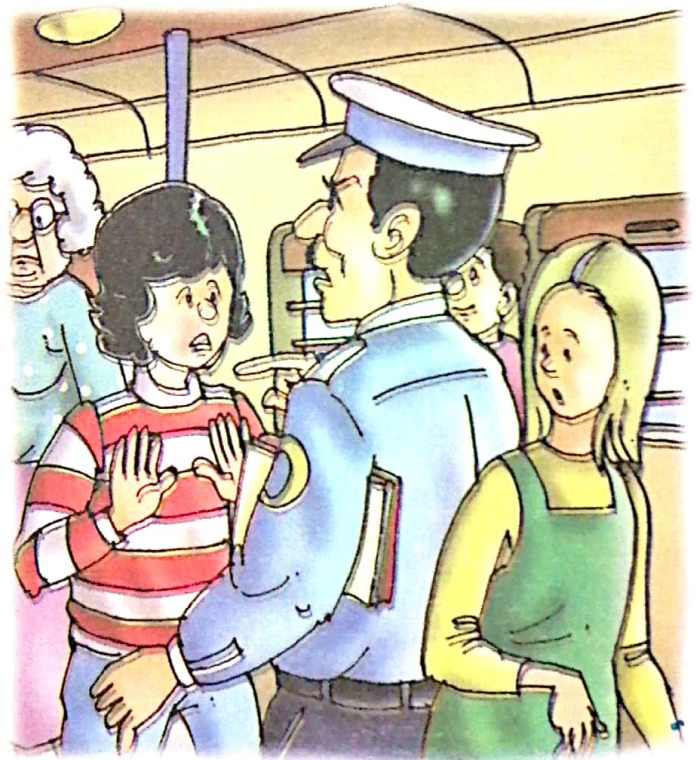
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| (a) group of people | <u>g</u> |
| (b) destruction | <u>w</u> |
| (c) slight or brief mental pain | <u>t</u> |
| (d) unpleasant | <u>n</u> |
| (e) very tired | <u>e</u> |
| (f) breathe with short quick breaths | <u>p</u> |
| (g) saying 'yes' | <u>a</u> |

B.3. Read this story about the friendship of a group of girls and how they help each other to solve their problems.

Girl Gang

It was a Saturday afternoon. I'd been allowed to go out shopping on my own. I was sitting on a train for my way home, quite unaware how dramatically my life was about to change. My name, by the way, is Alice. A girl called Kirsty was in the same train. She was also in my class at school but she never even said 'Hello' to me. I wasn't surprised.

The ticket collector appeared and asked for the ticket. I found mine. Then I watched



Kirsty search for her ticket. The ticket collector waited impatiently. Kirsty said, 'I must have lost it.' The ticket collector said, 'You'll have to buy another one.' Kirsty replied, 'But I haven't got any money with me.' The ticket collector said, 'Well then, I shall have to send you to the Authority.' Kirsty begged, 'Oh! don't do that.' At school on Monday, Kirsty ignored me, as usual. So did practically everyone else. I'm not so much unpopular as invisible.

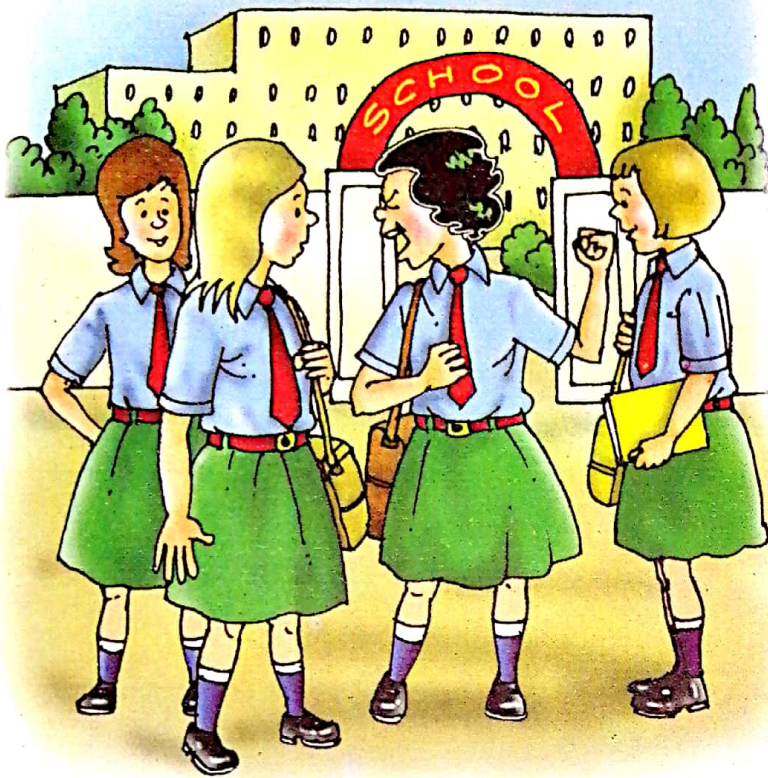
After school I often do my homework in the library. I was about to go home, when Kirsty rushed past and said, 'If old Sour-Breath comes looking for me, you haven't seen me.' I said, 'What?' Kirsty replied, 'You haven't seen me!' Then she was gone. Moments later, our old Sour-Breath or Mr. Sawyer, our geography teacher came **panting** up. He wore huge glasses and had greasy straw coloured hair. There were certain pupils, he always picked on. One of them was Kirsty. He asked, 'Has Kirsty just gone past?' I said, 'No Sir.' He said, 'Are you sure?' I replied in the affirmative. He said, 'But that's impossible. Unless you're in this too. Follow



me!' All Mr. Sawyer's maps and displays were now in pieces on the floor. The whole classroom was wrecked. He asked, 'Look, Do you know anything about this?' I said, 'No.' He further asked, 'Are you sure, Alice?' 'I have been in the library, you can ask Mr. Dawson.' He said, 'Whoever have done this, deserve to be punished, don't they? Now, I'll ask you again. Did you see Kirsty running away.' I felt my face redden. In a way, I hated lying to him. But I couldn't tell on someone. So I said I didn't. He looked suddenly weary and very tired. I couldn't help feeling a **twinge** of sympathy for him.

panting: breathing quickly or loudly

twinge: unpleasant emotion for a short period



Outside the school Kirsty was waiting for me. I told her I never said a thing. I noticed four other girls standing on the opposite side of the road. One of them was in my class. I didn't recognise the others. Kirsty said, 'We've been planning this revenge attack for days. Sour-breath has been asking for it the way he always picks on me. He thinks because I'm a girl I won't do anything. Well now he knows differently. No one bullies me and gets away with it.' 'Is it like Girl Power?' she replied, 'That's exactly what it is. But remember not a word to anyone.' 'I won't let you down.'

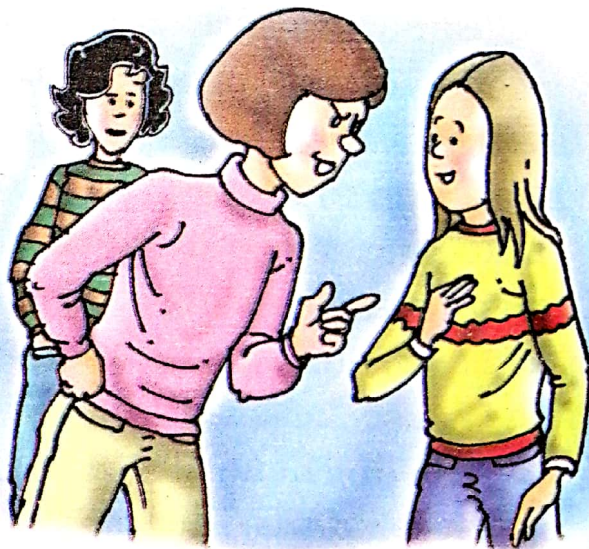
Next day I opened my geography book to find a note in it for me. My heart began to thump. It said, 'Urgent, meet me in the park, 8 o'clock tonight—Kirsty.' I told my mom I was going out with some girls from my class.

I walked on quickly. The park was dark and silent. I felt really nervous. Then shapes appeared out of the darkness. A group of girls boomed over me. Kirsty stepped forward. She introduced the other girls to me. A girl called Sandra seemed to be the leader. She was in the year above me at school. The girls walked either side of me. We came out of the park and Janice was waiting on the way. She was in my form. She looked very surprised to see me. She was holding a carrier bag full of apples. Kirsty asked me, 'Do you remember that conductor on the train who was so nasty to me recently?' 'Yes.' 'Well, Janice's assignment was to find out where he lived and lead the revenge attack. He and his wife are inside the house. Let's go.' She swarmed through the back gate and hid behind the shed. Then, after the signal, Janice charged towards the green house windows. There was a whispered cheer. Then everyone joined in.



Even me. The green house was bombarded with apples. Kirsty warned, 'Look Out.' Everyone ran off. I could hear a man's voice shouting after us. The others were far away, but I was suddenly exhausted. I didn't think I could run another step. Kirsty encouragingly said, 'Keep going. You can do it!' I tried my hardest. Finally, I caught up with the others. They were all shaking Janice by hand. Sandra said, 'It was brilliant!' Kirsty said, 'No one messes with us and gets away with it. We help each other.'

Suddenly, Sandra was towering over me. 'You must promise not to reveal anything you've seen tonight!' 'I promise.' Kirsty said, 'Well, we might have some news for you soon.' I watched the girls walk away. A small army. I wondered what the news might be. Were they going to let me be a member?

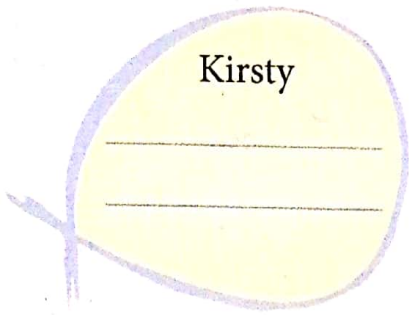
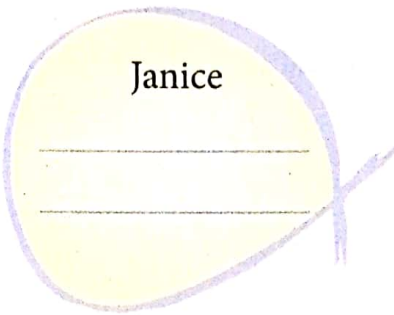
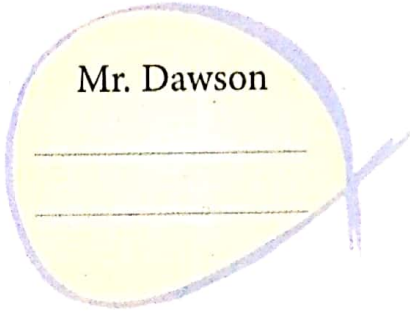
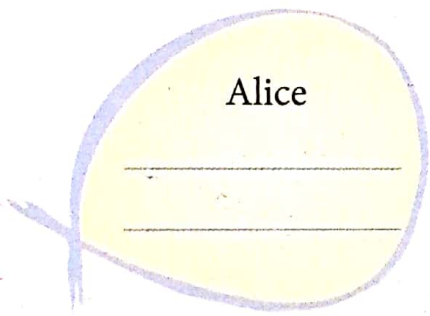
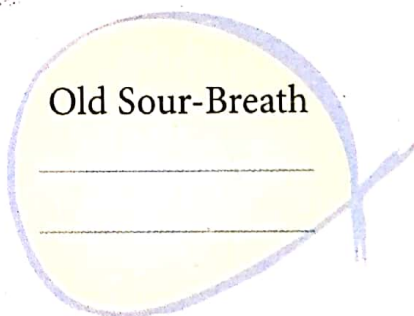


That was such an exciting idea, I hardly dared to think about it.

Next day after school Kirsty and Sandra were waiting for me. Kirsty said, 'We can nominate new members. I'd like to nominate you.' I was so pleased, I could hardly speak.

But I was happy that at last I was a part of the Girls' Power Gang.

B.4. On the basis of your reading of the story, write who the following people are.

 <p>Kirsty</p> <hr/> <hr/>	 <p>Janice</p> <hr/> <hr/>	 <p>Mr. Dawson</p> <hr/> <hr/>
 <p>Alice</p> <hr/> <hr/>	 <p>Sandra</p> <hr/> <hr/>	 <p>Old Sour-Breath</p> <hr/> <hr/>

B.5. Write T for True and F for False statements.

- (a) Alice was travelling without ticket.
- (b) Kirsty enjoyed Geography classes in the school.
- (a) Alice felt a little sorry for Mr. Sawyer.
- (d) Sandra was senior to Alice.
- (e) The green house belonged to Mr. Sawyer.

<input type="checkbox"/>
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B.6. Complete the following statements.

- (a) Kirsty couldn't buy another ticket because _____
- (b) The students referred Mr. Sawyer's as _____
- (c) Kirsty took revenge on Mr. Sawyer by _____
- (d) Alice promised Sandra and other girls _____

B.7. Complete the following table.

The revenge taken by the Girl Gang.

S.No.	Against	By	At	Time	Because
1.					
2.					

B.8. HOTS

1. The Girl Gang allowed Alice to be a member of their group because...

- (a) _____
- (b) _____
- (c) _____

2. Kirsty and her gang wrecked Mr. Sawyer's classrooms. Are their actions justified?

ARE YOU A GOOD FRIEND?

Alice was supportive of Kirsty. This helped her make friends with her. What makes you a good friend?

Complete the web chart with the words that describe your personal qualities.

I am _____

I am _____

I am _____

PASTE YOUR PICTURE
HERE

*I am a good friend
because...*

I am _____

I am _____

I am _____

B.10. Values

Kirsty and her gang indulged in unruly activities to assert their power. But, 'Power is not about wilful behaviour, it is about righteous behaviour.'

What qualities and values should we try to inculcate in ourselves to make this society a better place to live in? A few have been enlisted below.

tolerance	secularism	empathy
-----------	------------	---------

To make this society a better place to live in, we should—

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

B.11. Here are a few words from the story, but the letters are jumbled. Using the hints given, unjumble the words to find the correct answer.

Hints

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| (a) | a t r a l d a m i c l y | <u>d</u> _____ | (It is an adverb) |
| (b) | l n a p p u o u r | <u>u</u> _____ | (It is an adjective) |
| (c) | k r c w e | <u>w</u> _____ | (It is a verb) |
| (d) | m s t i g a n e s n | <u>a</u> _____ | (It is a noun) |
| (e) | l t b i i l n r a | <u>b</u> _____ | (It is an adjective) |

B.12. School News

Be a Reporter

Collect information about the latest activities and happenings in your school. Prepare three news items and present them before the class in an interesting style.

You can use PowerPoint presentations or props to make your presentations effective.





Listen to the audio CD titled *Listen & Comprehend* (Class-VI). After listening, answer the questions asked in the audio CD verbally. Listen to the tape script once again and attempt the given question. The tape script is also given on page no. 80.

C.1. It is said that school-time is the best time of one's life. It is a wonderful mix of experiences—some really good, some funny, ribtickling ones and a few somewhat nightmarish. Let us listen to a thrilling incident from the speaker's life. As you listen to the tape script, number the events in the order in which they happened.

- ☐ The teacher got a black eye.
- ☐ The plane soared high.
- ☐ The plane was crushed and landed in the bin.
- ☐ The speaker made a paper aeroplane.
- ☐ Suddenly, the plane crashed and hit the teacher in the eye.
- ☐ He was sure that the plane would swoop and dive beautifully.



Read it Yourself

Read the following story about a little boy who was known for his bad luck.

► The Inside-Out Stocking

Once there was a little boy called Rex, who always had bad luck. People were very sorry for him because he was so unlucky.

If he ran too fast he fell down and hurt his knee. If he climbed into a swing, he soon fell out. If he had a pound given to him, it was lost through a hole in his pocket. That was the kind of little boy he was.



There was one thing he was very good at, and that was running races. He could run really fast, it really was marvellous to see him run.

In the school, the sports fest was going to be held. All the schools of the town were to meet there and see which one was the best at running, jumping, slow bicycle racing, obstacle races and other things. It would be great fun.

'I hope you will win the running race for us,' said the Headmaster of his school to Rex. 'You ought to, my boy, for you are a splendid runner for your age.'



'I'll do my best, Sir', answered Rex, 'but I'm a very unlucky person, you know. I never win anything!'

'Rex is sure to get measles or mumps on the day of the race!' said one of the bigger boys. Rex's sister Lucy was very concerned for her brother and wished that he won the race, for she felt sure that only if Rex was able to run in the race he would win it, for certain!

Lucy thought of going to mother Brown, who lived in a little cottage at the end of their village. 'People say she is very old and wise, so perhaps, she could tell me how to help Rex.' She took an egg laid by her own

little white hen to give to mother Brown. The old lady was very pleased and told Lucy to sit down in her big rocking chair.

'Mother Brown, could you tell me how a person can be lucky?' asked Lucy.

'Well a black cat brings luck,' said Mother Brown.



Lucy thought that that was no use to her because there was no black cat near her home. 'Then, it's lucky if you get up in the morning and put on your stockings inside out without noticing,' said Mother Brown.

Lucy's eyes brightened. Ah! here was something she could do! Suppose she crept into her brother's bedroom the night before the sports day and turned one of his stockings inside out. If he didn't notice it, it might make him very lucky that day and he would win the race.

So the night before the sports day, Lucy lay wide awake in bed, waiting for Rex to fall asleep and quickly turned one of his stockings inside out. The next morning Lucy looked anxiously to see if one of his stockings was inside out. It was! He had put it on without noticing it.



Both of them went to the school. The races were beginning. First one race, then another - the jumping - then the slow bicycle race - then the egg and spoon race - Rex won that! He didn't drop his egg once, and he was so surprised and pleased.

He won the running race too! Once he stumbled and almost fell - but not quite! He finished well ahead of other children and everyone clapped and cheered loudly. 'Well! wasn't I lucky today!' cried Rex, very pleased and proud. 'I can't think what happened to me! I really can't. Look at my running prize.' Lucy didn't tell him what she had done.



She thought I'll creep into his room each time I want him to have a lucky day, and turn one of his stockings inside out again.

Rex often has lucky days now, and he can't think why. But I can!



Tape Script



Aerodynamic Mishap

I made a paper aeroplane
It really was the best,
I took my time to make it right
To that I can attest!

I'd planned it all so thoroughly,
I'd sketched from either side,
I knew that all would be amazed
To see it swoop and dive.

But its first flight was not too planned
Though it soared up high,
The teacher turned, it crashed and burned
And hit her in the eye!

My plane, screwed up, went in the bin,
All agreed it was a shame.
But my teacher's got a big black eye,
And I'm the one to blame!

—Gareth Lancaster