MAY 2026
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PCM

THE CHILDREN'S MAGAZINE

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DOCTOR SPEAKS

COVER PICTURE

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Class II, Horizon International Academy, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Dr S Krishnan
Professor and Head, Department of Psychiatry, Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

Activities | Stories | Rhymes | Contests

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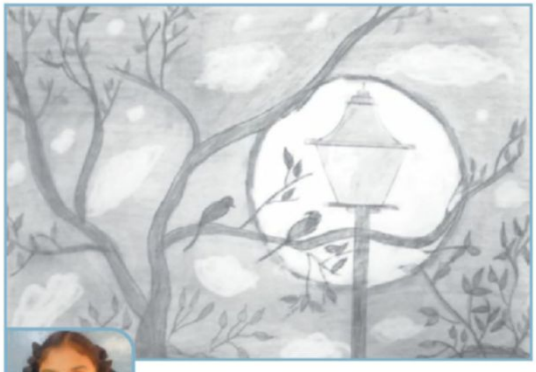


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To Parents and Teachers



Dr. N K Vijayan Karippal

DECISION MAKERS vs. OBEDIENT CHILDREN

Should we raise children to always obey or should we prepare them for real life? This is a pertinent question. Obedience is immediate and momentary, whereas acquiring decision-making skills supports a positive life in the long run. The cost of overobedience in children can be very high. Such children may develop a fear of making mistakes. They may constantly seek validation or approval for their thoughts and actions, often asking, "Is it okay?", "Is it right?", "Can I do this?", etc. The greatest cost of overobedience is that children may either become overly dependent or turn rebellious at a later stage.

Too much instructions or compulsions in all matters may make children obedient, but they can drastically affect their decision-making abilities. There needs to be a step-by-step shift from instruction to inquiry/questions. Motivating children to make small decisions can create the desired change. Encouraging them to experience the outcomes and consequences of their decisions, within safe limits is essential. Parents and teachers should train children in the process of decision-making rather than simply teaching what is right or wrong.

Unfortunately, most children do not get adequate opportunities to develop decision-making skills in their early years. One of the major stumbling blocks in classrooms is the expectation that students must either provide one correct answer or remain silent. This rigid approach often discourages participation and limits creative thinking. When children feel that only perfection is accepted, they hesitate to express their ideas, fearing mistakes or criticism.

Instead, classrooms should become spaces where partially correct answers, diverse perspectives, and even incorrect attempts are welcomed as part of the learning process. Such an environment encourages children to think more broadly, ask questions, and explore multiple ways toward solving the same problem. It helps them understand that learning is not about always being right, but about thinking, experimenting, and improving.

When children are consistently given opportunities and encouragement to make decisions, both in classrooms and at home, they begin to develop a strong sense of responsibility and ownership over their actions. They learn to weigh options, consider consequences, and trust their own judgement. In contrast, excessive control and constant instructions can lead to self-doubt, hesitation, and a lack of confidence in their abilities.

Over time, nurturing decision-making skills helps children build self-trust and self-confidence. It empowers them to face challenges independently, adapt to new situations, and grow into capable individuals. •

Which is Mine?

Can you match the things in the box below that belong to each monkey? Draw a line from each thing to the correct monkey. Colour the pictures too.









How it benefits:

This activity helps children improve their observation and matching skills. It also develops their thinking ability and attention to details.

Find the Tyre Marks

Look at the cars. Draw a line from each car to its tyre mark. Then, colour the cars.



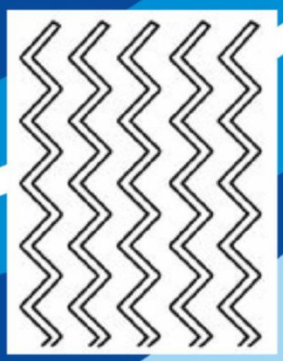














How it benefits:
This activity helps children improve their observation and matching skills. It also develops their hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills.

When I Say One!

1 When I say one,
Clap for fun!



2 When I say two,
Tap your shoe.



3 When I say three,
Nod with me.



4 When I say four,
Touch the floor.



5 When I say five,
Wave and say "Hi".



6 When I say six,
Do some kicks.



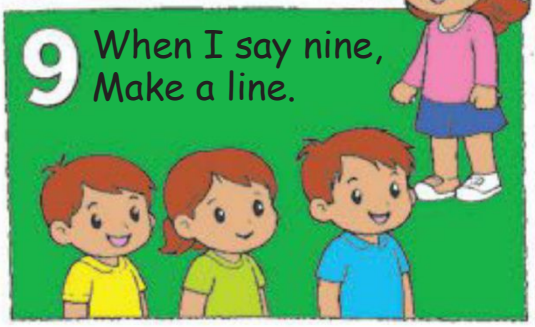
7 When I say seven,
Say with me, "Seven!"



8 When I say eight,
Stand up straight.



9 When I say nine,
Make a line.

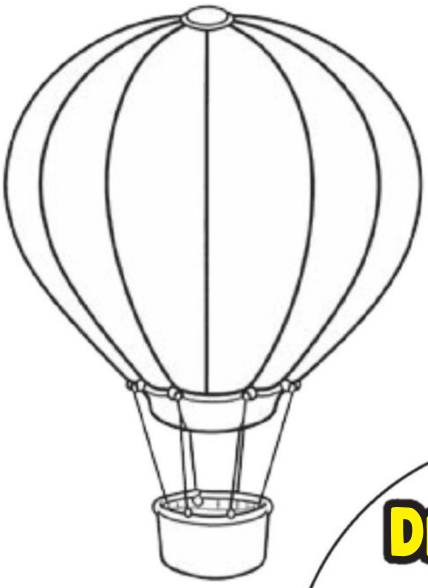


10 When I say ten,
Jump again!

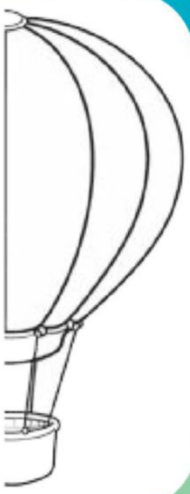


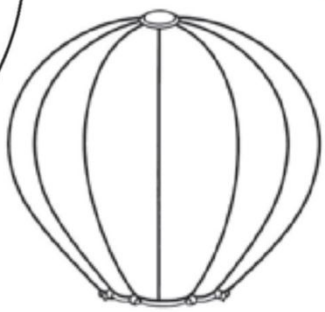
Draw and Colour

Look at the hot air balloon given here. Complete the pictures the same way. Then, colour the pictures.



1





2



3



4

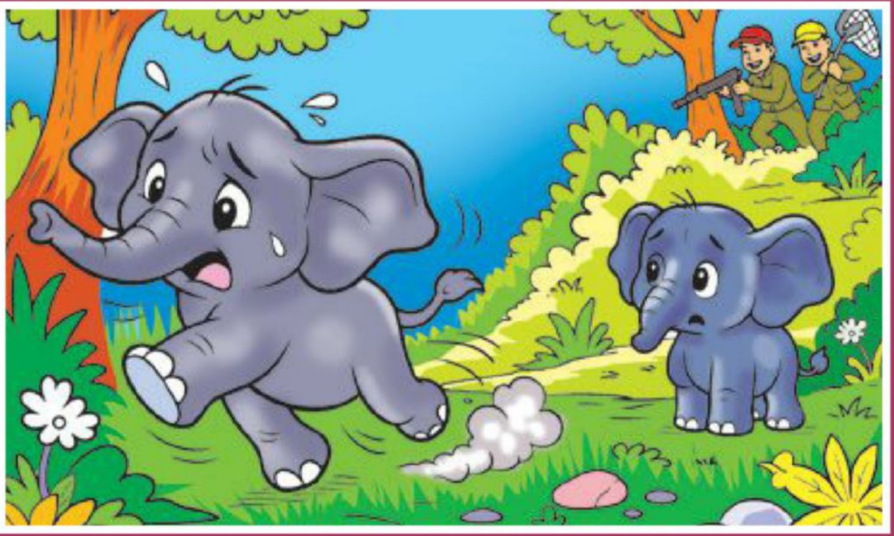
How it benefits:

This activity helps children improve their drawing and observation skills by looking carefully at the model picture. It also develops fine motor skills and creativity when they complete and colour the pictures.

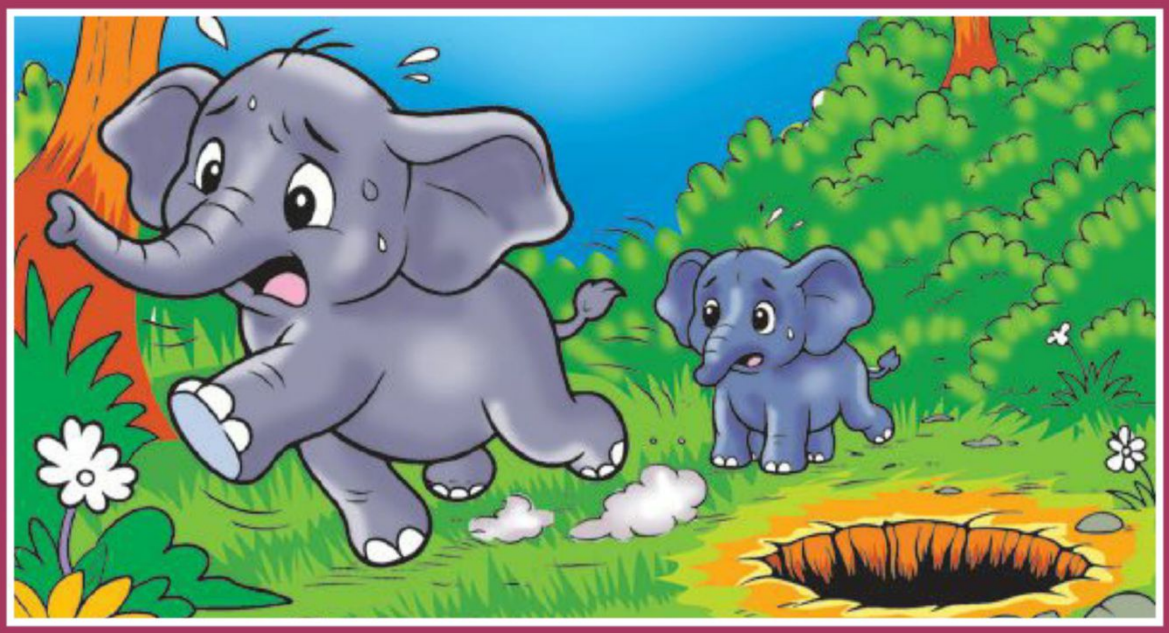
Pöpu the Little Elephant



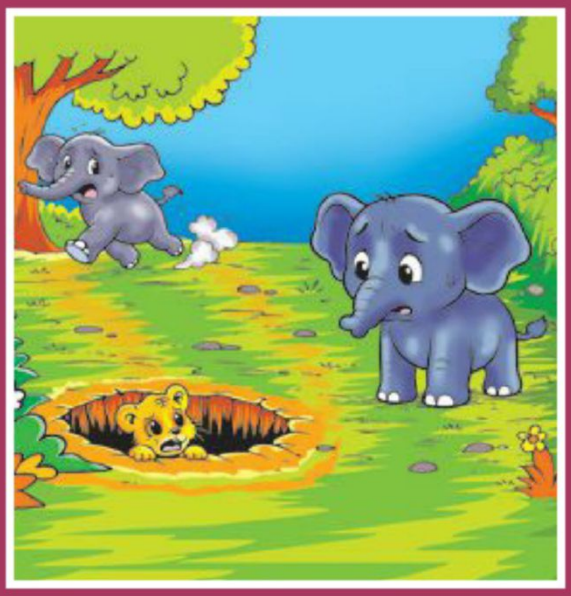
Popu is a smart little elephant. He lives in the forest with his mother and father. Popu always helps others.



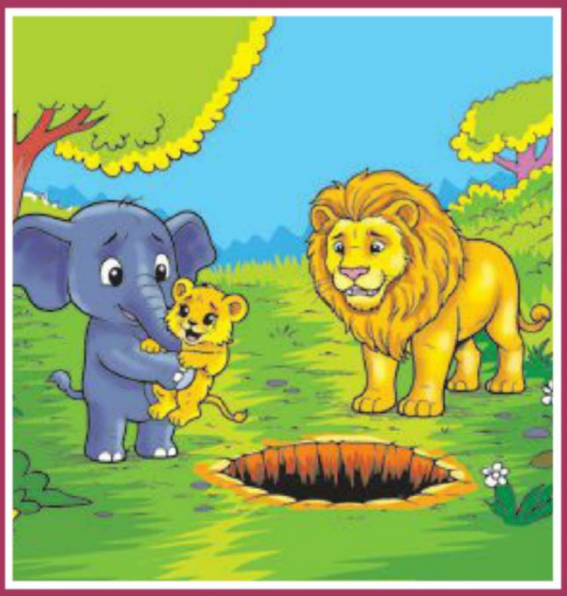
One day, some elephant hunters came to the forest. "Oh no! Popu, follow me! Otherwise they will kill us!" Popu's mother cried and began to run.



Popu got scared and followed his mother. Then he heard a sound from a nearby pit. "Help me, please!"



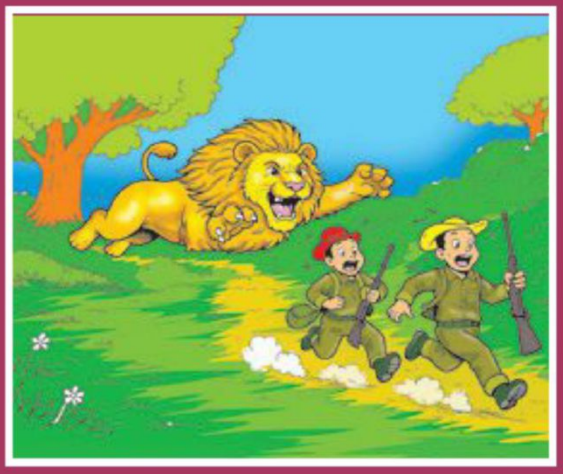
Popu stopped. He saw a little lion cub in the pit. "Popu, don't stay there! Follow me!" cried his mother.



But Popu helped the lion cub out of the pit. Just then, the cub's father, a big lion, came there.



"Thank you for helping my son. Don't be scared. I will stop the hunters!" said the lion.



"Grrr!" The lion jumped towards the hunters. The hunters got scared and ran away. They never returned to the forest again.

Count and Write

Count each type of animal footprints and write the number in the circles below. Colour the pictures too.

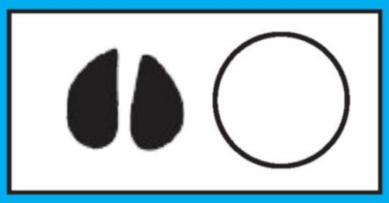


How it benefits:

This activity helps children improve their counting skills, observation, and creativity through colouring and recognition of animals.

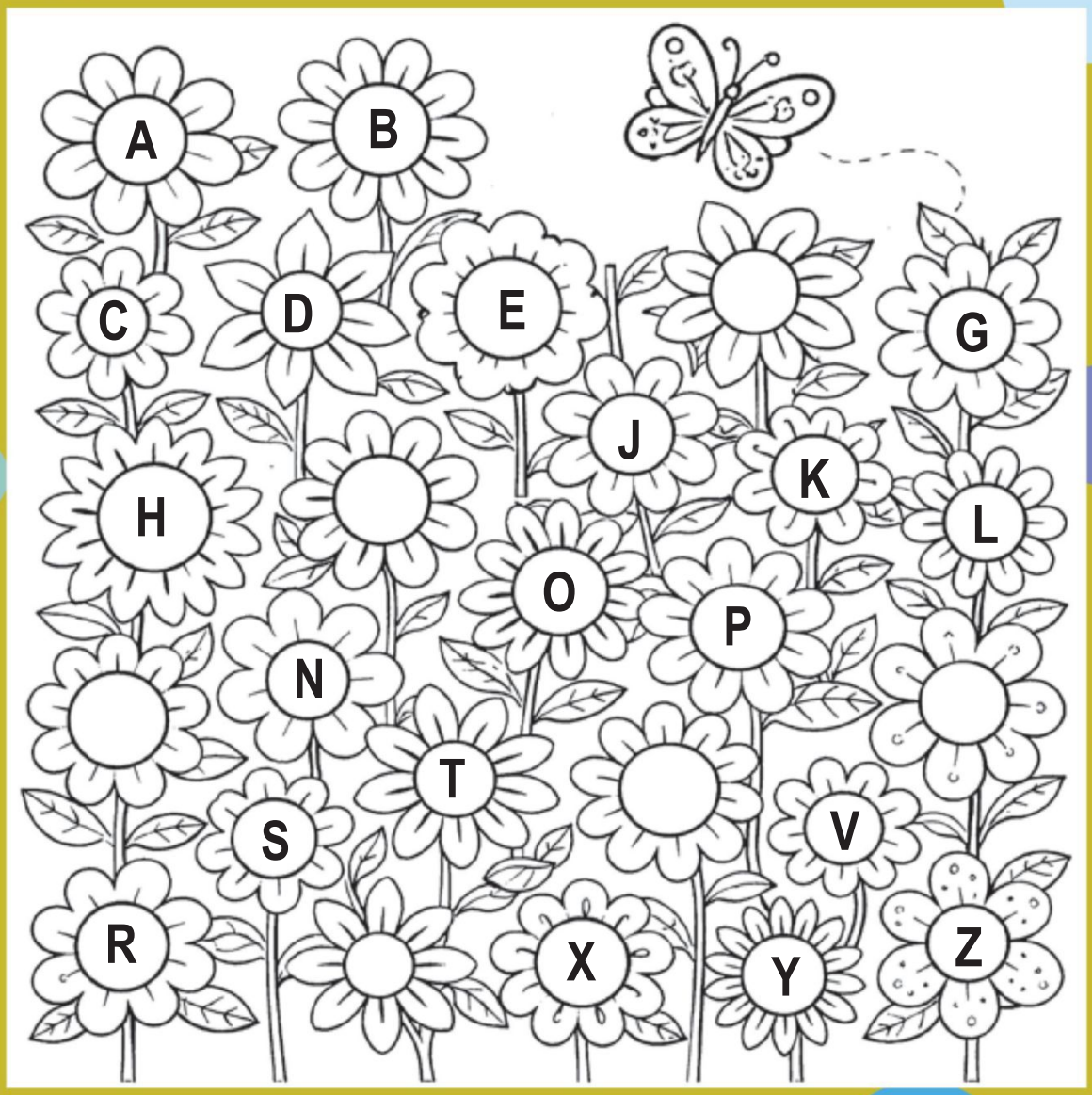






Alphabet Flowers

Each flower has a letter from A to Z. Find and fill in the missing letters. Then, colour the flowers and the butterfly.



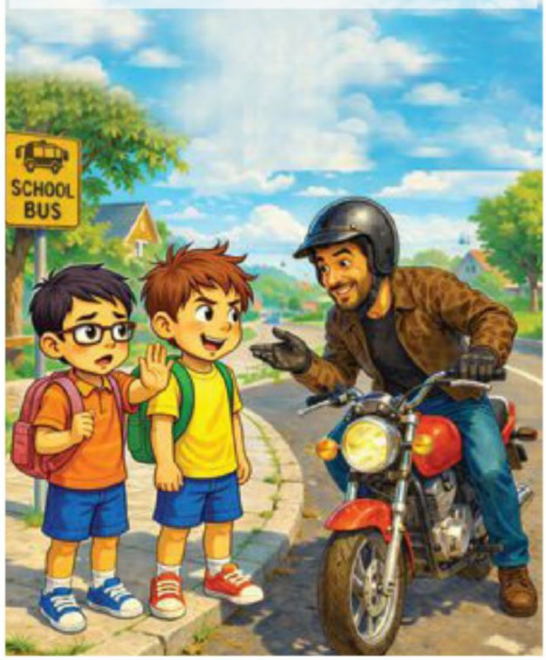


Chicku and Bikku are friends. Chicku is a smart boy. He always does good things and helps others, whereas Bikku is a naughty boy. He does not like helping others.



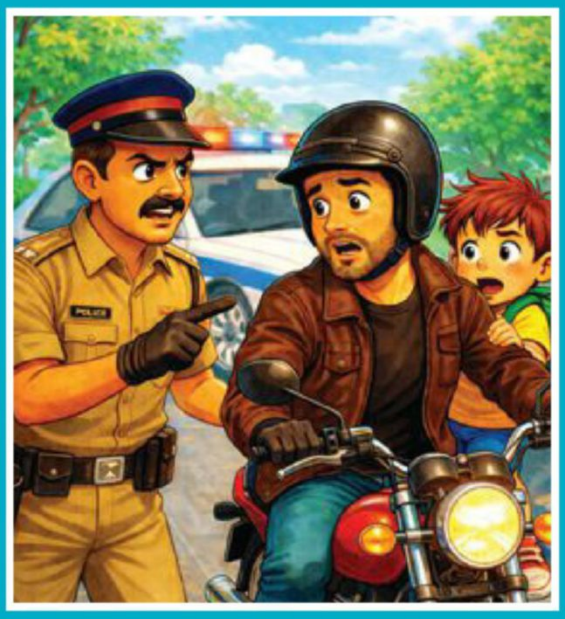
One day, Chicku and Bikku were waiting for the school bus. But the bus was late.

Then, a man on a bike stopped near them. "Do you want a lift to your school?" he asked. "No!" said Chicku.

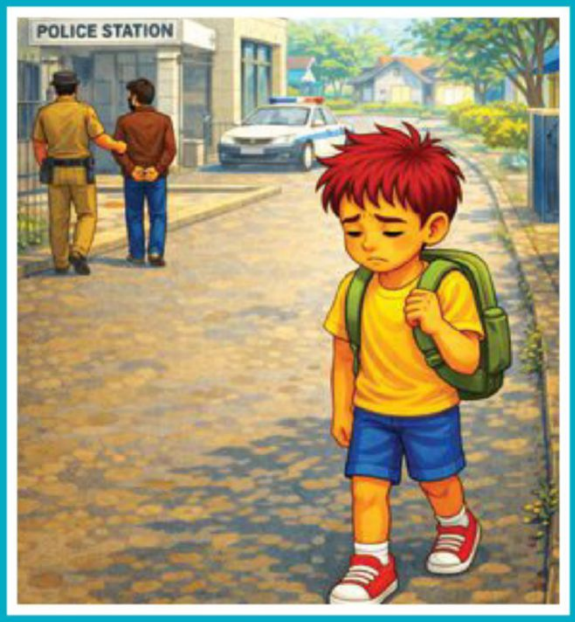




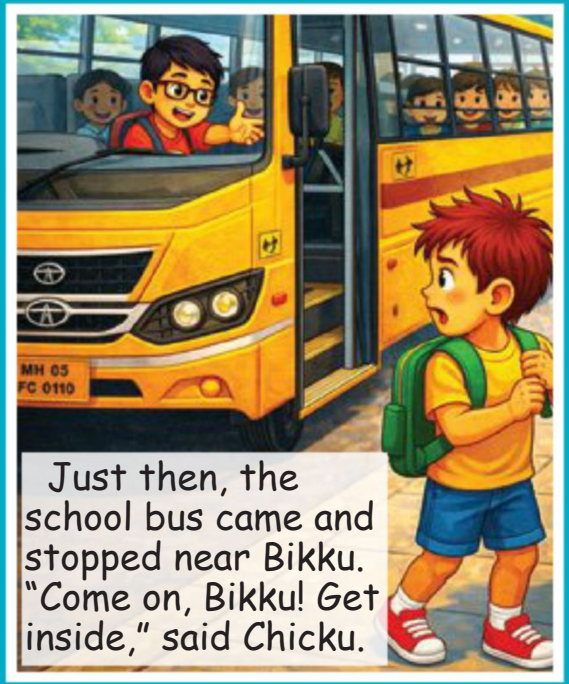
But Bikku said, "Yes, I am coming." Bikku sat on the bike, and the man rode away.



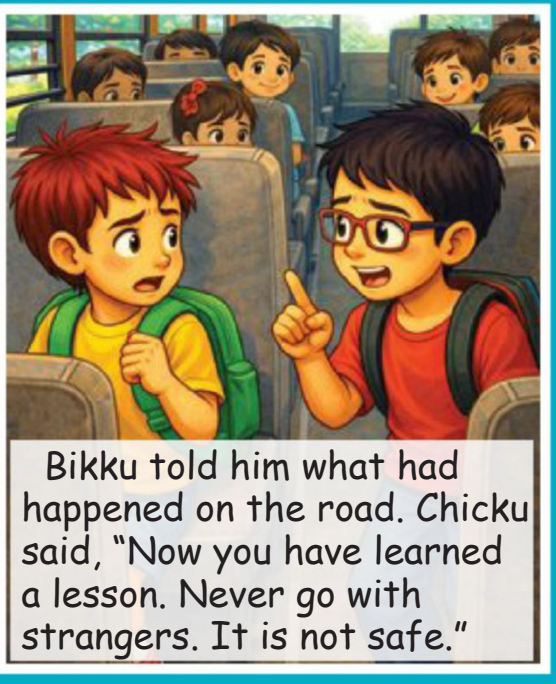
On the way, a policeman stopped the bike. "You are under arrest!" said the policeman. "You were selling prohibited things near the school." Bikku got very scared.



The policeman took the biker to the police station. Bikku did not know what to do. He walked home sadly.



Just then, the school bus came and stopped near Bikku. "Come on, Bikku! Get inside," said Chicku.



Bikku told him what had happened on the road. Chicku said, "Now you have learned a lesson. Never go with strangers. It is not safe."



Aesop was a famous storyteller from long ago. He told stories using animal characters to teach moral values. His stories are called ***Aesop's Fables*** and are loved by children everywhere.

The Gööse That Laïd Gölden Eggs

A woman had a very special goose. This goose laid one golden egg every day. The woman sold the golden eggs and became rich.

But soon she became greedy. She wanted more gold and more money.

One day she thought, 'If the goose lays golden eggs, there must be a lot of gold inside its body. If I cut the goose open, I could take all the gold at once!'





So, the greedy woman killed the goose and cut it open.

But inside the goose there was no gold at all. There were only the normal parts of the goose. The woman realised she had made a terrible mistake.

Now the goose was dead. It could not lay golden eggs anymore.

The woman cried sadly, "Oh no! I should have been happy with the golden eggs I got every day. Because of my greed, I have lost everything."

From that day on, the woman had no more golden eggs and no more gold.

Sanchit Sharma

The Cat and the Tortoise



A cat and a tortoise were good friends who met daily by the riverbank. One day, the cat wished to cross the river and asked his friend for help. The tortoise agreed but warned, "Sit still and don't look at strange things." The cat agreed.

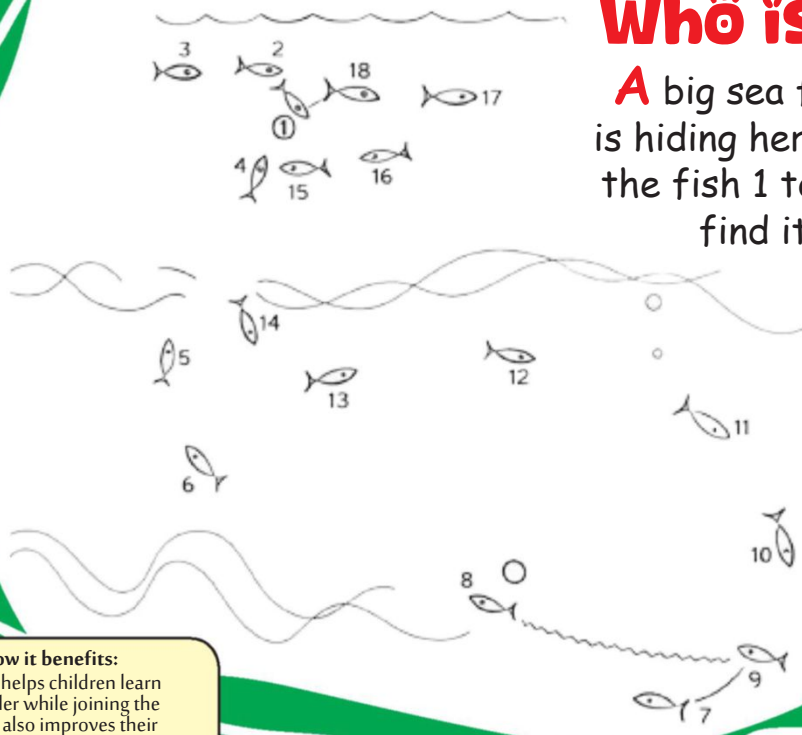
As they crossed the river, the cat saw a shiny fish and forgot the warning. It jumped into the water to catch it. But the cat could not swim and began to drown. The tortoise quickly rescued it and brought it back safely.

"Greed brings trouble," said the tortoise. The cat felt ashamed and promised to be wiser.

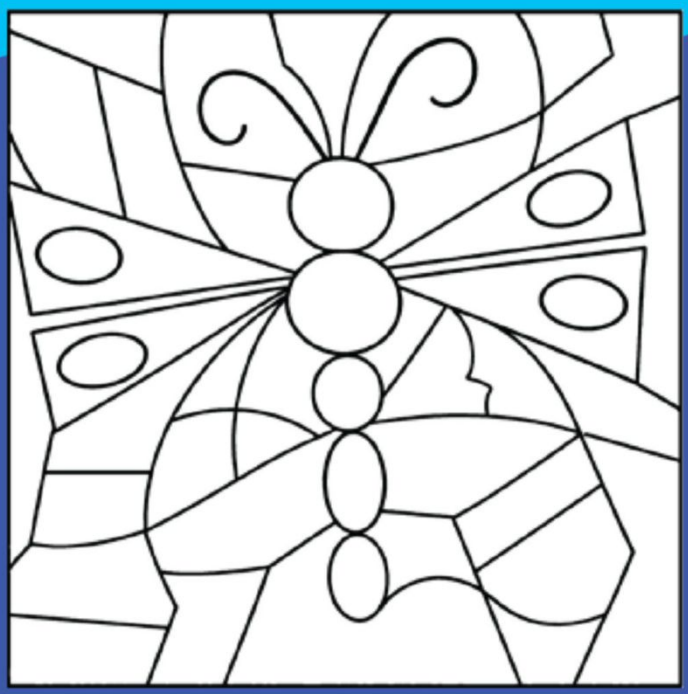
Hafza Majid

Who is it?

A big sea friend is hiding here. Join the fish 1 to 18 to find it.



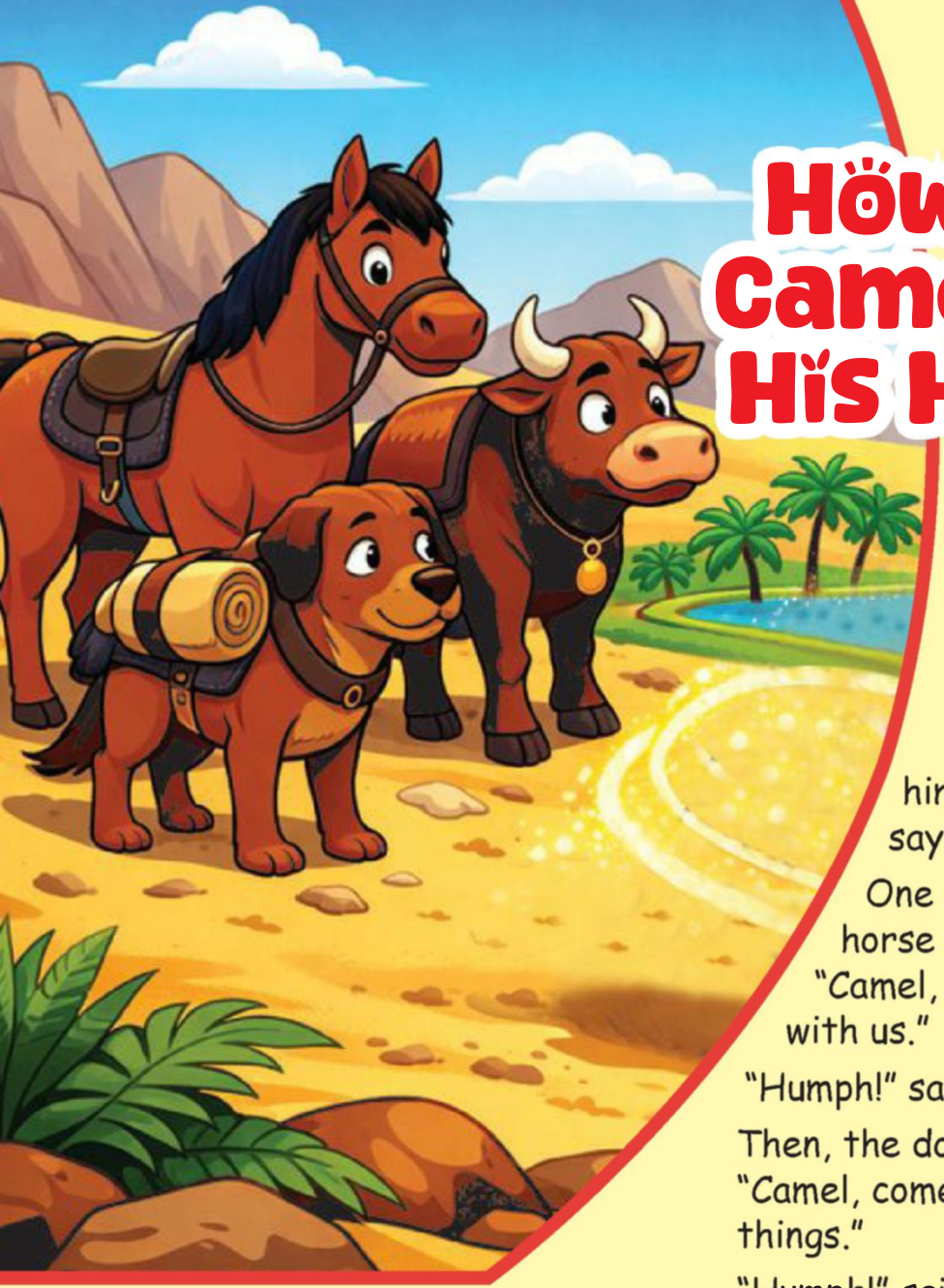
How it benefits:
This puzzle helps children learn number order while joining the numbers. It also improves their concentration and observation skills.



Who is Hiding?

Can you find who is hiding in this picture? Colour the circles ● brown, the triangles ▲ yellow, and the ovals ⬭ orange.

How the Camel Got His Hump



Listen & Read

Scan the QR code

Long ago, when the world was new, all the animals began to work for man. But there was a camel who lived in the desert. He was very lazy and did not want to work. Whenever anyone spoke to him, he would only say, "humph!"

One morning, the horse came and said, "Camel, come and run with us."

"Humph!" said the camel.

Then, the dog came and said, "Camel, come and help carry things."

"Humph!" said the camel again.

Next, an ox came and said, "Camel, come and plough the fields."

"Humph!" said the camel.

So, the horse, dog, and ox

had to do all the work alone. They became very tired and unhappy.

Soon, the Lord of the Desert came by. The animals told him about the lazy camel. The Lord went to the camel and said, "Why don't you work?"

"Humph!" said the camel again.

The Lord used his magic. Suddenly, the camel's back grew big and round. It became a hump!

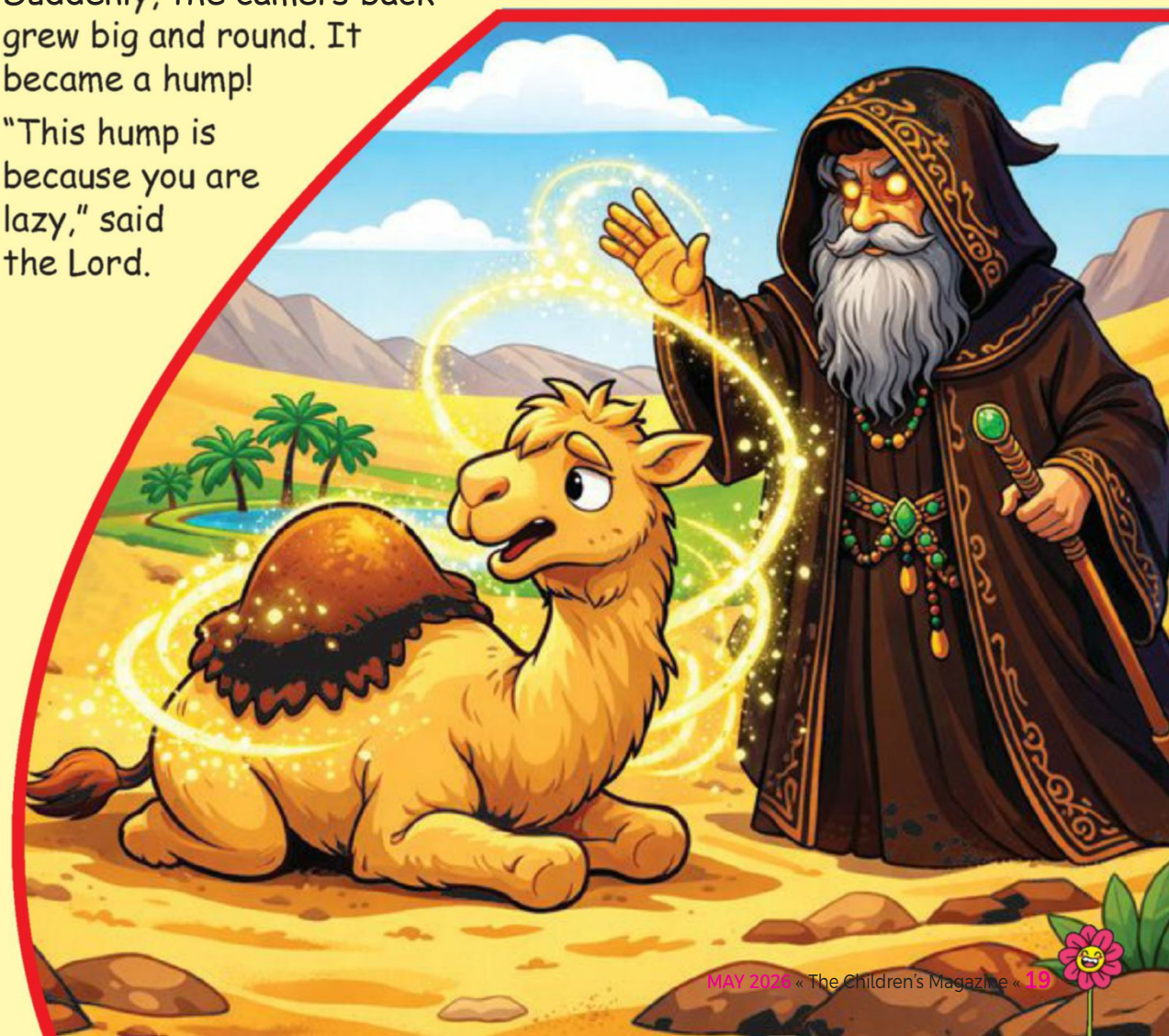
"This hump is because you are lazy," said the Lord.

"Now you can work for days without food."

The camel felt sorry. He went to help the other animals and started working.

From that day on, the camel always had a hump on his back.

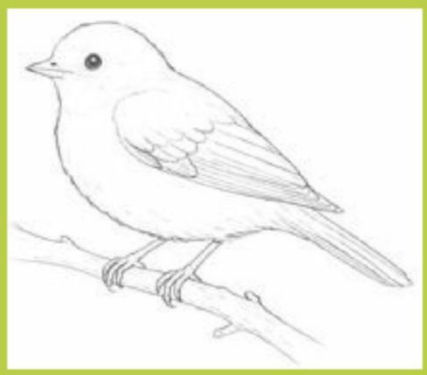
(Adapted from a story by **Rudyard Kipling**)



Which One Made it?

These pictures were made by a marker, crayon, pencil and paintbrush. Can you tell which one made each picture? Then, colour the pictures too.











How it benefits:

This activity helps children recognise different drawing materials and how they make different marks. It also improves observation skills and encourages thinking and matching.



The Happy Little Firefly

"Firefly, where are you going so bright?
Why are you blinking your tiny light?"
"I help my friends who can't see at night,
And play silly games till morning light! "

Kavya Rana

What Comes Next?

Look at the numbers on the flowers. Write the missing numbers. Then, colour the flowers.





Match the Dress

Find the matching dress pairs.
Draw a line to join them.

Fill in the Boxes

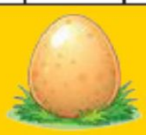
Look at each picture. Write its name in the boxes. Use the numbers to find the correct word.













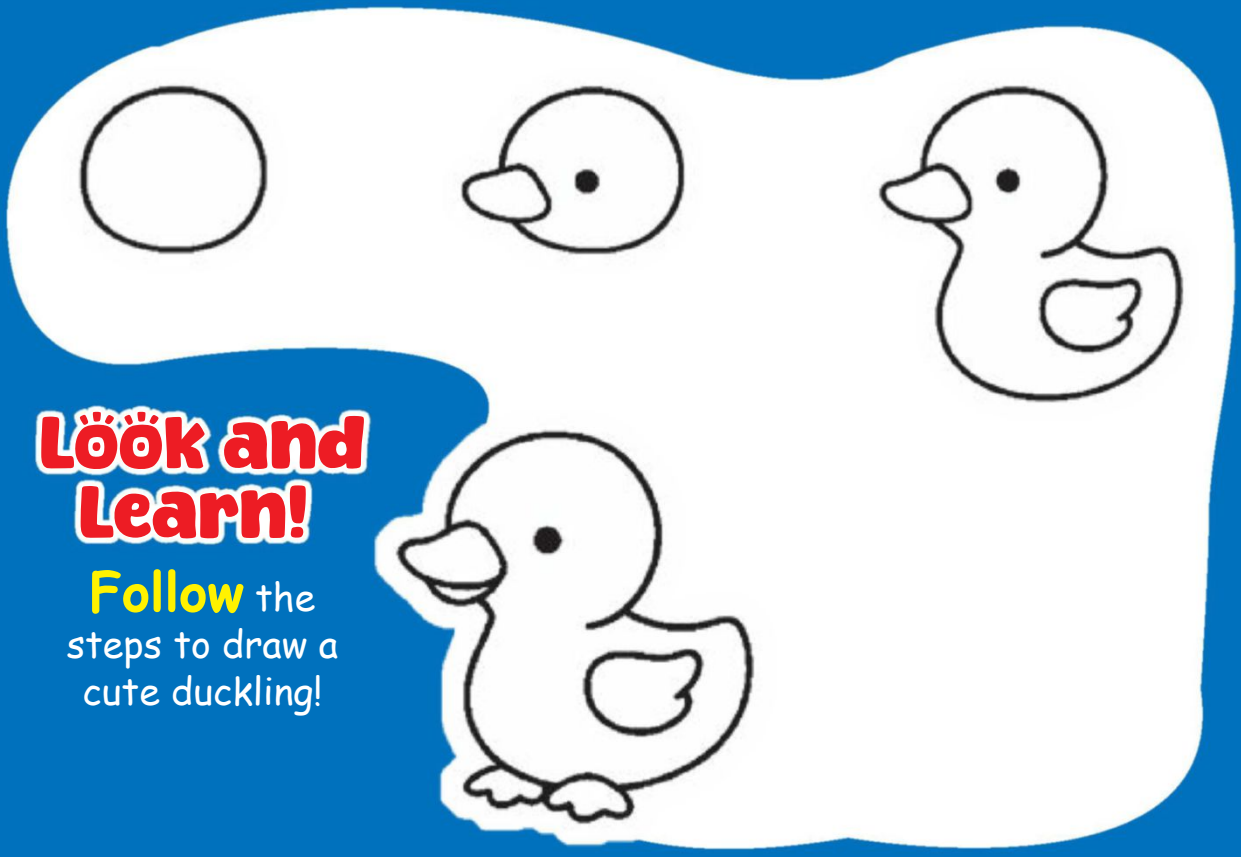


	D 1					
2						
	L 3	4				5 R
6						
		7				

How it benefits:
This puzzle helps children learn new words and improve their spelling. It also builds thinking skills by helping them match pictures with the correct words.

Look and Learn!

Follow the steps to draw a cute duckling!



Cakes and Pieces

Match each piece with the correct cake.



Count the Letters

Find how many M, N, n, P, D, and d are hidden in the picture. Count each letter carefully and write the number below. Then, colour each letter using different colours.



M ◯ N ◯ n ◯ D ◯ d ◯ P ◯

Name Puzzle

The letters in the names are mixed up. Can you write the correct name in the boxes? Colour the pictures too!



R T G I E



I L N O



S U B



E R O N A G

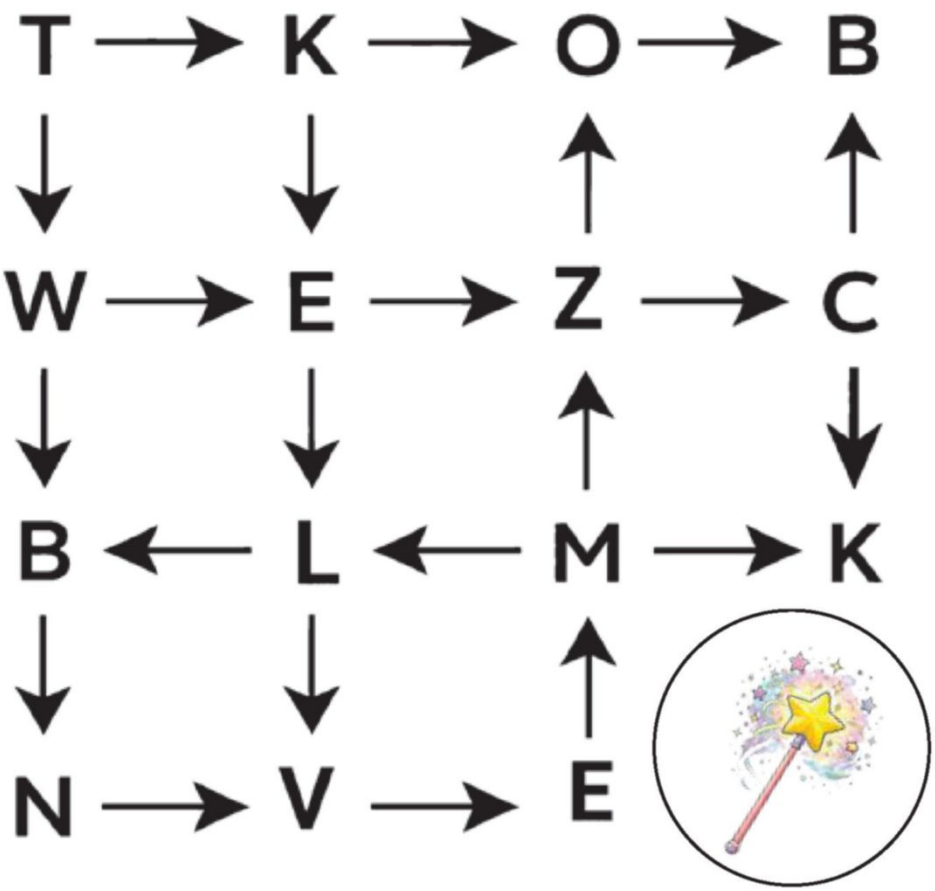
How it benefits:
This puzzle helps children recognise letters and learn simple words in a fun way. They also their memory, thinking abilities and problem-solving skills.



Help the Angel!

Oh no! The angel has lost her magic wand. Can you help her find it? Do you know how many months are in a year? Then say it, and follow the correct letters to reach the magic wand. When you find it, colour the angel!

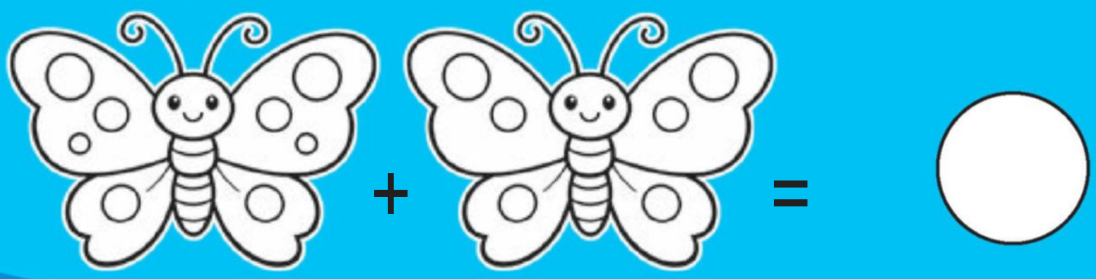
How it benefits:
This activity helps children learn letters and simple spelling in a fun way. It also improves their thinking skills, focus, and problem-solving ability.

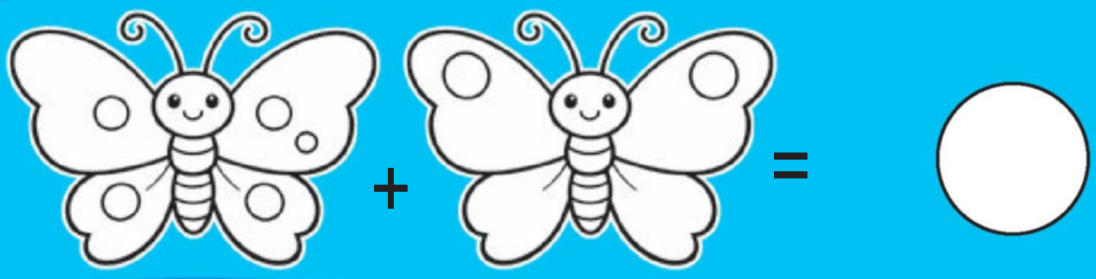


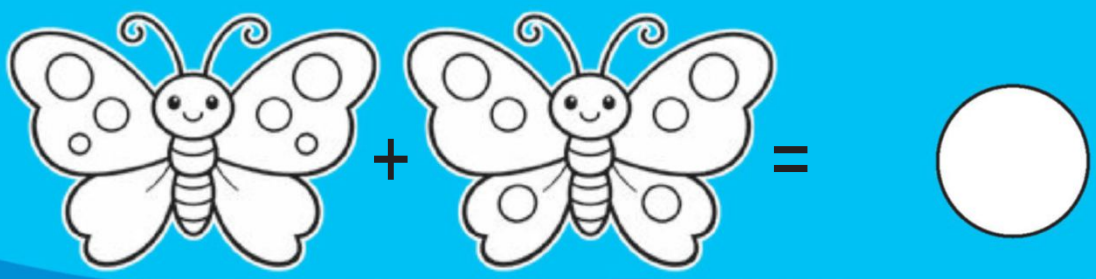
How Many Spots?

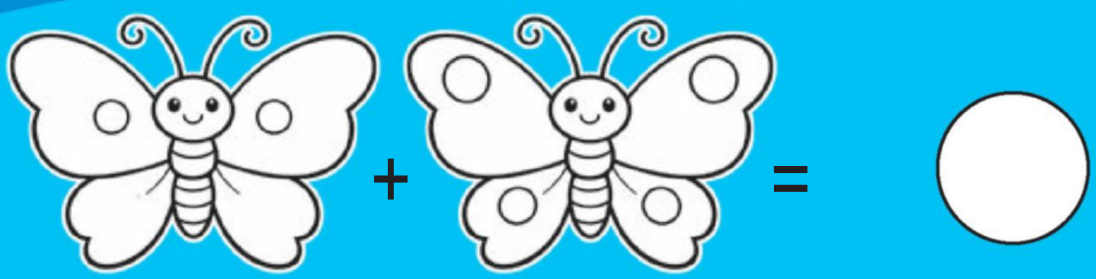
Count the circles on the butterfly's wings and write the total number of circles. Then, colour the butterflies!

How it benefits:
This activity helps children identify shapes and develop basic math skills by adding them.









LISTEN TO ELDERS





Sreekumar
Cherthala, Alappuzha, Kerala.

It was raining, and the river was flowing fast and wild. A flock of ducks was standing by the riverbank. One young duck named Ramu said, "Wow! Look how fast the river is flowing! I can see small fish and insects. If I jump in, I can catch and eat them!"

Then, an old duck replied, "Ramu, don't do anything foolish. The water is moving too fast. If you jump in, the current will carry you away. You won't be able to swim back. You may end up, who knows where! This is not like jumping in a pond or a field canal."



But Ramu was too excited and didn't listen. When the others weren't looking, he jumped into the river. Right away, the strong current pulled him along. Ramu shouted loudly, "Help me! Please save me!"

The flock of ducks heard his cries and saw him being carried away. They didn't know how to help. Not far ahead, there was a large waterfall. If he went over it, they would never see him again. What could they do?



That's when they saw Damu, the vulture, sitting on a tree branch. The ducks appealed

to him to help and save Ramu. Damu agreed and quickly flew toward the river. Just in time, he grabbed Ramu and brought him back safely. Ramu was soaking wet and scared.

Ramu and all the ducks thanked Damu. Then, Ramu said, "This all happened to me because I didn't listen to the elder duck.



Our elders tell us things for our safety. If we listen to them, only good things will happen to us." ●

The Garden



Arushi Arun
Class IV, Amrutha Public School, Kozhikode, Kerala.

I was walking in the garden,
I saw trees of many kinds.
I saw the sun rising and flowers blooming,
What a nice day, so shining!
The flowers look pretty and the world is beautiful,
What can we do to make the world look so better?
Just plant more trees, and they will give us shade,
Throw the garbage in the bin,
And the world will look better again! ●



The Tiny Firefly and the Forest of Stories





Dr. Riya Gupta
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

In a quiet green forest lived a very tiny firefly named Lumi. She was much smaller than the other fireflies, and because of that, many animals laughed at her.

"Why do you even glow so little?" they teased.

Lumi felt sad and lonely. "I am so tiny," she often whispered, "I don't have any friends." Only one animal was kind to her — Olo the Owl, the eldest and wisest in the forest. One evening, he gently took Lumi to the old forest library, made of hollow trees and leaves.

"Read books, dear," the owl said softly. "Make books your best friends. The forest is glad to have you."



Saket Kumar

One cloudy night, thick clouds covered the sky. The moon disappeared, and all the baby animals felt scared.

"When will the moon come back?" they cried.

Lumi felt a spark in her heart.

'Today is the day to prove my presence,' she thought. She flew to a green leaf and wrote one glowing word: "Once". On the next leaf, she wrote: "Upon".

Once upon a time, there was a little forest that forgot how to hope…

But a tiny light reminded everyone that darkness never lasts forever…

Soon, she wrote a small motivational quote and some tiny stories. Each word glowed warmly in the dark.

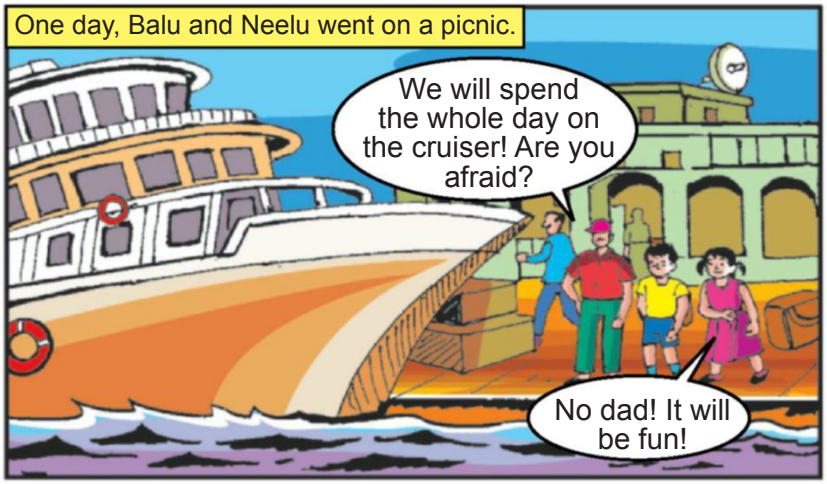
The children smiled, felt brave, and slowly fell asleep listening to Lumi's shining stories. Soon, the clouds moved away and moonlight filled the forest again.

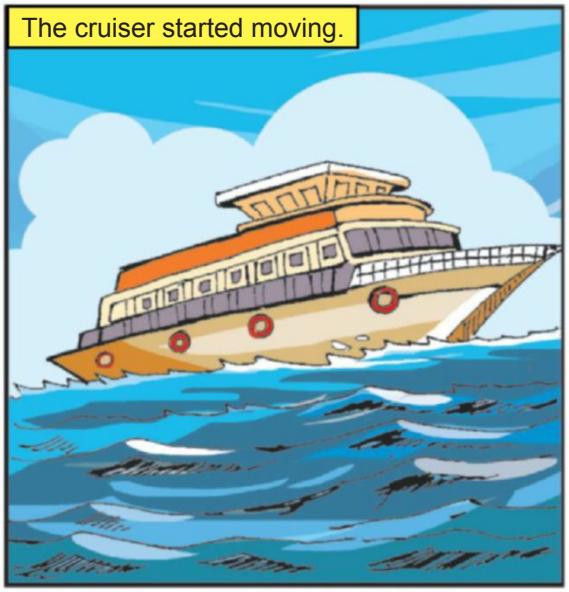
From that night onward, Lumi wrote glowing stories every night to help children sleep. Everyone apologised for teasing her.

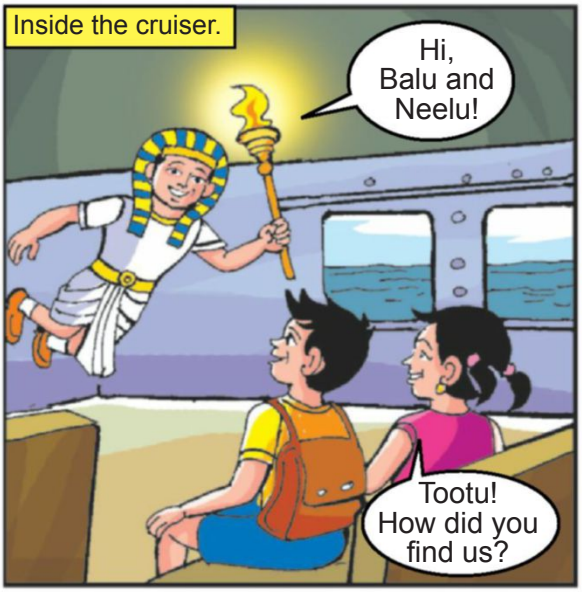
The owl smiled and said, "See, dear, learning does not depend on size."

And Lumi finally believed it too. ●


TOOTU
Story & Script: M.R. Pradeep
Illustrations: M. Mohandas


One day, Balu and Neelu went on a picnic.
We will spend the whole day on the cruiser! Are you afraid?
No dad! It will be fun!


The cruiser started moving.


Inside the cruiser.
Hi, Balu and Neelu!
Tootu! How did you find us?


I followed you from home!
Great! We are so happy you are with us!


Meanwhile...
Hora, are you sure Tootu got onto this cruiser?
Yes! And those scary kids too!
Hmmm… We must catch Tootu and go back to Egypt today.
Yes! And we will catch the children too!
Once we catch him, we will put him inside that box. Then, we will fly away on my spear!
Hee… hee!
Come, let's find them first.
Okay.
Meanwhile...
Wow!
Attention, guests! Today we will have a solo Kathakali performance by a young Kathakali artist!


Soon.
Hey, it's time for us to begin the programme. Are you ready?
Yes, ma'am!
You must come in when I call you.
Okay!
It's too dark here. How can we find him?
It's easy! Tootu has a crown and a magic wand in his hand!
Yes! I forgot that!
Look! There he is!
Yay! We got you at last!


And soon...
Now, we should catch a flight and reach Egypt.
Yes! We will deal with those kids next time.
Meanwhile...
The child who is to perform Kathakali is missing!
What?
Tootu understood what had happened.
Oh, no!
Hara and Hora must have kidnapped him!
Let me see.
Humba humba… Grow, grow!!
Hmm… There they are!
As Tootu chanted, the box became very big.
What the…?
Eh?


Ahh!
Oh no!
Don't worry. I will help you reach the ship.
Help!!
Soon.
Hey kid, climb up using this ladder.
Okay, sir.
After a while...
Wow! Nice performance.
Thank you, Tootu, for helping that boy.

Goochi, the Missing Dog



Sathvik Narra
Class VI,
Bhashyam Blooms,
Hyderabad,
Telangana.





I was playing in the park with my friend and I lost my dog, Goochi. I was scared and asked my friend if he had seen Goochi. He replied that he had not. We looked around and searched frantically in the park but we did not find him. We ran home. I printed some pictures of Goochi with the help of my mom. We went out and put up the printouts on trees and some walls in places where people frequented.

Some people offered to help me find the dog. After two weeks, I saw a dog sleeping under a tree. I thought it was Goochi and ran towards him. But, it was not. I felt sad. Luckily, the next day, someone informed me that they had seen my dog at a grandmother's house.
I ran to that address and, to my great relief, it was Goochi.

Goochi recognized me and came running towards me. He licked my face and ran around in circles. I asked the grandmother how long she had been taking care of Goochi. She smiled and replied that Goochi was with her for the past 15 days. I thanked her from the bottom of my heart.





As I was about to take Goochi and leave, I noticed that the grandmother looked sad. I asked her why she was sad. She replied that she felt happy to have Goochi with her all these days and felt sad that Goochi was leaving. She said that Goochi made her happy and she would like to have a pet. I didn't know what to do.

So the next day, I visited a pet store and bought a kitten. I went to the grandmother's home and gifted her the kitten. She beamed and that made me happy. I told her that whenever I got a holiday, I would visit her with Goochi. I also told her to call me if she needed help and gave her my mom's mobile number.

Be kind to everyone in every situation. •

The Moonlight



Vaiga. V
Class V, Nilagiri Public School,
Elappully, Palakkad, Kerala.

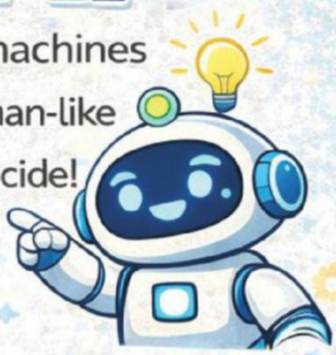
The moonlight falls on
Fields so wide
A silver dream
That stars provide soft it
Glows on leaves and stream
Painting the Earth with quiet dream
No sound, no rush
Just peaceful light
The world sleeps
In moon's delight. •



M R Vijayan

DOMAINS OF AI

Artificial Intelligence is the ability of machines to perform tasks that typically need human-like intelligence, like what we see, hear, or decide!



Computer Vision



Helping machines 'see'

Understanding and interpreting the world through images and video

Natural Language



Helping machines 'talk'

Understanding and responding to human language

Statistical Data

Helping machines 'learn'

Identifying patterns and making smart decisions from data





Katrina's Kingdom

(Story of Princess Katrina, the cute, wise, and daring Kingfisher who unveils the mysteries in Chamcham Forest)

SPEAR GUNNERS

Characters: Chanchal Cuckoo, Sapna Squirrel, Goldy Fish, Melony Fish, Tyson Tiger, Baddy Bear and Fakru Fox

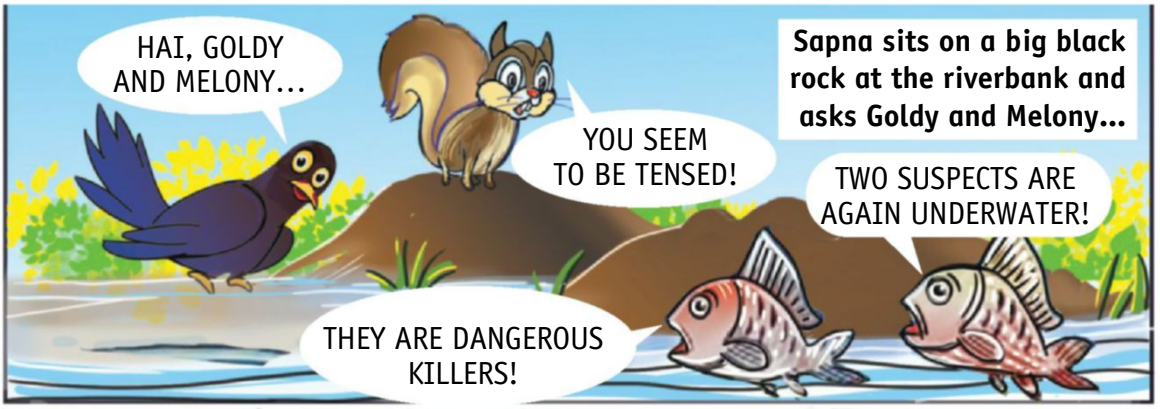
Story and Script: Dr. Muraly T. V. **Illustration: Balakrishnan P. G.**

At Chamcham Riverbank



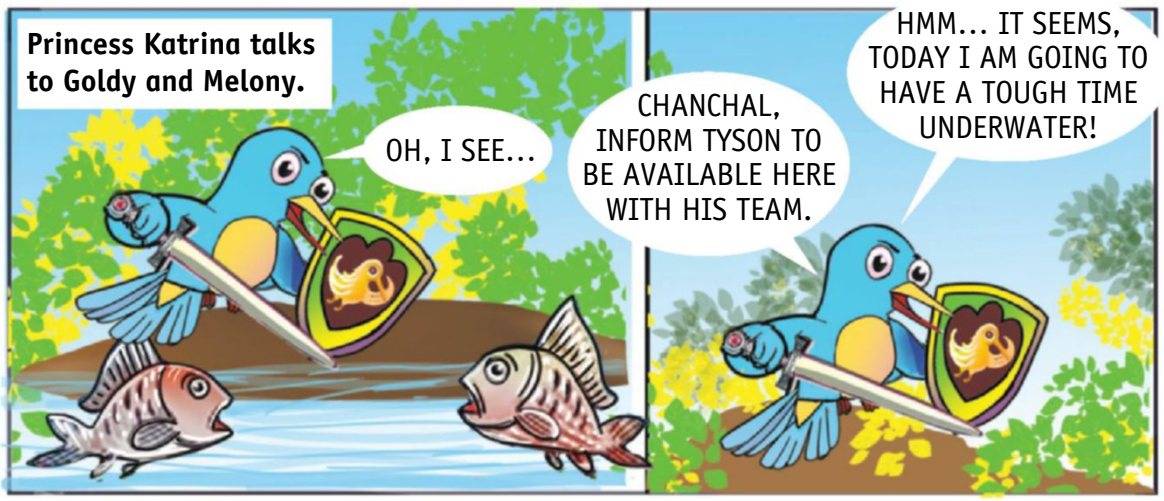


Suddenly, Goldy Fish and Melony Fish appear on the river's surface. They eagerly look for someone to talk to! Chanchal quickly reaches Goldy and Melony.









Princess Katrina quickly dives deep into the water.

BLUM...

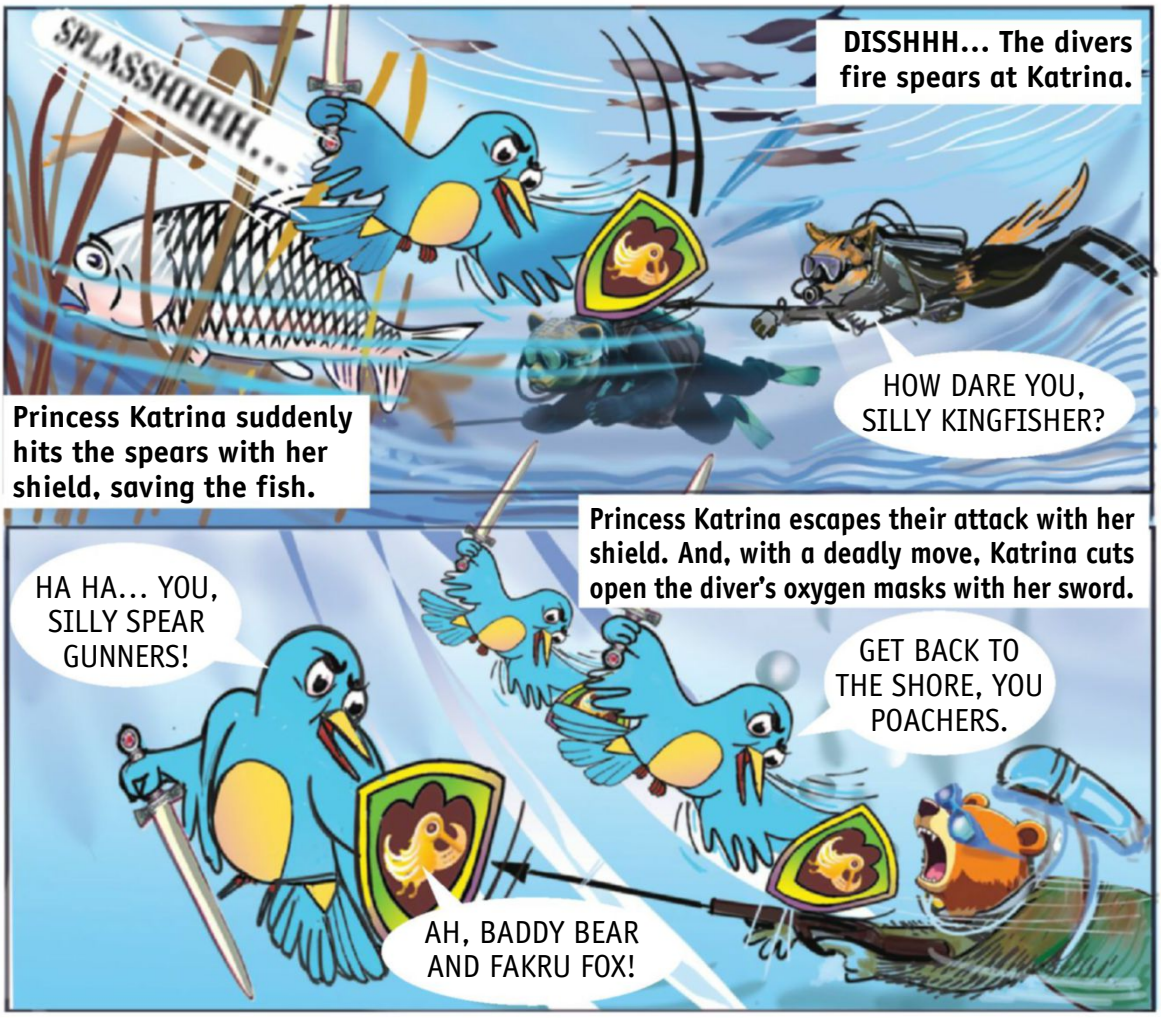
...SPLASHHHH...

Underwater — The two scuba divers are hiding behind a bush. Different types and sizes of fish are moving around.

WOW, TODAY WE ARE LUCKY TO LOCATE ENOUGH BIG FISH!

The hidden scuba divers watch a huge katla fish approaching them. They point their spearguns at the fish.

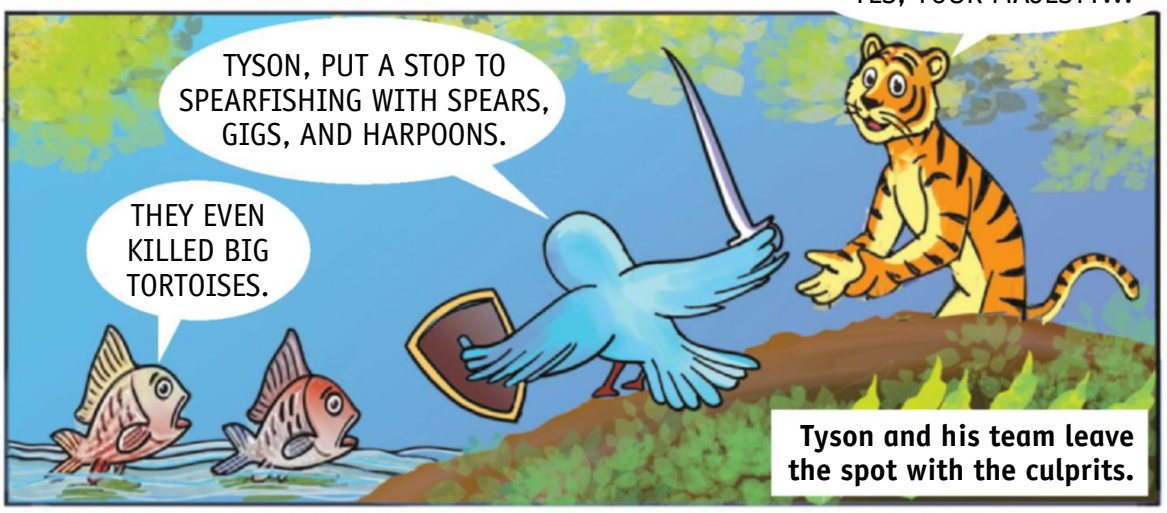
SHHH... WAIT FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT TO SHOOT.



OHHH... The divers scream as they struggle to breathe underwater.

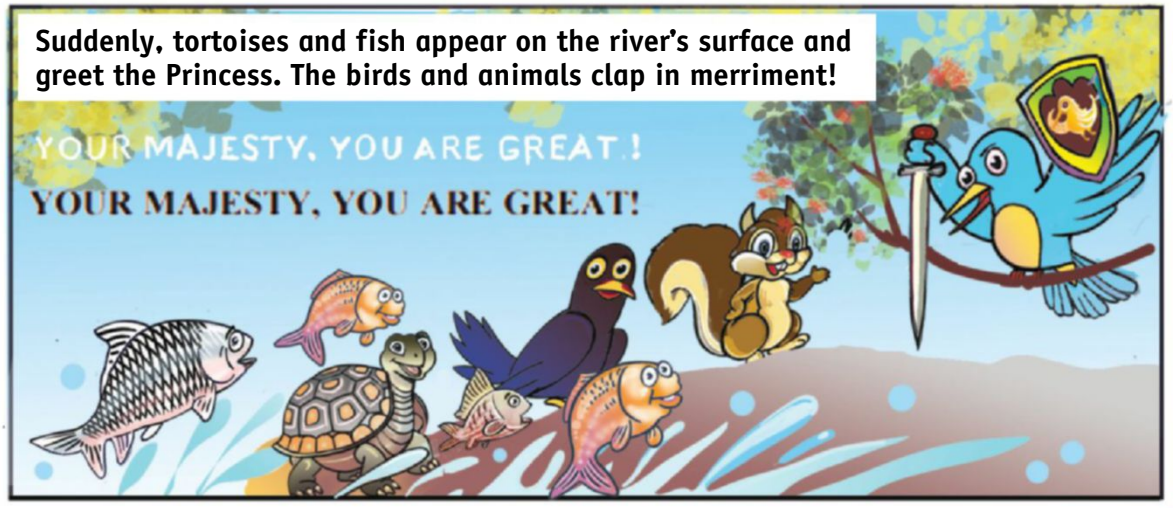






Tyson and his team leave the spot with the culprits.

Suddenly, tortoises and fish appear on the river's surface and greet the Princess. The birds and animals clap in merriment!



STRENGTH BEYOND THE BODY



Illustrated by Ameya Nibin, Class IX, Rajagiri Christu Jayanti Public School, Kakkanad, Ernakulam, Kerala.

"True strength lives in the heart."

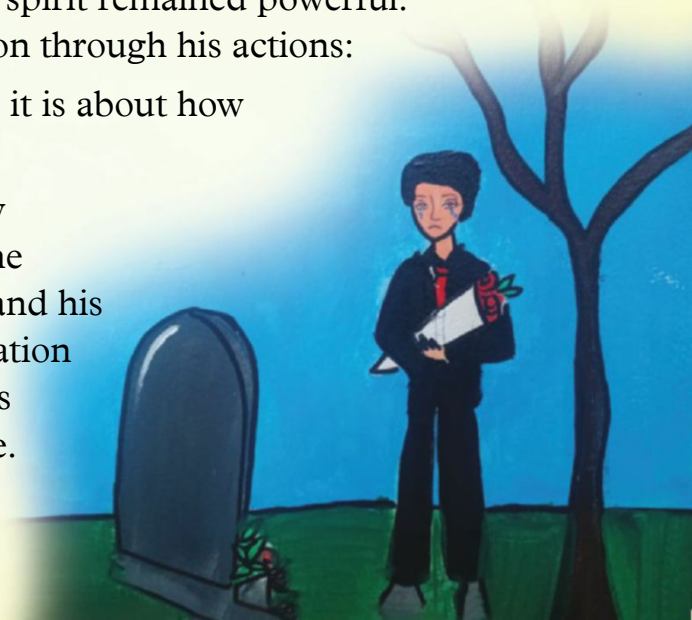
There was once a boy named Arjun, who admired his father more than anyone else. For more than five years, Arjun's father could not walk or move freely because of his illness. Yet, even in difficult times, his father never lost hope or confidence.

Every morning, he smiled and spoke words of courage. He encouraged his family and reminded them to stay positive. Arjun, his mother, and younger brother stood together as one strong team. They cared for him with love, patience and respect. They helped him with daily needs, shared stories, prayed together, and created moments of joy inside their home.

Though his body was weak, his spirit remained powerful. He taught Arjun an important lesson through his actions:

"Life is not about what we lose, it is about how bravely we move forward."

One day, his father passed away peacefully. The house felt silent. The family missed his voice, his smile, and his gentle guidance. The pain of separation was real. Yet, Arjun remembered his father's strength and words of hope.





Instead of giving up, Arjun chose to live with purpose. He decided to honour his father by becoming kinder, more responsible, and more grateful every day. Slowly, the family learned that love never disappears. It stays alive in memories, values, and good deeds.

Today, whenever Arjun feels weak or confused, he remembers his father's courage. That memory gives him strength to face life with confidence and compassion. He said,

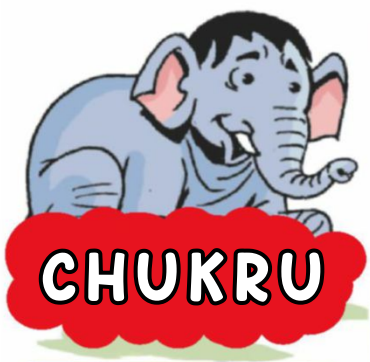
"Physical strength may fade, but inner strength and values live forever."

Did You Know?

- Emotional resilience helps children and adults cope better with loss and change.
- Positive role models shape character and decision-making.
- Strong family support improves mental well-being and emotional stability.
- Gratitude and remembrance help people heal and grow stronger.

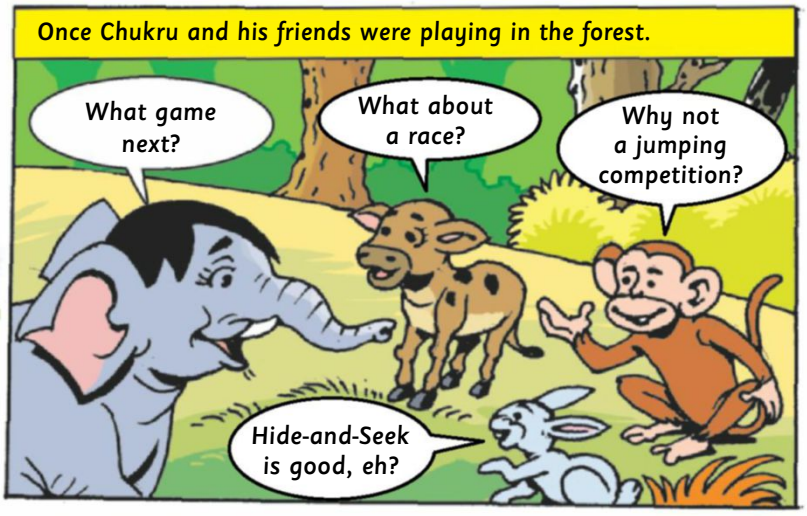
Loss teaches us the value of love. Pain reminds us of connection. Remember the people who inspire you. Carry their goodness forward. When you live with courage and kindness, their legacy continues through you.

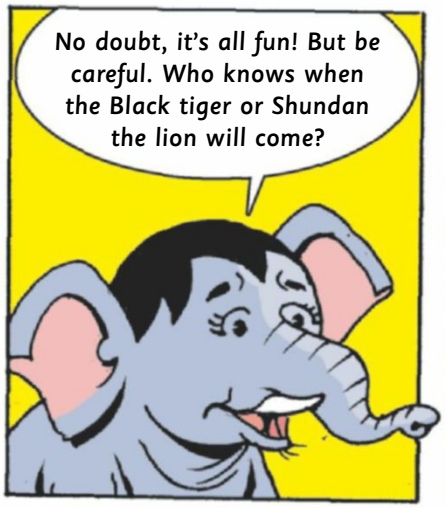
"Hold on to hope; live with gratitude; and let love guide your journey." ●



CHUKRU

Script : N Somasekharan
Illustration : Baby
Colouring : Deepak Prasanth
Translation : P. Chandrasekharan



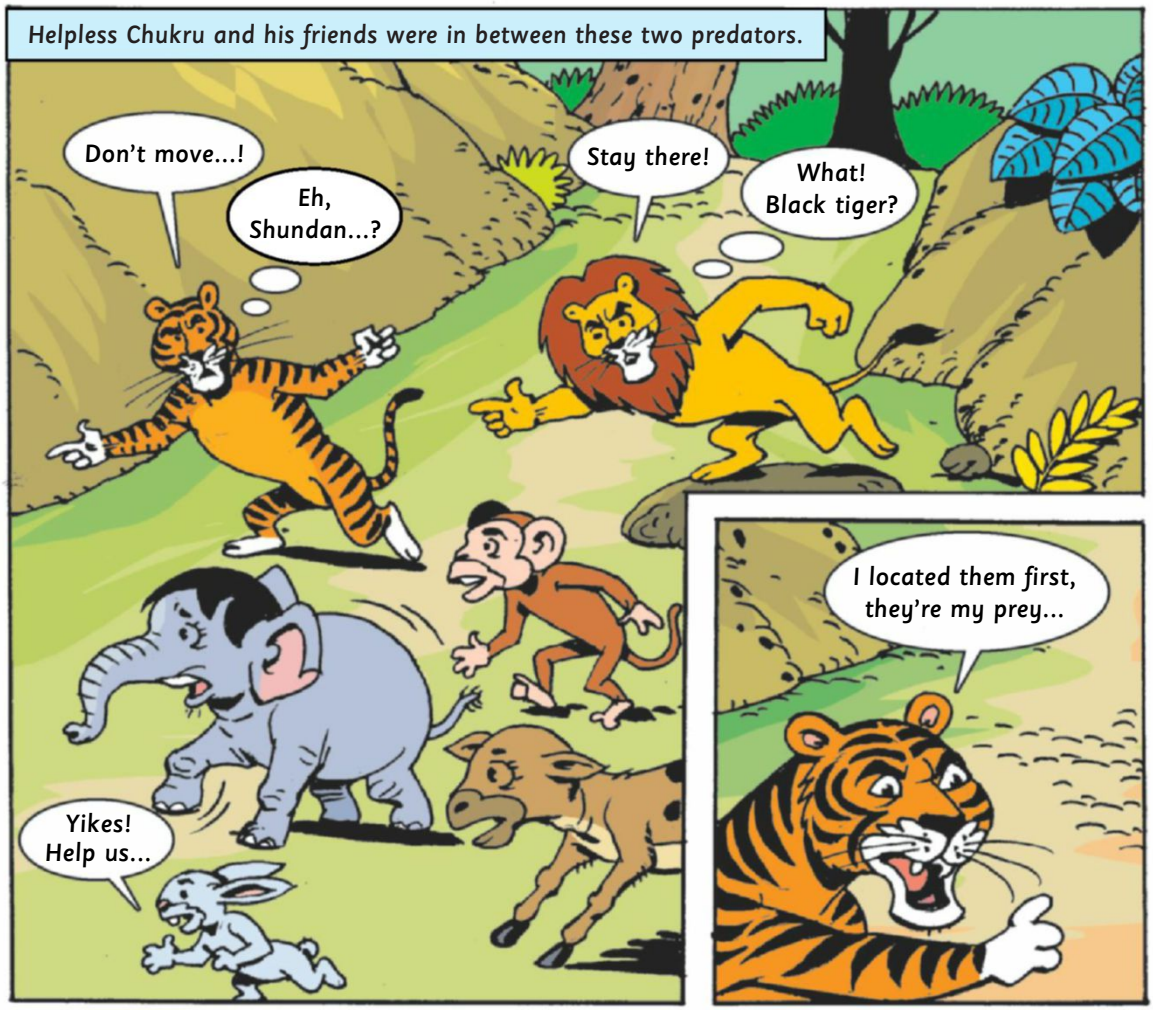







Both Black tiger and Shundan, the lion were hiding on either side watching the scene.
Wow! A splendid feast it should be!
Sure, they can't run away and escape.
Once these are beaten down, my family would have sumptuous meals for days...
But, both Black tiger and Shundan, the lion have not seen each other till then.
Better not waste time. Lemme finish them.
GRRAAA...
Off went Black tiger...


At the same time, the lion too jumped at the prey.
I'll finish them right now.
GRRRR...


Helpless Chukru and his friends were in between these two predators.
Don't move...!
Eh, Shundan...?
Stay there!
What! Black tiger?
Yikes! Help us...
I located them first, they're my prey...


Nope.
I chased them first.
They belong to me.
You get off.
What?
You threaten me, eh?
This is the chance.
When the heated arguments were on, Chukru hit the lion on his head with his extended magical trunk.
TUM
What!?
You hit me with a stone?
You rogue! Bold enough to throw a stone at me!?
At the same time, Chukru hit the tiger too on his head.
Yikes...
GRRAAA...
TUM
I'll finish the one who dared to hit me.


A terrible fight followed...
GRRR... I'll finish you right now.
GRRAAA... No need of a lion in this forest.
Hurry up... Let's escape.
During the fight, Chukru and friends ran away to safety.
Chukru, why did they fight each other?
Chukru must have done some mischief.
The evil-minded need no reason to fight with others, ha ha ha...

The Story of Little Numbers and the Smart World

(Continued from April 26 issue)



P. Devaraj
Director,
Cosmic Maths Foundation
Kottayam, Kerala.

The End... or the Beginning?

Data science is not just about computers.

It's about **curiosity, math,** and **stories hidden in numbers**.

Fun Activities

Weather Data Chart

What to do: Each day, draw one symbol:

☀ = Sunny

☁ = Cloudy

🌧 = Rainy

Make a simple chart: **Day Weather**

1 ☀

2 🌧

3 ☀

Think like a Data Scientist:

Which weather happened most? Can you guess tomorrow's weather?

Math skill: Counting, Comparison & *Data skill*: Collecting & Analysing Data

Activity: Graph Your Favourites: Ancient tally marks to modern graphs

Ask people:

"What is your favourite fruit?"

🍎 Apple

🍌 Banana

🍊 Orange

Draw **one box or a line** for each vote.

Think like a Data Scientist:

Which fruit wins? How does math help you decide?

Math skill: Numbers, Comparison & *Data skill*: Visualisation

Activity: Smart Prediction Game: The heart of Data Science!

Question:

"If you eat ice cream every day for a week, what might happen?"

Ask children to: Guess outcomes. Explain *why* they think so. Explain gently: "Data Science helps us use past information to make smart guesses."

Math skill: Logical thinking & *Data skill:* Prediction

Activity: You are the Data!: From footsteps to fitness trackers

What to do: Count how many steps you take in:

- 1 minute
- 5 minutes

Compare results

Think like a Data Scientist: Did the number change? Why?

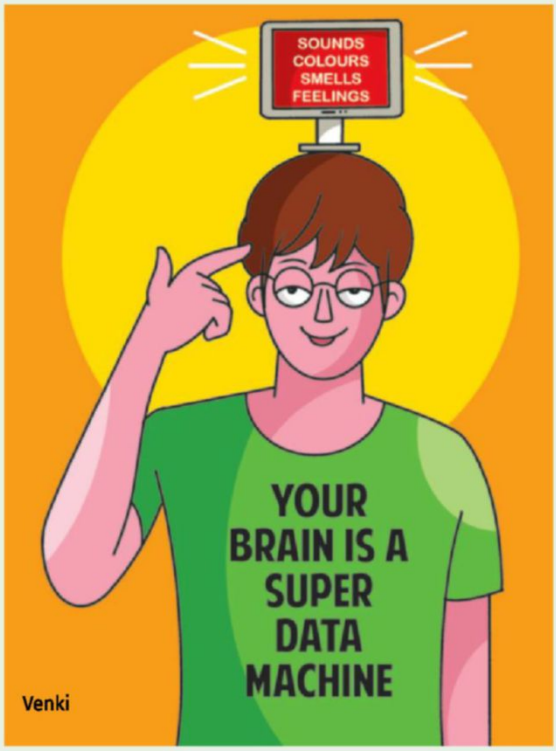
Math skill: Addition, Multiplication. *Data skill:* Measuring & Comparing

Fun Facts About Data Science

1. Data Science is basically "smart guessing"

   When you guess, it might rain because the sky is dark and windy, you're already doing Data Science!

2. Ancient people were the first Data Scientists.



   Farmers in ancient India observed the stars, seasons, and rainfall—patterns to determine when to plant their crops. No computers—just careful observation!

3. Your brain is a super data machine.

   Your brain collects data all day: sounds, colours, smells, and feelings—and makes decisions in seconds, faster than any computer.

4. Counting stones was an early form of data storage.

Thousands of years ago, people used stones, sticks, and knots in ropes to count animals and food.

That was their "hard drive"!

5. Data helps games decide who wins.

   When a game keeps score, tracks time, or remembers levels—that's Data Science helping you play.

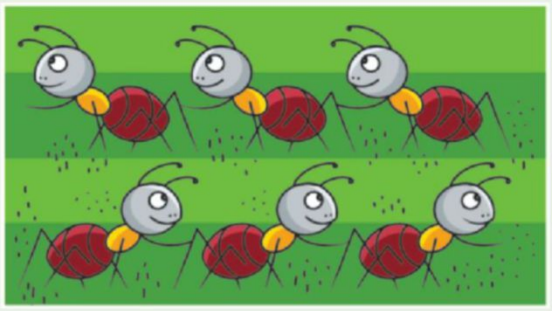
6. Doctors use data to save lives.

   By studying patients' data, doctors can spot diseases early and choose better treatments.

7. Weather forecasts are giant data puzzles.

   Satellites collect data of numbers from the sky. Data Scientists solve them to say: "Carry an umbrella today!"

8. Animals use data too!



Ants follow scent trails, birds watch the seasons, and bees 'count' flowers. Nature invented Data Science first!

Data Science = Math + Curiosity + Stories

Numbers alone are boring... but when you ask why and what next, numbers turn into stories.

You don't need a computer to start doing Data Science.

You need curiosity, math, and a willingness to ask questions. ●



1. Name the only woman in the first Cabinet of Independent India.
   (a) Sucheta Kripalani (b) Rajkumari Amrit Kaur
   (c) Lakshmi N. Menon (d) Nandini Satpathy



2. The Wheeler Island, off the coast of Odisha was renamed in 2015. What is its new name?
   (a) A P J Abdul Kalam Island (b) St. Martin's Island
   (c) Sagar Island (d) Sandwip Island

Answers: 1. (b) Rajkumari Amrit Kaur 2. (a) A P J Abdul Kalam Island

Collins

IDENTIFY THE AUTHOR

Welcome, young readers! We are celebrating women who have used their pens to inspire the world. From secret attics in Amsterdam to the bustling streets of India, these authors remind us that stories can change the way we see the world.

Unscramble the letters given below to reveal the names of some amazing authors.

1. This much-loved author from Karnataka writes inspiring stories and delightful books for children, including a popular series about the adventures of her pet dog, Gopi.

ADSHU _____ TMYUR _____

2. This brave young girl wrote a diary while hiding in Amsterdam during World War II. Her book is read by millions around the world and continues to inspire courage and hope.

NAEN _____ NAFKR _____

3. She won the Booker Prize in 1997 for her novel, **The God of Small Things**, set in Kerala.

DHUNRAAIT _____ YRO _____

4. This beloved British author created **The Famous Five, The Secret Seven** , and **The Faraway Tree** series. She wrote over 700 books for children and is one of the most-read authors in the world.

DEIN _____ OYLNTB _____

5. This famous Indian author has been nominated for the Booker Prize three times! She writes stories about families, emotions, and life in India.

TIANA _____ EDAIS _____

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

STEP 1: Unscramble the letters and fill in the boxes using the clues given above.

STEP 2: Scan the QR code and fill in the form. Upload a photo of this completed page.

The first 20 correct entries will receive a digital Certificate of Participation.

AN EXCITING HOLIDAY ADVENTURE



Kanchana Rao
Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

EPISODE 2: MAKING PLANS



"Then let me suggest something different, something you might like and want," Soni said, "Let us go to an island."

"What? St. Mary's Island again? No thanks, we have been there so many times."

"No, I got to know of another one called Malti Island. It is not as popular as St. Mary's Island and is rarely visited."

This excited Diya, "So there could be many things to explore!"

"Like what?"

"Like some shafts, caves, maybe treasure in the caves…," went on Diya hopefully.

"Yes, and we will be the ones to discover that long-lost treasure. We will then be awarded a medal by the Mayor for finding it," commented Naren and they all laughed.

"Diya has been reading a book on old relics in caves and that makes her feel inspired, I suppose," chuckled Soni. "Still, it will be fun and exciting to visit a new island. Let us all speak to our parents and get permission. Then, we can plan."

When they sought permission, their parents favoured the idea. They thought that the children would enjoy spending a day outdoors.

They allowed it only because they had a reliable boatman, Chinappa, who they all knew very well and trusted. Chinappa had often taken the families on trips to St. Mary's Island.

He knew the children from when they were babies. So, the parents called Chinappa over to discuss the trip and only after the assurance from Chinappa that the island was safe to visit, they gave their consent. ●

(To be continued)



THE BRAHMINY BLIND SNAKE

Eshwari Shiva
Mysore, Karnataka



Let us learn about the Brahminy Blind Snake, which is one of the smallest snakes in the world. It looks like an earthworm, but it is a snake. It has a flickering tongue like a snake, scales on its body and can move in an "S" pattern like a snake does.

Brahminy Blind Snakes are non-venomous. They are 5-10 cm in length and are shy in nature, always hiding underground. They come out only at night.

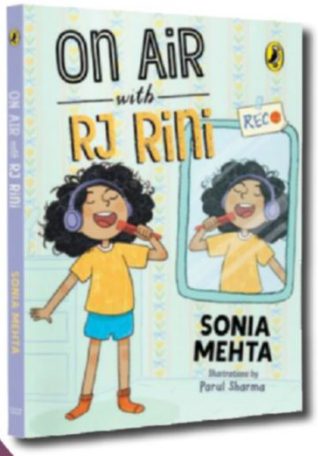
They prey on ants, termites, earthworms and ant larvae. They are completely blind and depend on other senses to survive.

All individuals of this species are female. They produce eggs without males (parthenogenesis). They are also called "flower snakes". They are very important to the ecosystem. ●



BOOKSHELF

Falgunan, Ernakulam, Kerala



ON AIR WITH RJ RINI

by **Sonia Mehta**

Illustrated by **Parul Sharma**

Published by **Puffin Books**

Rini is a very talkative girl with a heart full of stories and a mind that never stops buzzing.

She talks to everyone—her mirror, her plants, even the toaster—but at home, no one has time to listen.

Then one day, Rini stumbles upon the magical world of radio... a place where people want to hear you talk... suddenly, becoming a Radio Jockey, fulfilling her biggest dream. With a hairbrush for a mic and her eccentric neighbour Gaga as her cheerleader, Rini practises non-stop.

Set in the bustling Sunshine Colony, full of noisy courtyards, quirky aunties, and fairground chaos, this warm, funny story is about finding your voice and making sure it's heard.

Here is a nice story for us written by a best-selling children's writer. She has authored nearly 100 books exploring many themes for us such as environmental awareness, emotional understanding and strong values. Her stories will help us become better human beings. This book is illustrated by Parul Sharma.

Really a happy read for the vacation. ●

Orient BlackSwan

Preposition Park

Look at the picture carefully.

Fill in the blanks with the correct prepositions.



1. The ball is _____ the bench.
2. The puppy is _____ the bench.
3. The sun is _____ the house.
4. The boy is standing _____ the swings.
5. The girls are sitting _____ the bench.
6. The kite is flying _____ the sky.

Help Box

in, on, under
near, above



ANSWER: on, under, above, near, on, in

Mother's Day

Anitha, Kochi, Kerala

Who is the person who has been with you from the very first day of your life? It's your mom!

The bond we have with our mothers is the most precious relationship in the whole world. They are special, kind, and always ready to help us.

Even though we have a special day in May (or March in some places) to celebrate them, we don't really need a calendar to remind us how great they are. We think about them every single day!

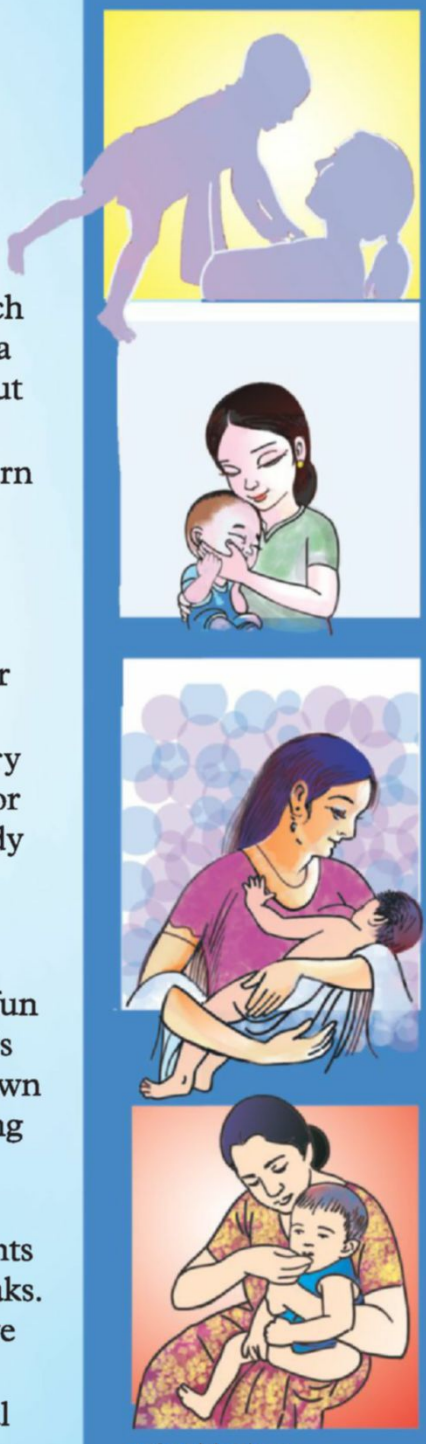
How do we learn to be good people? How do we learn to be a kind brother, a helpful sister, or a loyal friend? Our moms teach us these things! From the moment we are born, they show us the right way to live. They teach us how to walk, how to speak politely, and even how to eat our veggies. They help us grow good thoughts in our minds like a gardener grows beautiful flowers.

People have been celebrating mothers for a very, very long time. Long ago, the ancient Greeks held festivals for Rhea, the 'Mother of the Gods.' In modern times, a lady named Anna Jarvis started the Mother's Day, we know today. Now, almost the whole world celebrate it on the second Sunday of May, to say "Thank you."

On Mother's Day, we can make special treats, play fun games, or draw a beautiful card. But the best gift of all is spending time with her. Mothers give up a lot of their own 'fun time' to make sure we are happy and safe, so making them smile is the best way to say thanks.

Mothers work hard to raise good children, and one day, many children grow up to become wonderful parents themselves. It is a beautiful chain of love that never breaks. Even if we grow up and travel far away, the mothers love stays in our hearts forever.

Let us celebrate this year's Mother's Day as a special one. ●



P G Balakrishnan

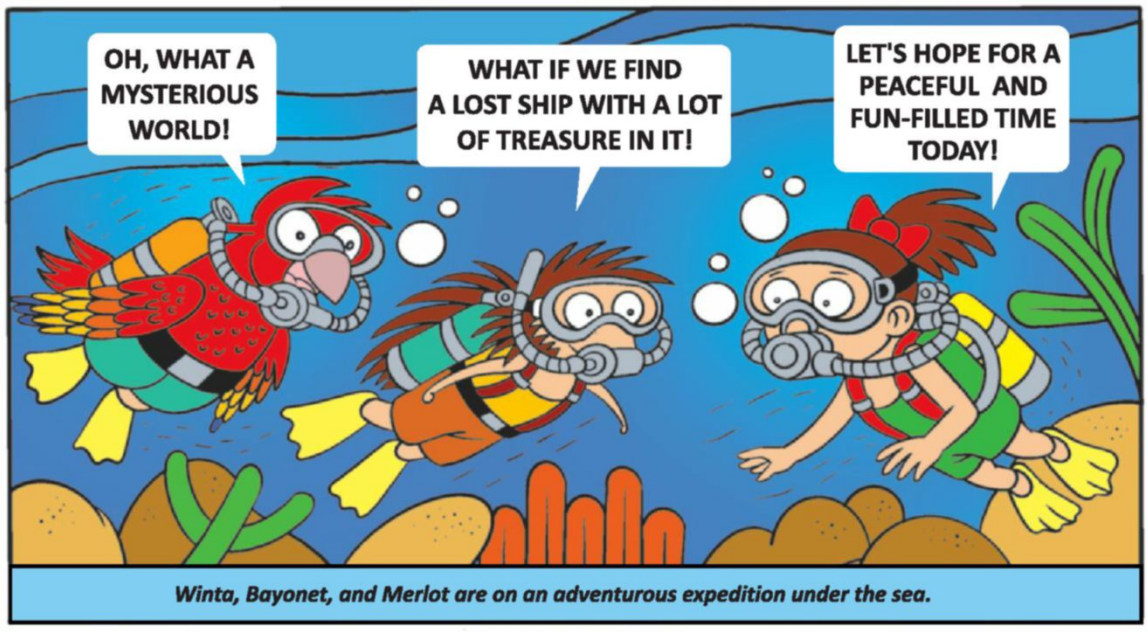
WINTA, THE WARRIOR

PART 1

A Mysterious Day

Story of Winta, the Warrior, a beautiful girl with her buddies Bayonet, the Porcupine and Merlot, the Macaw.

Story and script: DR. MURALY T. V. • Illustration: VENKI



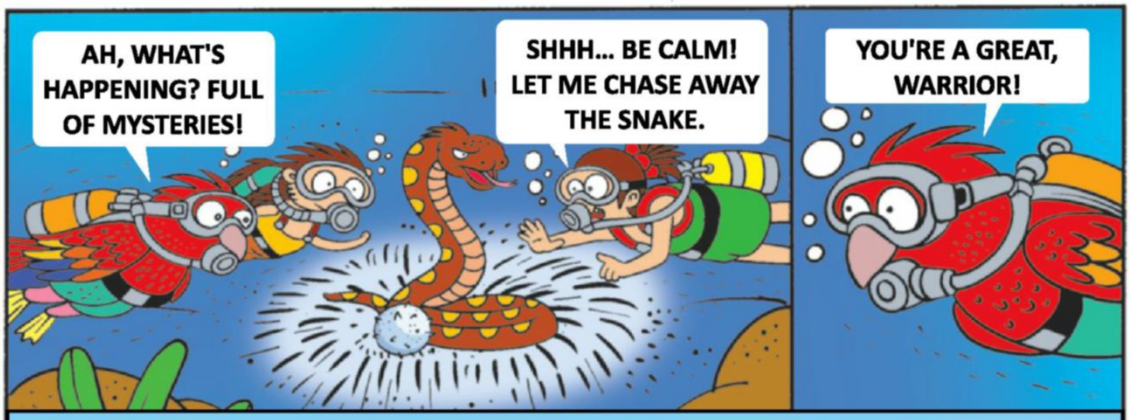
Winta, Bayonet, and Merlot are on an adventurous expedition under the sea.



Suddenly, Winta stops Merlot and Bayonet. Winta points her hand at a Mysterious Circle.



Winta slowly and carefully circles the mysterious circle, keeping a safe distance.



Winta slowly approaches Merlot and Bayonet. Winta gestures, cautioning danger! A dangerous sea snake appears from nowhere. And, a ball is seen inside the mysterious circle. Winta carefully and cleverly diverts the snake's attention from the mysterious ball.



Bayonet quickly swims towards the ball. Bayonet enters the mysterious circle. For a moment, the ball remains static!



Bayonet eagerly watches the ridges and grooves that fan out from the central zone of the mysterious circle like the spokes of a wheel.



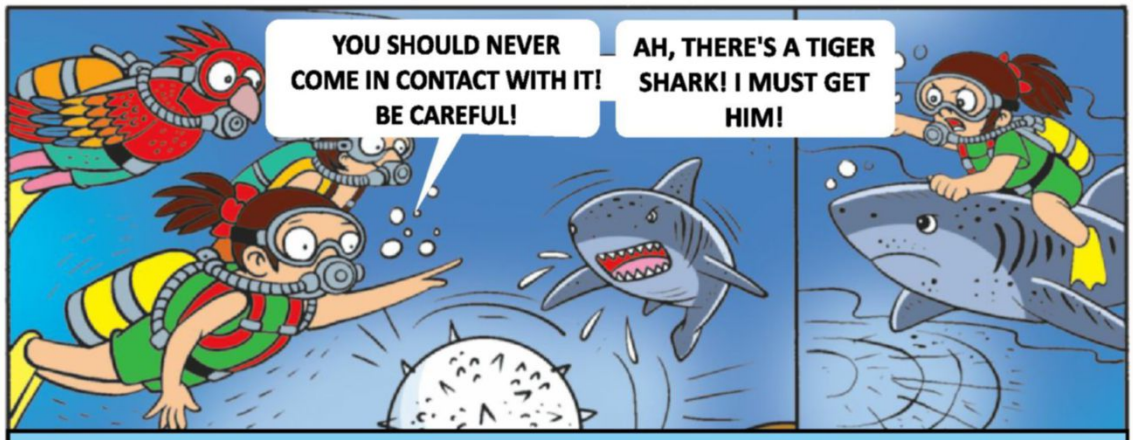
Winta swiftly pushes Bayonet away from the mysterious ball in the mysterious circle.



Suddenly, the mysterious ball attacks Winta.



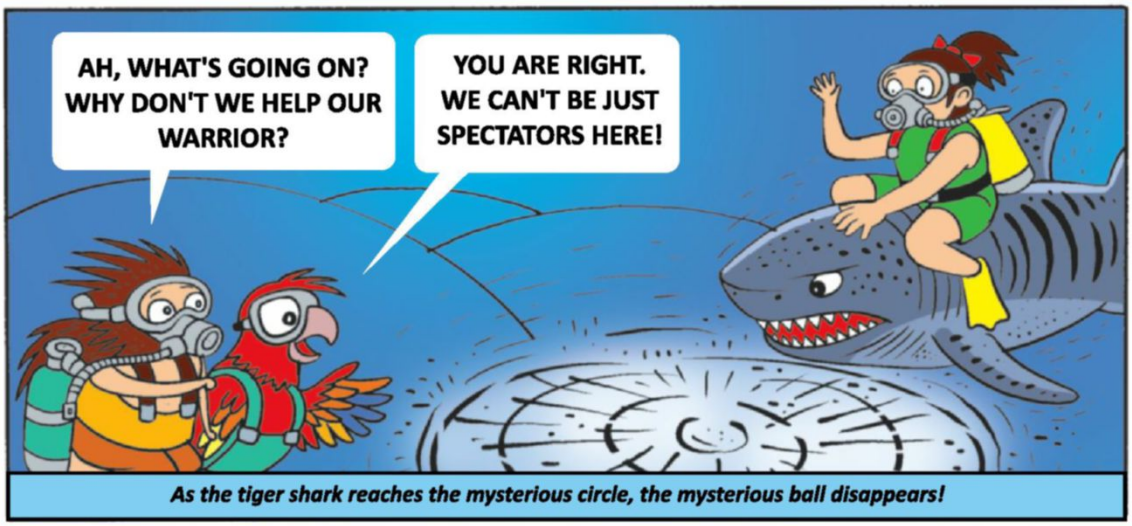
The mysterious ball attacks Winta, but she escapes...



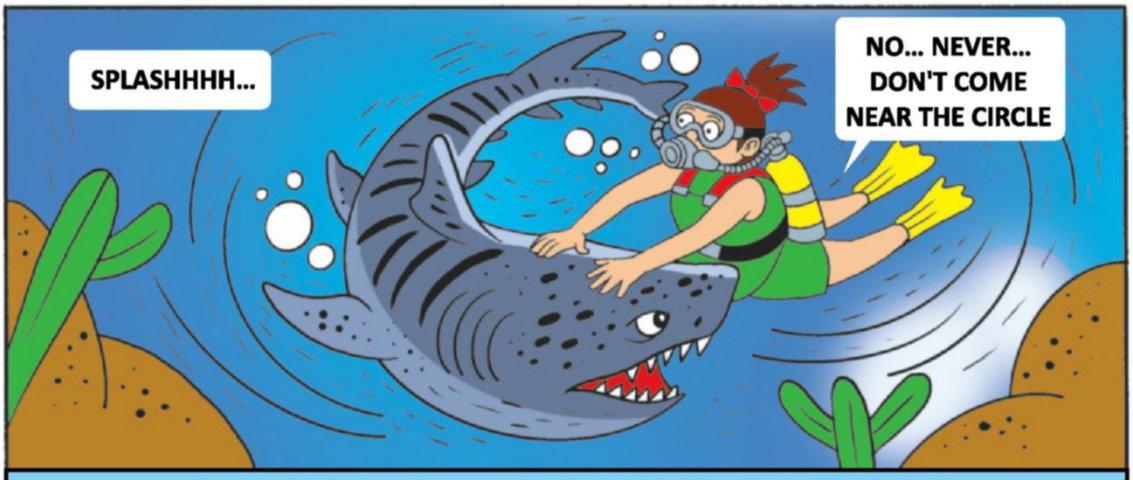
The mysterious ball keeps attacking the warriors, but they avoid its attack. Winta performs a terrific act and sits on the tiger shark's back.



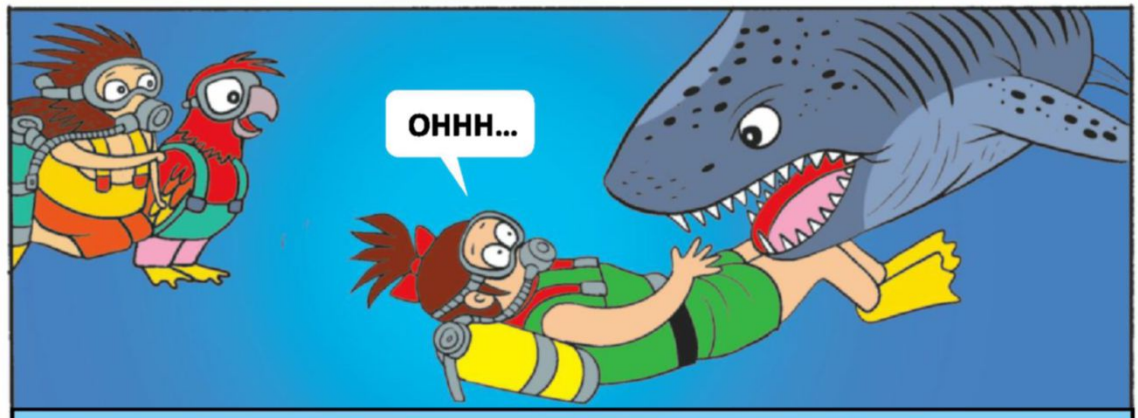
The dangerous shark tries to throw away Winta. Winta forces the tiger shark to move to the mysterious ball.



As the tiger shark reaches the mysterious circle, the mysterious ball disappears!



The angry and annoyed tiger shark swirls swiftly to throw Winta from its back.



Winta slips and falls. And, the tiger shark opens its mouth to crush and swallow Winta. Merlot and Bayonet watch the scene helplessly!

(To be continued...)



Doctor Speaks

Mindful Parenting



Dr S Krishnan
Professor and Head, Department of Psychiatry, Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

As all of you know, when the final school bell rings and the long stretch of summer holidays begins, the rhythm of our homes shifts. The frantic morning rush for bus timings and lunch boxes fades, replaced by a slower, more relaxed pace. For many of us, this transition brings a mix of joy and quiet anxiety. How do we fill these weeks? How do we ensure our children are not just occupied, but truly seen?

This is where Mindful Parenting becomes our most valuable tool. It is not a complex psychological theory; it is the simple, profound act of being 'here' with our children, rather than present 'near' them.

In our professional and personal lives, we are often "time-travelling"—ruminating on yesterday's mistakes or planning for tomorrow's challenges. Mindful parenting invites us to drop the anchor in the present.



When we spend these May holidays with our children, we have a unique window to practise three core pillars of mindfulness:

1. **Non-Judgemental Observation:** Instead of immediately correcting a child's messy play or loud laughter, try simply watching. Notice the intensity of their focus as they build a sandcastle or the specific way they hum when they are happy.
2. **Emotional Availability:** Holidays can bring up big emotions—boredom, excitement, or even frustration. Being mindful means acknowledging these feelings without rushing to "fix" them. A simple, "I see you're feeling a bit restless today," can be more validating than a dozen planned activities.
3. **The Power of the Pause:** Before reacting to a spilled glass of juice or a sibling squabble, take one conscious breath. That tiny gap between the event and your response is where mindful parenting happens.



The summer holidays are often viewed as a time for extracurricular activities. But we should also remember that the most significant growth happens in quiet, unstructured intervals.

At the same time we should also remember that summer holidays are not meant for spending idle. Let us allow children to learn what they want to learn. Let us allow them to read what they want to read. Above all, let us allow them to feel our presence. ●

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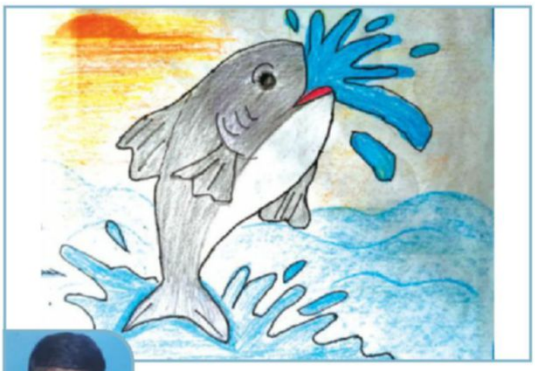


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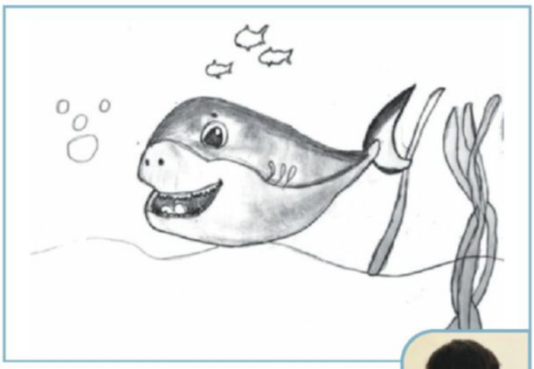


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