

LESSON 13



THE KIND TREE

Stage 1. Pre-reading

Activity 1. Talking about the topic

Look at the title of the story. How can a tree be kind? To whom can it be kind? Think and answer these questions.

After a discussion, the teacher asks the children to read part 1 of the story silently.

Stage 2. Reading

THE KIND TREE

Part - 1

King Brahmadata was the king of Kashi. He was the richest and most powerful of all the kings in India. His armies were the largest, and his palaces the most splendid. Everything that King Brahmadata owned had to be the best of its kind. He would not accept anything that was not of the highest quality.

One day, King Brahmadatta had an idea. He would build a new palace for himself, finer than any other palace in the world. It was to be one of the wonders of the world. It would be supported by a single pillar. When the wind blew, his palace would swing to and fro gently, like a baby's cradle, rocking the king to sleep. But the pillar on which the palace stood had to be as strong as a rock, so that not even the strongest winds could bring it down.



King Brahmadatta called all his masons and carpenters and explained his idea to them. "Can you build such a palace for me.?" he asked them.

The masons and carpenters looked at each other in surprise and disbelief. A palace that rested on a single pillar? Could such a palace be built? It seemed impossible. But no one had the courage to tell the king that his idea was impossible.

The Chief Mason said to the king "Your Majesty, we need some time to plan the new palace. We will return with our plans after a month."

“Very well”, the king said, “you shall have one month, but no more.”

Activity 2. Knowing the key words

splendid beautiful and well-decorated

to and fro forwards and backwards

cradle a baby's bed which swings

to rock someone to sleep to make someone (usually a baby) go to sleep by shaking it backwards and forwards gently

mason a person who builds houses out of bricks or stones

disbelief not believing something

Activity 3. Comprehension

1. Who was Brahmadata ?
2. What kind of man was King Brahmadata ?
3. What was the idea that came to the king one day ?
4. What did the masons and carpenters think of the king's idea ?
5. What did the Chief Mason say to the king ? Why did he say so ?
6. What was the king's reply ?
7. What do you think is going to happen in the next part of the story ?

Stage 2. Reading

Now read part 2 of the story silently.

Part - 2

The king's masons and carpenters met to discuss plans for the king's new palace. The Chief Mason said "The king's palace must rest on a single pillar. How can we build a pillar light enough to bend with the wind, yet strong enough to stand up against the most powerful storm?"

One of the carpenters said "Only a living tree could give us such a pillar. We shall have to build the new palace on top of a tree."

"But where can we find a tree big and strong enough to support a palace?" the Chief Mason asked.

"We shall have to search everywhere", the carpenter said.

"We shall have to send out wood-cutters in all directions to look for this tree."

So wood-cutters were sent in all directions to look for a tree that would be large and strong enough to support the king's palace. Some went north, and others went south. Some went east, while others went west.

Then, finally, a great tree was found in the heart of a forest, among the foot-hills of the Himalaya mountains. It was a tall and magnificent *sal* tree,



hundreds of years old. Its enormous branches spread out over a great area.

Underneath the old *sal* tree were hundreds of younger trees. They were the children and grandchildren of the old tree.

The wood-cutters returned to Kashi and informed the Chief Mason about the tree which they had found. The Chief Mason gave orders that the tree was to be cut down in one piece, close to its roots, and carried in bullock-carts to Kashi. But it was not to be damaged in any way ; it must remain whole, so that it could provide the pillar for the king's new palace.

Activity 4. Comprehension

1. How did the king's masons and carpenters plan to build his new palace ?
2. Who said that wood cutters should be sent out in all directions ?
3. Where did their search end ?
4. What were the orders of the Chief Mason ?
5. What do you think will happen next in the story ?

Stage 2. Reading

Part - 3

Soon after the tree was found, King Brahmadata had a dream one night. He dreamt that the tree was talking to him.

"Oh king !" the tree said. " In a few days, I shall die. Your wood-cutters are going to kill me, so that your new palace can be built. I am ready to die, but I beg you, grant me one last wish !"

“What is your wish, oh king of trees?”

Brahmadatta asked the tree.

“It is this, great king! Let not your wood-cutters cut me down in one piece, as the Chief Mason has ordered them to do. Instead, let them cut me down in three parts – first the top, then the middle and lastly the bottom.”

The king was surprised. “Why?” he asked.

The tree replied, “If they cut me down in a single piece, I might fall on the other trees and hurt them. So, let them cut me down limb by limb. That way, the other trees will be spared.”

The king woke up from his dream and sent for the Chief Mason at once. “The tree is not to be cut down,” he ordered, “I do not want a new palace.”



Stage 3. After Reading

Activity 5. Comprehension

1. What did King Brahmadatta see in his dream?
2. What was the tree's last wish?
3. Why did the tree have this wish?
4. What did the king decide to do?
5. Why did he decide so?
6. What does this story tell us about King Brahmadatta?
7. What do you learn from the story?

Activity 6. Vocabulary

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

King Brahmadata was the _____ and most _____ of all the kings in India. Everything that this king _____ had to be the _____ of its kind.

The king wanted his _____ and _____ to build a new palace for him. This was to be one of the wonders of the world. It would be _____ by a single _____. When the wind blew, his palace would _____ to an fro gently like a baby's _____.

Activity 7. Usage (making comparisons)

Imagine that you have two friends; Arun and Rajesh. The heights and weights of these two boys are as follows :

	Arun	Rajesh
Height	160 centimetres	165 centimetres
Weight	55 kilograms	52 kilograms

If you wanted to compare the heights and weights of Arun and Rajesh, you could say :

Rajesh is *taller than* Arun, but Arun is *heavier than* Rajesh.

The words "taller than", "heavier than" show that we are making a comparison between the two.

You could also say :

- Arun is *tall*, but Rajesh is *taller*.
- Rajesh is *heavy*, but Arun is *heavier*.

Here is another example.

- Minimum temperature in Srinagar in December 2 degrees Centigrade
- Minimum temperature in Delhi in December 7 degrees Centigrade.

Comparing the temperatures of Srinagar and Delhi in December, you could say :

Srinagar is *colder than* Delhi in December

or

Delhi is *warmer than* Srinagar in December.

You could also say :

Delhi is *cold* in December, but Srinagar is *colder*.

By adding “-er” to a word, you give it the meaning “more _____ than.”

“Colder” means “more cold than”.

“Warmer” means “more warm than”

Here is a list of words, to which you can add “-er” when you want to express the meaning : “more _____ than.”

big	bigger	rich	richer
large	larger	poor	poorer
great	greater	clever	cleverer
small	smaller	wise	wiser
wide	wider	clean	cleaner
broad	broader	neat	neater
tall	taller	dirty	dirtier
high	higher		
heavy	heavier		
cold	colder		
cool	cooler		
hot	hotter		
warm	warmer		

Fill in the blanks with the right -er words.

1. Bhubaneswar is hot during summer, but Sambalpur is _____.
2. India is a big country, but China is _____.

- 3 Akbar was a wise king, but Ashoka was _____.
- 4 Ram is a clever boy, but his sister Krishna is _____.
- 5 The Birlas are rich, but the Tatas are _____.
- 6 The Atlantic Ocean is deep, but the Pacific is _____.
- 7 The Ganga is _____, but the Brahmaputra is _____.
- 8 The railway station is _____, but the fish market is _____.
- 9 Sandesh is _____, but rasagullas are _____.
- 10 The Indian cricket team is _____, but the Australian team is _____.

Activity 8. Writing

One of the things that the story "The Kind Tree" teaches us is to have greater love for plants and trees, which are very necessary for the health and happiness of human beings. Very often, we cause harm to plant life through our ignorance, without meaning to do so.

Every one of us must try to protect plants and trees.

Imagine that the students of your school are organizing a drawing competition for children, in which your friends and you are taking part. The aim of this competition is to give children the message that "trees are our friends, and we must protect them".

You have to produce a poster, carrying this message, on a large sheet of paper. The poster should have an appropriate "slogan" and also a drawing showing the importance of trees in our life. It should also carry a written message, in about 25 words.

In groups of 5, try to design a poster, using crayons, paints or water-colours.

