

LESSON

12



WHO'S THE CLEVEREST OF THEM ALL?

Stage 1.

Pre-reading

Activity 1.

Talking about the topic

The teacher asks the children :

- 1 Name some animals and birds which are believed to be very clever.
- 2 There are three main characters in this story: a tiger, a man and a jackal. Who do you think will prove to be the cleverest ?

Read the story and find out if your guess is right.

Stage 2.

Reading

Activity 2.

Reading silently

Read the first part of the story silently. Find out how the tiger and the man came together. In the first reading, just try to get the main ideas. When you read it for the second time, look at the meanings of the key words.

WHO'S THE CLEVEREST OF THEM ALL ?

Part - 1

A tiger was once caught in a cage. He tried in vain to get out through the bars, and roared and bit the bars of the cage in rage when he failed.

By chance, a poor man came by. "Please let me out of this cage!" cried the tiger.

"No, my friend ", the man replied. "You would probably eat me if I did".

"Not at all!" promised the tiger.

"On the contrary, I will be forever grateful to you and will become your slave!"

The tiger sobbed and sighed so much that the poor man's heart softened, and at last he agreed to open the door of the cage. Out popped the tiger and seized the poor man.

"What a fool you are!" the tiger said. " What will stop me from eating you now? I am terribly hungry after being cooped up for so long !"



Activity 3. Knowing the key words

<i>in vain</i>	without success
<i>rage</i>	great anger
<i>probably</i>	very likely to happen
<i>on the contrary</i>	on the other hand
<i>slave</i>	a servant who is not paid for the work he/she does
<i>soften</i>	to become soft
<i>to pop out</i>	to come out of a place suddenly
<i>to seize</i>	to catch hold of someone
<i>to be cooped up</i>	to remain inside a small space for a long time

Activity 4. Comprehension

1. What was the tiger doing inside the cage ?
2. How did the tiger and the man meet ?
3. What did the man say when the tiger wanted help from him ?
4. What made the man agree to open the door of the cage ?
5. What did the tiger say after coming out of the cage ?
6. Do you think the tiger will eat the man up?

Read the next part of the story to find out.

Part - 2

Stage 2. Reading

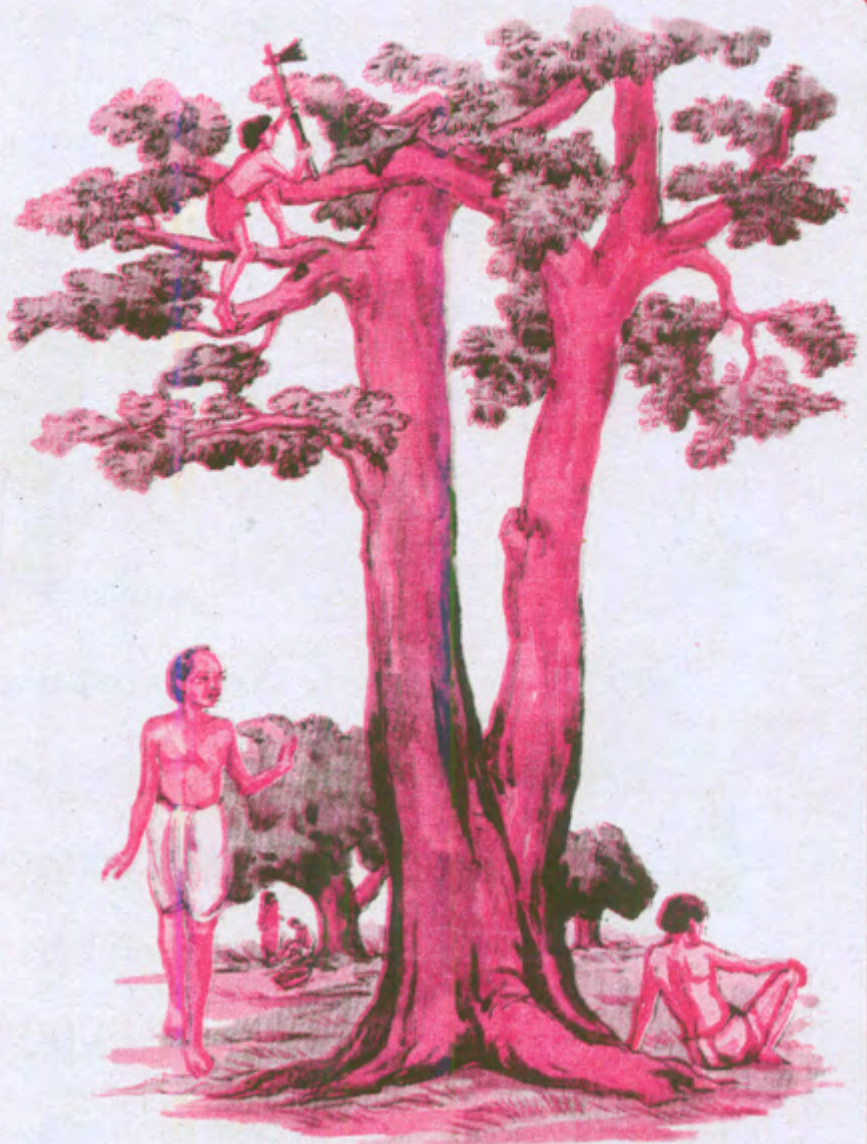
The man pleaded for his life. Finally, the tiger said "Go and ask three creatures for their opinion. If they say that I should spare your life, I will do so gladly. Otherwise, I will kill you and eat you up."

The man walked away unhappily, looking for someone whom he could ask whether the tiger was right.

He first asked a tree, but the tree replied, "What are you complaining about? Just look at me! I give shade to everyone, and what do I get in return? The people who sit in my shade cut off my branches to feed their cattle!"

Then the man came across a buffalo in a field. It was going round and round, turning a wheel that lifted water from a well. The man told the buffalo what had happened and asked him, "Do you think it is right for the tiger to eat me up?"

The buffalo said, "You are a fool to expect gratitude! Look at me! When I was young and could give milk, people fed me on the finest grain. But now that I have grown old, they make me work like a slave and give me nothing but their waste food to eat!"



The man travelled far and wide but could not find another creature whom he could ask the same question. Finally, the man spoke to the road.

“What do you say, road ?” the man asked. “Is the tiger right ?”

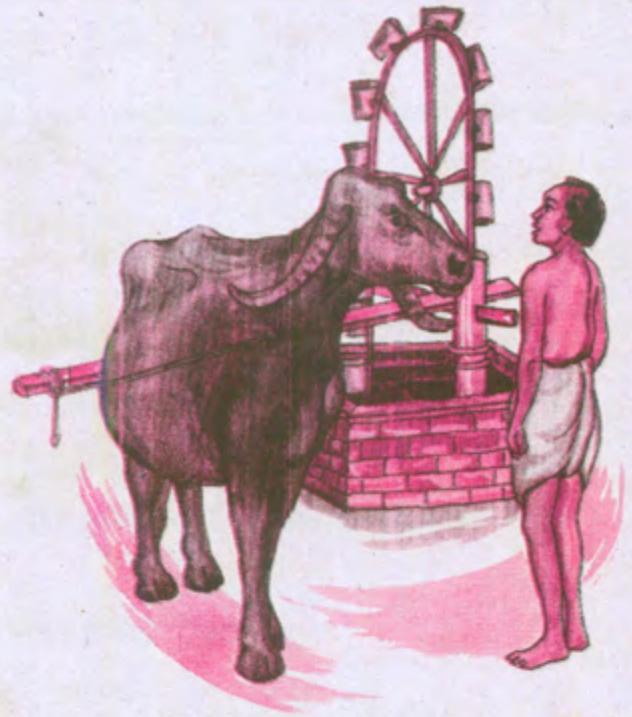
“My dear sir”, said the road, “How foolish you are to expect anything else! Here I am, making myself useful to everybody. Yet, they walk all over me, giving me nothing in return.”

Sadly, the man turned back to go to the tiger. By chance, a jackal came that way. The jackal called out to the man, “ What’s the matter, my dear sir ? You look very unhappy!”

The man told the jackal all that had happened.

“How very confusing!” the jackal said, when he had heard the story. “I can’t understand what you are saying. Would you mind repeating your story?”

The man told him the story all over again, but the jackal shook his head and said “ I still can’t understand what happened. I will have to go with you to the place where the whole thing happened, and then perhaps I shall be able to judge whether the tiger has the right to eat you up.”



Activity 5. Knowing the key words

pleaded begged someone to do something

gratitude the feeling that you are obliged to someone.

to spare someone's life to allow someone to live

confusing something that you are unable to understand

Stage 3. After reading

Activity 6. Comprehension

1. What did the tiger ask the man to do in order to save his life ?
2. What did the tree, the buffalo, and the road tell the man ?
3. What did the jackal tell the man ?
4. Why did the jackal want to go to the tiger's cage ?
5. Do you think the jackal was clever ?
6. What do you think will happen next ?

Read the rest of the story to find out.

Part - 3

Stage 2. Reading

So they returned to the cage where the tiger was waiting for the man, and sharpening his teeth and claws. "You have been away a long time!" growled the tiger, "It is getting late for my dinner."

“Please give me five minutes”, the poor man pleaded, “so that I may explain matters to the jackal here.”

The tiger agreed, and the man began the whole story all over again.

“I am sorry, but I am so stupid that I cannot understand what happened!” said the jackal, shaking his paws. “Let me see... How did it all begin? You were in the cage, and the tiger came walking by?”

“No!” the tiger roared. “I was in the cage – not he.”

“Of course!” cried the jackal, pretending to tremble with fright. “Yes, yes... I was in the cage – no, I was not – Oh dear! It is all so confusing! Let me see – the tiger was in the man, and the cage came walking by – no, no, that’s not it, either! Well, don’t mind me, but begin your dinner, sir, for I shall never understand.”

“Yes, you will!” the tiger roared back, furious at the jackal’s stupidity. “I’ll *make* you understand! Look here – I am the tiger –”

“Yes, my lord”.

“And that is the man –”

“Yes, my lord”.

“And that is the cage –”

“Yes my lord”.

“And I was in the cage... do you understand now?”



"Yes – no – Please, my lord ..."

"Well?" said the tiger, impatiently.

"Please, my lord – how did you get in?"

"How? Why... in the usual way, of course!"

"Oh, dear me! My head is beginning to go round and round again. Please do not be angry, my lord, but what is the usual way?"

At this, the tiger lost his patience and jumping into the cage cried, "This way! Now, do you understand how it was?"

"Perfectly!" grinned the jackal, as he quickly shut the door. "And if you will permit me to say so, I think matters will remain as they were!"

The jackal and the man walked away together, leaving the tiger inside the cage.

Activity 7. Knowing the key words

to growl : to make a sound of anger

to tremble : to shake

to grin : to give a broad smile

Stage 3. After reading

Activity 8. Comprehension

1. Why was the tiger sharpening his teeth and claws?
2. Why was he angry with the man?
3. What did the jackal say about himself?
4. What did the tiger think about the jackal?
5. How did the jackal save the man's life?

Activity 9. Discussion

1. How many characters are there in this story?
2. Do you think the tiger was ungrateful? Why do you think so?
3. Who was the most foolish character in the story? Who was the cleverest?
4. Which character did you like the best? Why?

Activity 10. Vocabulary

Fill in the blanks below, using words and expressions from the story.

A tiger was trapped in a _____ and could not get out. He saw a man who was passing by and _____ with the man to _____. The man agreed. When the tiger _____ out of the cage, he said he was going to eat up the man as he was very _____. The man asked the tiger to _____.

The tiger told the man to ask three creatures for _____. If they said that the tiger should _____, he would do so.

The man asked a tree and a buffalo if _____. They both said that the man was a fool to _____.

Activity 11. Usage (But)

Look at the following sentences ;

- (i) The man told him the story, but the jackal shook his head.
- (ii) He first asked a tree, but the tree said, "What are you complaining about?....."

But is used when we are going to say something opposite to what we have said before.

Now join each pair of these sentences, using **but** :

1. The jackal was clever. The man was stupid.
2. Ramu is a good sportsman. His brother is very lazy.
3. Teachers like good students. Students like loving teacher.
4. The man was poor. He was honest.

Activity 12. Listening and Speaking

Read out the following dialogue between the tiger and the jackal.

Tiger: Yes, you will! I'll make you understand! Look here - I'm the tiger.

Jackal: Yes, my lord.

Tiger: And that's the man.

Jackal: Yes, my lord.

Tiger: And that's the cage.

Jackal: Yes, my lord.

Tiger: And I was in the cage... do you understand?

Jackal: Perfectly, my lord.

