

READ, THINK AND ENJOY

1. SENGAI BLESSES A FAMILY

Sengai was a wise man and a great teacher. One day a rich man came to Sengai and said to him, “I have come to request you to bless our family. Please write something for our continued prosperity.”

Sengai sent for a large sheet of paper. When it was brought to him, he wrote on it: “Father dies, son dies, and grandson dies.”

The rich man became angry. He said to Sengai, “I requested you to write something for the happiness of our family. But you have written about death, which is a terrible thing. Why are you making a joke such as this?”



henceforth he will be known as Sitaram Achari. Though a carpenter he will also attend my court.’ The king’s proclamation was greeted with cheers.

When Sitaram went home escorted by bodyguards, his mother’s joy knew no bounds. She teased him. “So, you’re now a carpenter, a royal carpenter?”

LET’S THINK AND DO

1. Have you ever listened to such types of stories? Share them with your classmantes.
2. How did Sitaram become a royal carpenter?
3. How do you view this statement: “So, you’re now a carpenter, a royal carpenter”?

2. WONDERFUL WASTE

Once the Maharaja of Travancore ordered a grand dinner in his palace. In the afternoon before the dinner, the Maharaja entered the kitchen to survey the dishes that had been prepared for the feast.

“What are you going to do with those vegetable scraps?” he asked the cook, pointing to the basket of scraps near the cook. The cook replied, “They are waste. We will throw them away.”

“You cannot waste all these bits and pieces of vegetables. Find a way to use them,” the Maharaja commanded sternly and walked away.

The cook was in a fix and kept staring at the vegetable scraps for some time. Suddenly, an idea flashed across his mind.

He took all the vegetable bits, washed them and cleaned them well.

Then he cut them into long strips. He put them in a huge pot and placed it on the fire to cook. Next, he ground some fresh coconut, green chillies and garlic together. He added this paste and some salt to the cooking vegetables.

A tempting smell started coming from the pot. Now he whipped some curd and added it to the curry. He also poured a few spoonfuls

of coconut oil and decorated the dish with curry leaves.

Lo and behold! The new dish was ready.

The cook served this new dish to the guests that evening.

Everyone was eager to know the name of the new dish. The cook thought and thought. Then a name came to his mind. He named it avial (uh-vi-ul).

Avial became famous all over Kerala and is now one of the dishes in a traditional Kerala feast. And imagine, it all came from a basket of waste!



LET'S THINK AND DO

1. Several things are thrown away daily as waste in every household. List them. Think of ways to reuse these items.
2. The Maharaja ordered the cook to use the vegetable scraps instead of throwing them away. Work in groups and name some of the things which are thrown away at home or in your school. Think of some interesting ways by which they can be made useful.

3. Name the food that is made in your home :

- (i) For a festival. _____.
- (ii) When you are unwell. _____.
- (iii) Everyday _____.
- (iv) On your birthday _____.

4. 'Avial' is a dish made in Kerala. It is famous all over the state.

Do you have a similar dish in your state made from a mix of many ingredients?

- (i) What is it called? _____
- (ii) Note down the ingredients used to make it. _____
- (iii) Write down the recipe:

5. Look at the following words:

Root word	new word	by adding	by dropping
order	ordered	-ed-	-
eager	eagerly	-ly-	-
go	going	-ing-	-
name	named	- d -	-
cloudy	cloudier	- er -	y

Make new words by adding or deleting a few letters from the root words. Some are done for you in the chart below :

	-ed	-ing	-r/-er	-est
taste	tasted			
wise	x	x		
order		x	x	x
wash			x	x
long	x	x	longer	
cook				x
add			x	x
clean				
stare				
fire			x	x
tempt				x
fix			x	x
new	x	x		

3. THE WONDER COT

In a small town in Bihar there lived a skilled carpenter called Piyaram Achari. Such was his skill that he never had to go and market the beautiful things he created. People flocked to his house and bought various items he created.

He had an intelligent son, Sitaram, who often watched him at work with great fascination. He refused to go to school or play with the other children. Whenever Piyaram was away, Sitaram picked up his tools and tried his hand at chiselling and polishing waste wood pieces lying around. The father was unaware that his son was slowly becoming a talented carpenter.

Sitaram was now a young man and life went on smoothly. But one day, his father suddenly passed away. The family was in a crisis. For a couple of days they ate whatever their neighbours shared with them. On the third day Sitaram's mother woke him up and asked: "How are we going to make a living, dear son?"

Sitaram sat up in his bed and said, "Mother, I shall become a carpenter like father." His mother smiled and said, "But, you haven't learnt carpentry!" Her son replied, "Mother, I have watched father make so many things, and I feel I can start by making a few things. I want to give it a try."

From that day, Sitaram was busy making doors and windows

and some odd things. The sound of the chisel and the hammer attracted the passersby. They placed orders with Sitaram and were happy with his craftsmanship. He made enough to live on.

Sitaram had lot of spare time and his head was full of wonderful designs. One day, he decided to make a cot. What he had in mind was not a plain cot, it was a four-poster cot. Not the regular four-poster cot to hang curtains from but the posters would have soldier-like figures. It would be an ideal cot for a king he thought. He discussed his dream project with friends and acquaintances and started working on it.

Word soon spread and it reached the ears of King Parasnath. One of his courtiers told him, “Your majesty, the cot has four soldiers in the four corners to take care of the one who sleeps on it!” Parasnath had been having nightmares and sleepless nights. Demons, snakes, spies and robbery were recurring themes in his dreams. With no peace of mind, he thought he should give the cot a try. He asked his minister to meet Sitaram secretly and find out the price.

Sitaram was surprised when the minister called on him. He told the minister that he would not sell the cot but would gift it to the king. The king could reward him after using the cot. The minister arranged for the cot to be taken to the palace that night. The king was pleased as soon as he set his eyes on the cot. He was especially pleased to see the beautifully sculpted four soldiers. Soon, the king was fast asleep on the cot.

One night, a demon crept into the bedchamber. One of the soldiers came alive as soon as he saw the demon. The soldier caught hold

of the demon, dragged him outside, and killed him. After killing the demon, he returned and narrated the adventure to the other soldiers. The king woke up and heard the conversation. In the morning, the king was told about the demon's body lying outside the palace gates. Nobody knew how the body had appeared there or who had killed it. The king then told the minister about what had happened the previous night. The king had a bag of gold coins sent to Sitaram.

A few days later, the king was fast asleep, when one of the soldiers came alive on hearing a hissing sound. A hideous looking serpent was crawling towards the king's bed; the soldier caught it by its tail, took it beyond the palace gates and killed it. He then discussed his valorous act with the other soldiers. The king heard the soldier's narration. The next day the dead serpent outside the palace became the news. The royal astrologer was called. He told the king that he need not worry about being killed by a snake because the snake had been killed. The king sent another bag of gold coins to Sitaram.

Another night, the third soldier of the cot heard strange noises, came alive, and went to investigate. He found two thieves trying to break the locks of the treasury. The soldier managed to catch them and tie them with a rope. When he came back to the king's bed-chamber, he told the other soldiers how he had prevented a robbery. The king overheard the conversation, went out and called his bodyguards. He asked them to search the palace. They found the two thieves lying bound, luckily, the locks were intact. The thieves were then imprisoned. The king sent another bag of gold coins to Sitaram.

Soon the kingdom was rife with rumours that it would be attacked soon. King Parasnath asked his courtiers to be alert and bring him news if any. Though the rumours were bothering the king, he had faith in the soldiers of the cot. So, he slept soundly in the night with no apprehensions about the safety of the kingdom.

One night, the fourth soldier came alive and went to the minister's apartment. He found a suspicious looking man lurking in the courtyard. He was a spy from the neighbouring kingdom. He had been sent to kill the minister and create turmoil which would be an ideal situation for an attack. A scuffle broke between the soldier and the spy and the minister woke up and called his bodyguards. They came and separated the two. The minister was surprised to see the soldier from the cot.

“You...?” the minister exclaimed. “Yes, sir, I’m one of the soldiers of the cot. The person I caught is a spy; he might have killed you. Let me now go back to my place in the cot. We are always at the service of the king!” The soldier turned round and disappeared.

The minister saw the intruder being taken away by the bodyguards and rushed to meet the king. After he listened to the minister, the king said, “The soldiers of the cot have saved my life and yours. They have protected the treasury and saved the kingdom from an imminent attack. If they help us, we can even go to war with our neighbours. But before that, I would like to meet the carpenter and congratulate him.”

The king told his courtiers about the young carpenter, Sitaram, and his wonder cot. “Sitaram is now our royal carpenter,

THE CROCODILE'S ADVICE

(Text)

Once there lived two friends – a fox and a crocodile.

Fox: Friend, I'm feeling very hungry.

Crocodile: Are you coming to the other side?

Fox: For what?

Crocodile: There're lots of rabbits. You can pounce on them
very fast and satisfy your hunger

(The fox sits on the back of the crocodile and they swim towards the
other side)

Fox: Hey, there're lots of fishes in the river.

Crocodile: Oh yes. But don't try to catch them. You know
how to hunt food on land, not water . So you've to
be very careful.

Fox (jumps and gets one): I've caught one! I've caught one!

Crocodile(surprised): What? (Fox is not on his back)

Fox: gulp ... gulp ...eh (sinking)

(Crocodile dives in and rescues the fox and brings him ashore):

Fox: I should not have come with you to the other side. That's what
created the problem.

Crocodile: You fool! You tried to hunt in water as you do on land.
That's why you fell into the water. Didn't I warn you? You never paid
any heed to my warning. It's true that there's no point in advising fools.

APPENDIX

TEXT-1

Have you ever wondered how ants are able to communicate with each other? They don't talk like human beings, so how do they let their buddies know when they've found a big pile of food, or if a predator is nearby?

Though ants might not speak like you or I do, they actually have a very detailed "language" that uses movement and...believe it or not, smell! Ants release a special type of chemical called "pheromones" – by smelling the pheromones, other ants are able to follow the scent trail to food, protect their young, or even protect each other in event of danger.

In addition to smell, ants will use touch to make a point. For example, if one ant finds a pile of food, it will rub its antennae and front legs on its neighbour to get its attention and pass on the good news! To help with this, their legs are covered in special hairs that make them even more sensitive and able to feel touch and vibrations.

TEXT-2

A mother went for shopping with her six year old daughter. There, they met an old, poor man who tried to persuade them to buy balloons from him. The little girl said, " Mummy, let's give that poor man some money." "We're in a hurry,"replied the mother. "And besides, it's not our problem." She hastened past the poor man dragging her little girl along. She went on to purchase expensive dresses though she had plenty of them. At night, with her mother by her side, the young girl prayed, 'Dear God! I thank you for all you have done for me. Bless Mummy and Daddy.' She further added, "Dear God, forgive Mummy who refused to help the poor man saying that it was not her problem. "The mother felt greatly ashamed of herself when she heard this.