

LESSON

8



PRINCE SIDDHARTHA AND DEVADUTTA

Stage 1.

Pre-reading

Activity 1.

Talking about the topic

The teacher asks :

- 1 Have you heard the word 'ahimsa' ? What does it mean ? Do you know an English word which has the same meaning ?
- 2 Who first gave us the idea of ahimsa ?

The teacher then asks the children to read the following story, which will give them the answer to the second question

Stage 2.

Reading

Activity 2.

Reading silently

The story is in two parts. The children are first asked to read Part 1. Before they begin reading, the teacher explains the meanings of some of the difficult words in the story.

PRINCE SIDDHARTHA AND DEVADUTTA

Part - 1

Activity 3. Knowing the key words

<i>believe</i>	to follow an idea very strongly (e.g. "I believe that it is wrong to tell lies.")
<i>nature</i>	the qualities that a person has (e.g. My mother has a loving nature.)
<i>gentle</i>	one who is kind to everyone and does not hurt anyone
<i>cousin</i>	the son or daughter of one's uncle or aunt
<i>violent</i>	one who likes to fight with others and hurt them
<i>cruel</i>	not kind ; not caring about the feelings of others
<i>sport</i>	something that one does to get pleasure and enjoyment
<i>wounded</i>	having a cut in one's body, which was caused by a weapon (e.g., a knife or a bullet from a gun)

About 5000 years ago, King Suddhodana ruled over the kingdom of Kapilavastu. The name of his queen was Queen Mahamaya. They had a son whose name was Siddhartha.

As a child, Siddhartha was kind and gentle. He was kind to all living creatures, and everyone loved him.

Siddhartha had a cousin named Devadutta. Devadutta's mother and Queen Mahamaya were sisters. Siddhartha and Devadutta grew up together in the palace at Kapilavastu.

Although Siddhartha and Devadutta were friends and played together, their natures were very different. Siddhartha was gentle, but Devadutta was violent and cruel. He loved to hunt and kill animals for sport.

One day, Siddhartha and Devadutta were playing together in the garden. There were many trees in the garden, and some birds had built their nests in the branches of these trees.

Devadutta saw a pigeon sitting on the branch of a tree and wanted to hunt it. At once, he took out his bow and shot the pigeon with an arrow. The pigeon did not die, but fell to the ground, wounded.



Activity 4. Comprehension

The teacher asks :

1. Who was Siddhartha ?
2. How long ago did he live ?
3. Who was Devadutta ?
4. What are we told about the natures of Prince Siddhartha and Devadutta ?
5. What did Devadutta do while he and Siddhartha were playing ?

Part - 2

Stage 1. Pre-reading

Activity 5. Guessing about the story

The teacher asks :

In Part 1 you came to know that Devadutta shot a pigeon with his bow and arrows. What do you think will happen now ? Will the pigeon die ? What will happen if the pigeon dies ? Will Prince Siddhartha quarrel with Devadutta ?

Now read Part 2 to know your answers are right.

Stage 2. Reading

The children are asked to read Part 2 silently.

Activity 6. Knowing the key words

The teacher asks the children to look at the meanings of key words after one reading. They are then asked to read Part - 2 for a second time.

<i>suffering</i>	in great pain
<i>bleeding</i>	with blood flowing out of the body
<i>cured</i>	became well, free from suffering
<i>herbs</i>	plants which are used as medicines to cure people
<i>squeeze</i>	to press very hard with the fingers
<i>founder</i>	one who begins or starts something (The 'founder' of a school is the person who begins the school.)
<i>non-violence</i>	the idea that you should not hurt others or cause pain to them

Prince Siddhartha picked up the wounded pigeon. It was bleeding and in great pain. The kind-hearted prince was very unhappy when he saw the pigeon suffering. He took the wounded pigeon at once to a famous *vaidya*, who could cure animals as well as human beings with the help of herbs. The *vaidya* pulled the arrow out of the pigeon's body. Then he took some herbs that grew in his garden, squeezed out their juice and put this juice on the wound in the pigeon's body. The pigeon was quickly cured.



Prince Siddhartha took the pigeon home. On the way, he met Devadutta.

“Give me that pigeon,” Devadutta said. “It is mine, and I want it.”

“No, I won't give it to you,” Prince Siddhartha said. “It is mine.”

“It is mine!” shouted Devadutta. “I shot the pigeon with my bow, so it belongs to me.”

“But I saved the pigeon's life,” Prince Siddhartha said. “So it should belong to me.”

Who was right?

They took the pigeon to their teacher. "Teacher," they said, "please tell us to whom this pigeon belongs." They told the teacher what had happened.

The teacher heard their story. Then he said "Devadutta tried to kill the pigeon, but Siddhartha saved its life. One who saves life is greater than one who kills. So the pigeon should be given to Siddhartha."

Prince Siddhartha later became famous as Gautam Buddha, the founder of a great religion known as Buddhism. The followers of Buddha are known as Buddhists. They believe that it is wrong to take the life of any living creature. They believe in *ahimsa*, or non-violence. Many years later, another great Indian, Mahatma Gandhi, taught *ahimsa* to the people of this country.



Stage 3. After-reading

Activity 7. Comprehension

The teacher asks :

1. Earlier, you were asked what was going to happen after Devadutta shot the pigeon. What was the answer you gave? Were you right?
2. Why did Devadutta and Siddhartha quarrel? How did the quarrel end?
3. Who are Buddhists? What do they believe?
4. Why has the name of Mahatma Gandhi been brought into this story?

Activity 8. Question for discussion

Do you believe in 'ahimsa' ? If you do, you should give up violence completely. You should never fight with anyone, never become angry, never hurt or kill any living creature. You should also give up non-vegetarian food.

Can you do all this ?

Activity 9. Vocabulary

Fill in the blanks using the words in the box.

hunt; suffering; sport; kind-hearted; shot; cruel

Siddhartha was a very _____ child. He felt very unhappy when he saw that the pigeon which Devadutta had _____ with his bow and arrows was _____. Devdutt was _____ by nature. He liked to _____. He used to kill animals as a kind of _____.

Activity 10. Spelling

In the sentences below, some of the words have been spelt wrongly. Correct their spellings.

Devadutta was Siddhartha's cuzin. He was a volient person. One day he shot a pigen with his bow. The pigen was oonded. Siddhartha took the pigen to a phamos vaidya.

Activity 11 Usage (verbs)

Fill in the blanks using different forms of the words.

wash; work; cook; ask; walk

(The teacher should tell the children what the correct forms of the words are, but should avoid the use of grammatical terms such as "verb", "present tense", "past tense", etc.)

1. My younger brother likes to _____ questions. He _____ his teachers many questions when he is in school. Yesterday he _____ his English teacher, "Sir, the doctor told my father that he has hyper-tension. What is the meaning of 'hyper-tension'?"

2. My sister _____ very slowly when she goes to school, but she _____ much faster when she returns from school.

But last week, when she went to Puri, she _____ all the way from the railway station to the temple.

3. My mother _____ food for us every morning. She likes to _____.

Yesterday, she _____ some fish for us.

4. You should _____ your hands before you take your foods. My sister _____ her hands before every meal. Last night, she _____ all the dishes after we had eaten.

5. You must _____ hard if you want to pass the examination. My father _____ in a bank. Before that, he _____ as a teacher in a school.

Activity 12. Writing

Re-arrange the sentences below, putting them in the right order.

A pigeon was sitting on the branch of a tree. One day, Siddhartha and Devadutta were playing together in the garden. Siddhartha was very kind-hearted. He shot the pigeon with his bow and arrows. The pigeon was cured. Devdutt liked to hunt. He was very unhappy when he saw the pigeon suffering. He took the pigeon at once to a famous vaidya.

Activity 13. Speaking

The teacher asks two children to read out the conversation below :

Rahul Sachin, what's that strange thing hanging on the wall ?

Sachin Oh, it's the head of a wild buffalo. My grandfather shot it in the jungles near Dhenkanal, more than 70 years ago.

Rahul Why did he shoot the poor animal ? Was it doing him any harm ?

Sachin My grandfather was a great hunter. He loved hunting. He shot many wild animals, mostly tigers, bears, and wild buffaloes. You can see the skins of these animals in our house.

Rahul Why do some people hunt animals ? I think it is cruel to kill an animal.

Sachin I agree with you. But 70 years ago, people thought differently. Hunting was a sport for them.

The teacher asks a few other pairs of children to play the roles of Rahul and Sachin.

