



1

Stay Home Reader

Stories for Fun and Skills



VIVA EDUCATION



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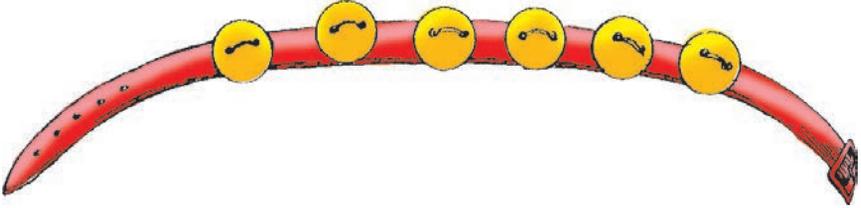
HOW THIS BOOK WILL HELP YOU

Staying home and practising social distancing are simple yet decisive ways in which we all contribute to the epic battle against the Covid-19 pandemic. School closure is indeed the heavy price students and teachers have to pay as a result. However, this is no reason for learning to stop. As a committed provider of educational content, Viva Education has taken extraordinary steps to make learning accessible to every student via online means. We have released the vast range of online learning material on VivaDigital.in to learners and educators for unrestricted use.

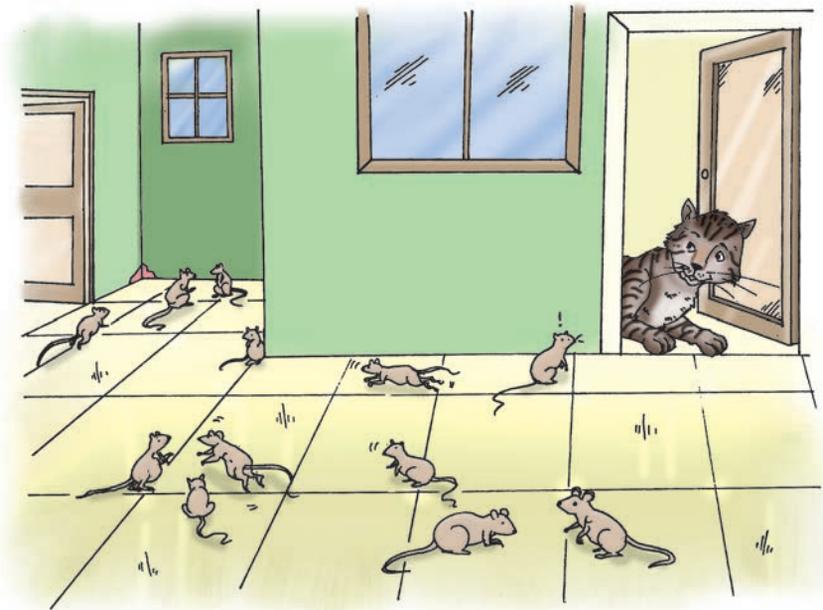
Continuing this effort, we are proud to present our *Stay Home Readers* for classes 1 to 8, which have been specially compiled for home learning and remote teaching. Engagement is the key to better home learning, and this series adopts the route of stories to effective language-skill building. The content is enjoyable, stimulating and requires hardly any teacher supervision. We wish you safety and good health as you enjoy learning with these readers.

1

A Bell for the Cat



Once upon a time some mice lived in the house of an old man. They ran across the floors and climbed into cupboards in search of crumbs of bread and bits of cheese. No one bothered them as they scampered in and out of their holes. Then, one day, a large grey tabby cat came to live in the house.



To the mice, this cat was a great grey monster with big shining eyes and strange bad habits. Not only did she try to catch them but she used to clean herself three or four times a day. She did this by licking herself with her tongue.

The mice began to get worried. No longer could they do as they pleased. If they crept out to look for food, the cat chased them back at once. They would starve if she stayed in the house much longer. Something would have to be done!

The mice made up their minds that they must get rid of the cat. They held a meeting, but instead of making plans they just kept on complaining.





Then a young mouse stepped forward. "Listen I have a good idea. My plan won't get rid of the cat, but we will be safe."

"Tell us about it!" squealed the other mice.

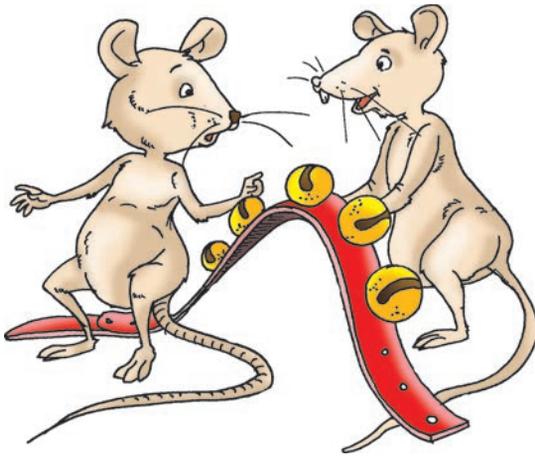
The young mouse spoke again. "The wicked cruel cat walks about so quietly that we cannot hear her. Let us fasten a bell round her neck. When she walks, the bell will ring and warn us of danger."

"That's a splendid idea!" cried some mice. "Put a bell round the cat's neck and then we will all be safe."

Suddenly a wise old mouse spoke. "It would be a clever plan but for one thing. Who is going to fasten the bell round the cat's neck?"

The old mouse turned to the young mouse, "It is your plan. Will you tie the bell on the cat?"

"No-no! I am not feeling very well," replied the young mouse.



The wise old mouse spoke again. “Remember! It is one thing to make a plan and another thing to carry it out. If no one will put a bell on the cat, then we must do as we have always done. As soon as you see the cat, run as fast as you can and try to escape.”

❑ Do You Remember?

1. What was the name of the story?
2. Who ran about as they pleased in the old man’s house?
3. Where did they search for food?
4. Who came to live there?
5. What bad habits did she have?
6. How did she clean herself?
7. Why did the mice begin to get worried?
8. What did they make up their minds to do?
9. What was the young mouse’s plan?

10. What did the wise old mouse ask?
11. Why would the plan not work?
12. What did the wise old mouse tell them to do?



□ Can You Tell?

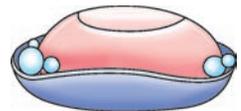
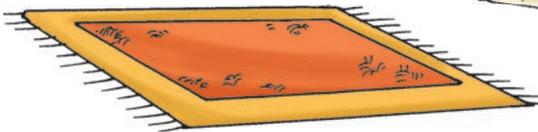
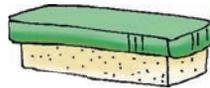
1. Why should you keep yourself clean and tidy?
2. How do the following wash themselves:
people, birds, cats, elephants?
3. What is the proper way to clean your: hair,
skin, teeth, fingernails, clothes, shoes?
4. Why is soap and hot water best for washing?
5. Name some creatures which don't have to
wash because they live in water.

□ Exercises

1. bell, brush, pan, match, pencil, needle, book,
soap, chair, ladder

Which of them are used in: sweeping, writing,
sitting, ringing, washing, climbing, lighting,
reading, cooking, sewing?

Washing and Cleaning



2. (a) Ice is **cold** but fire is _____.
- (b) Soot is **black** but snow is _____.
- (c) A hare is **fast** but a snail is _____.
- (d) A giant is **tall** but a dwarf is _____.
- (e) The sun shines by **day** but the moon shines by _____.
- (f) A door will **open** or _____.
- (g) A tap can be turned **off** or _____.
- (h) A sum is **correct** or _____.
- (i) A knife may be **blunt** or _____.
- (j) A puzzle may be **easy** or _____.

3. Put **I** or **me** in the spaces.

- (a) _____ want to read the book.
- (b) He asked _____ about the pencil.
- (c) _____ fell on the floor.
- (d) Do you want _____ to go?
- (e) My mother gave it to _____.
- (f) _____ am waiting for my sister.

2

The Miser's Gold



Once upon a time there was a selfish old man. He lived all by himself in a little cottage. Now this old man had a big bag of gold. Every night he would take out his gold and count it.

“I am a rich man,” he said to himself, “All this gold belongs to me. I will keep it in the chest. No one will ever get a share of it.”



One dark night a robber was passing the old man's house. He saw the light and looked through the window. At that moment the old miser was hiding his gold.

“Ah!” said the robber. “I will wait until the old man has gone to bed. Then I will steal his money.”

Later that night the robber crept quietly into the house. The old miser was fast asleep and did not hear him. The robber stole the bag of gold and ran away.

Now there was a little hole in the bottom of the bag. One by one, the gold coins fell out. Soon the bag was empty.

The robber was very, very angry. He had lost all the gold. He could not find the money because it was dark.



“I will sleep here in the forest,” he said to himself. “I will rise early in the morning. It will be easy to find the gold in daylight.”

The next day at dawn, a strange thing happened. Who came dancing along the forest path but a fairy! She saw all the gold coins scattered on the grass.

“Oh!” she cried. “Someone has stolen the old miser’s gold. What shall I do? If I give it back to him, he will only hide it again. He is such a mean and greedy man.”

The fairy touched the gold coins with her magic wand. At once they changed into lovely golden daffodils.

“That is much better,” she said. “These flowers will make children happy.”

Suddenly the fairy saw the sleeping robber. “This bad man must be punished,” said the fairy. “He should not take what is not his own.”





She touched the robber with her magic wand. The robber woke up and tried to speak. Instead he made a horrid croaking sound. When he tried to run away, he found himself hopping about from place to place.

The fairy had changed him into an ugly old toad.

□ Do You Remember?

1. What was the name of the story?
2. Where did the old man live?
3. What did he do every night?
4. Who happened to pass the cottage?
5. What did he see through the window?
6. What did the robber do?
7. What caused the gold to fall out of the bag?
8. Why could he not find the lost money?

9. Where did the robber sleep that night?
10. When did the fairy visit the forest?
11. What did she do to the gold coins?
12. What did she do to the sleeping robber?

□ Can You Tell?

1. What is a garden?
2. Name three garden flowers.
3. Name three wild flowers.
4. Do you have any of these flowers in your house?
5. What do you water your flowers with?
6. Which flower do you like best? Tell why.
7. What is the name of a man who works in a garden?
8. What tools does a gardener use?
9. What kind of shop sells flowers?
10. Which insect flies from flower to flower? Tell why.

□ Exercises

1. rose, daisy, gulmohar, grass, buttercup
 - (a) as green as the _____.
 - (b) as white as a _____.
 - (c) as yellow as a _____.
 - (d) as red as a _____.
 - (e) as orange as a _____.

Flowers



Marigold



Ashoka



Dandelion



Gulmohar



Palash



Bluebell or
Hyacinth



Jasmine



Poppy



Dahlia



Hibiscus



Lotus



Rose



Water Lily



Sunflower



Champa



Tulip



Orchid



Bougainvillea



Iris



Begonia

2. Write correctly by adding capital letters and full stops.

(a) i met mr smith on thursday

(b) new york is a great city in america

(c) we will visit london at easter

3. Give the **plurals** of:

(a) cup

(b) table

(c) boy

(d) poppy

(e) wolf

(f) tooth

4. Give the **opposites** of the words in red.

(a) Tom was **rude** but Fred was _____.

(b) Summer is **hot** but winter is _____.

(c) A stone **sinks** but a cork _____.

5. Put **I** or **me** in the spaces.

(a) _____ bought some sweets.

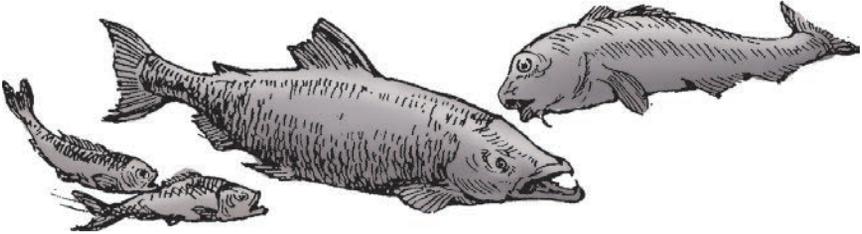
(b) She pushed _____.

(c) Give _____ that paper.

(d) In the garden _____ saw a bird.

3

A New Way to Fish



One very cold day in winter a large brown bear met a sly fox. The fox was carrying a big string of fish which he had stolen.

“My goodness!” said the bear. “What a lovely catch! I am very fond of fish. Where did you get them?”

“I caught them in the river,” replied the fox. “Where did you think I got them from? They don’t grow on trees.”

“I know that,” growled the bear. “I have been fishing for years but never caught so many. I thought I knew all the best places around here.”

“If I tell you, will you keep it a secret?” asked the fox.

“Of course I will!” replied the bear. “You can trust me.”

“I have a new way of fishing,” said the fox. “I don’t try to catch fish with my paws as you do. I use my brains and I always get as many as I want.”

“How do you do it?” asked the bear.

“If you want a big catch,” said the fox, “here is what you must do. Go down to the river late at night and make a hole in the ice. Stick your tail down into the water and keep it there as long as you can. When the fish bite, you must not mind if your tail hurts a little. At sunrise, pull up your tail and you’ll find dozens of fish hanging on to it.”



That very night, the bear did as the fox had told him. He made a hole in the ice and stuck his tail down into the water. The more his tail hurt, the more fish he thought he had caught.

When morning came, the bear gave his tail a pull. Nothing happened. He gave another pull. His tail did not move. In a rage he gave a very hard pull. There was a loud crack and he was free.

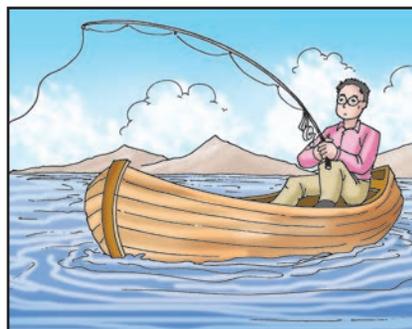
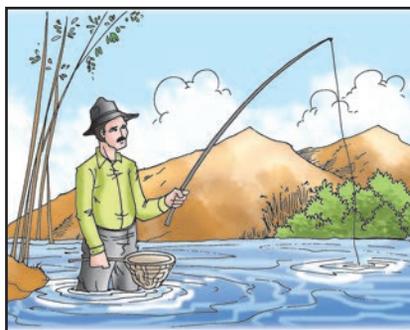
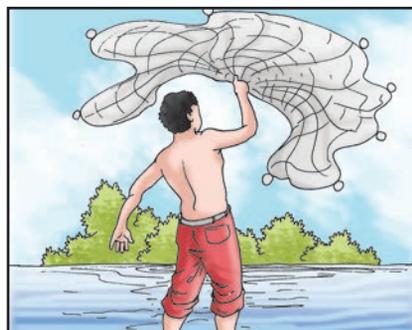
The bear turned round to see how many fish he had caught. Not a fish was to be seen! Instead he saw a part of his tail still stuck in the ice.

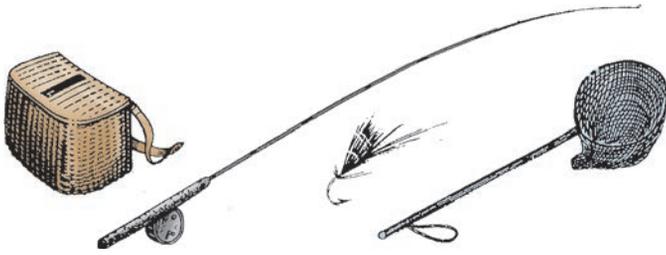
The bear knew then that the fox had played a trick on him. He looked at his tail. Instead of a nice long one he now had a short stumpy one. The fox was very lucky that he did not meet the bear again for a long, long time.

Do You Remember?

1. What was the name of the story?
2. Who met each other?
3. What kind of day was it?
4. What was the fox carrying?
5. Where did the fox say that he caught them?
6. How did the bear catch fish?
7. What was the new way of fishing the fox told to the bear?
8. When did the bear go to fish?
9. What did he do?
10. When did he pull up his tail?
11. What happened to it?
12. Why was the fox lucky?

Fishing





□ Can You Tell?

1. Name as many kinds of fish as you can.
2. Which kinds are big and which are small?
3. Give different ways of catching fish.
4. Which kind of fish do you like best?
5. Name an animal which likes to eat fish.
6. Why is the whale **not** a fish?
7. What is the name of the largest fish?

□ Exercises

1. (a) A fish lives _____ (in the air/on land/in the water).
(b) A fish _____ (walks/swims/flies).
(c) A fish has _____ (fins/arms/legs).
(d) A fish has a coat of _____ (wool/scales/feathers).
(e) A fish has _____ (gills/blowholes/nostrils).

2. Pick out the **nouns**.
- (a) Mice like cheese.
 - (b) The lady bought a hat.
 - (c) The dog chased a cat down the road.
 - (d) In the morning the ducks swam across the river.
 - (e) On Friday the Queen returned to London.
3. We use **is** when we are speaking of **one**.
We use **are** when we are speaking of **more than one**. Put **is** or **are** in the spaces.
- (a) My plate _____ empty.
 - (b) The kittens _____ young.
 - (c) Your shoes _____ wet.
 - (d) His knife _____ sharp.
 - (e) He _____ angry.
 - (f) We _____ sorry.
4. Give the words **opposite in meaning** to:
- (a) empty
 - (b) young
 - (c) wet
 - (d) sharp
 - (e) high

4

A Candle, a Candle



A candle, a candle
To light me to bed;
A pillow, a pillow
To tuck up my head.

The moon is as sleepy as sleepy can be,
The stars are all pointing their fingers at me,
And Missus Hop-Robin, way up in her nest,
Is rocking her tired little babies to rest.



So give me a blanket
To tuck up my toes,
And a little soft pillow
To snuggle my nose.

Leroy Jackson