

# The Plant Fairy

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Last Sunday, we went to a garden in the neighbourhood. We played **Hide and Seek (Chhupanchhupai)** and **Antakshari**. We had a lot of fun. After sometime, *Didi* said – Let us play a new game today. I will become a ‘Plant fairy’. The ‘Plant fairy’ will call out a name of something and you all will have to touch it.

The game began. *Didi* said – The ‘Plant fairy’ asks you to touch a plant. At once, all the children ran towards the plants.



Children can be asked by what name, games like Chhupanchhupai, Antakshari are called in their regions.

*Didi* said — Very good! Every one has touched a plant. But have you noticed that all the plants are different from each other ? *Didi*, you are also sitting on little plants, said Shabnam.



**Can you name the plant on which *Didi* was sitting ?**

The game started again. The ‘Plant fairy’ now said – Touch a tree which has either a thick or a thin trunk.



The children ran again to touch the trees with thick or thin trunks. Have you seen a tree with a trunk as thick as the one shown in the picture ?

Michael found the game very interesting. He thought, how lucky the fairy was. She could order everyone around. Now, I want to be the ‘Plant fairy’ – said Michael. The children laughed aloud – A boy fairy ! They were now ready to take orders from the new ‘Plant fairy’.

Michael said – Get me some leaves quickly.

But remember you are not to pluck the leaves from the plants – said *Didi*. The children ran to collect the leaves which were lying on the ground.



**Think and Write :**

Write the names of leaves which you have seen :

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By playing this game children will see the diversity in plants for themselves. It would be good if children became the ‘Plant fairy’ by turn. So that they themselves can choose the basis of classification.





Do all the leaves have similar colours, shapes and margins ?



Dayaram said – I did not know that there were so many types of leaves. Look, some are round, some are long and some are triangular.

Ammu said – They are of so many different colours as well. Some are light green and some are dark green. Some are even yellow, red and purple. There is one which is green but has white patches on it.

Look, even the margins of these leaves are different from each other. Some have straight margins and some have uneven. Some of these margins even look like a saw – said Shabnam.

Ammu and Shabnam shouted together – We also want to be the ‘Plant fairy.’

*Didi* said – Not today, may be next Sunday. It is time to go home now. On the way back, *Didi* recited a poem for everyone.



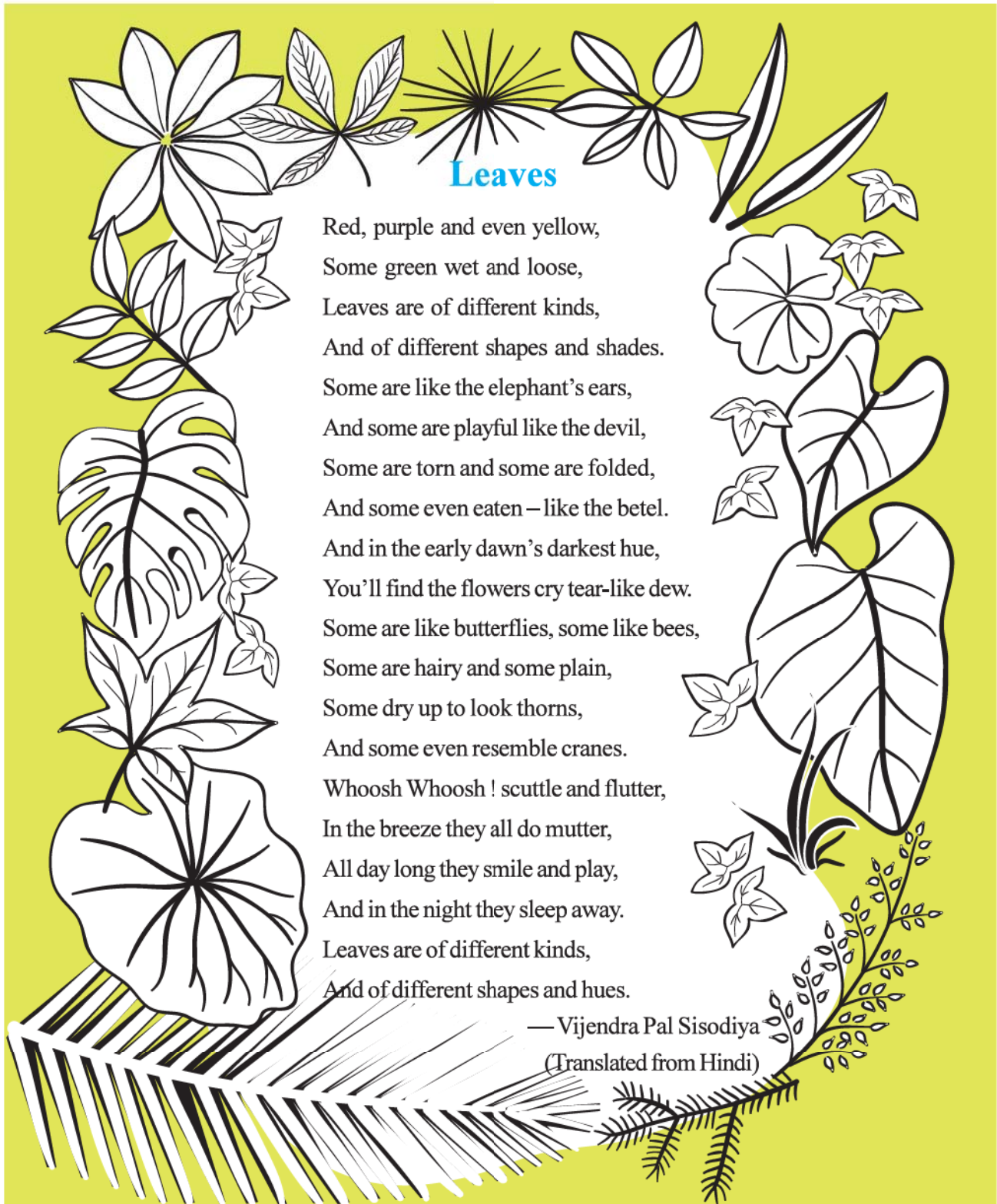
### Read and Write :

What can be seen in the garden ?




## Fill the colour :

Fill colour of your choice in leaves and flowers :



Red, purple and even yellow,  
Some green wet and loose,  
Leaves are of different kinds,  
And of different shapes and shades.  
Some are like the elephant's ears,  
And some are playful like the devil,  
Some are torn and some are folded,  
And some even eaten – like the betel.  
And in the early dawn's darkest hue,  
You'll find the flowers cry tear-like dew.  
Some are like butterflies, some like bees,  
Some are hairy and some plain,  
Some dry up to look thorns,  
And some even resemble cranes.  
Whoosh Whoosh ! scuttle and flutter,  
In the breeze they all do mutter,  
All day long they smile and play,  
And in the night they sleep away.  
Leaves are of different kinds,  
And of different shapes and hues.

— Vijendra Pal Sisodiya  
(Translated from Hindi)



Children like to recite poems, but they should not be forced to memorise them. It will be good if all the children recite the poem as a group in the class.



- \* Collect a few leaves of plants like lemon, mango, neem, basil (*tulsi*), mint (*pudina*) and coriander (*dhaniya*).
- \* Crush the leaves and smell them. Do they all smell alike ?
- \* Can you identify the leaves just by their smell ?
- \* What are the ways to identify leaves ?
- \* Look at these beautiful pictures. They are made of dry leaves.



### Make pictures from leaves :

- \* Using dry leaves, make pictures of different animals in your notebook.



The artist Vishnu Chinchalkar (Indore, Madhya Pradesh) made beautiful pictures using dry leaves. These pictures are inspired by his work.



## How to take impressions ?



Take a paper and a crayon or colour pencil. Place the leaf on a table or on the ground. It should be placed in such a way that the side of the leaf with veins is on the top. Place a paper on the leaf. Gently rub the crayon or colour pencil on the paper. Be careful that the paper or the leaf does not move.

### \* Similarly, take impressions of the trunk of a tree.

Place a paper on the trunk and rub a crayon or a colour pencil on it. Look, you have made impressions of the tree bark !

Look at the impressions made by the others. Are the impressions of different plants similar ? Which leaf gave a good impressions ? Which tree's impression was difficult to take ? Why ?



- \* What would happen, if the bark of all the trees gave similar impressions ?
- \* Which tree's bark impressions, we cannot take? Why ?





### Look and Write :

Look at the picture and name the things which have patterns of leaves and flowers on them.



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Children may talk to their elders or to a farmer or a gardener for knowing more about plants and discuss in the class.



### Think and Write :

- \* Look for objects which have patterns of leaves and flowers on them in your house. Write their names.

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- \* You must have seen many plants and trees. Write their names.


- \* Are there any plants that you have heard of, but never seen ? Write their names.




### Find and Tell :

- \* Ask some older people if there were plants which they have seen when they were children but are not seen these days.
- \* Also, ask them if there are any plants which can be seen these days, but which were not seen earlier.



### Friendship with a tree :

Choose a tree near your school or house and make friendship with it.

### A lasting friendship :

- \* Which tree is it ? Ask some elders if you don't know.
- \* Will you like to give your friend a special name ?
- \* What will you name it ?



Encourage children to make friends with a tree – water it, look after it and observe it minutely. This will develop their concern for the environment.



- \* Does the tree-friend bear flowers or fruits ? Which ones ?
- \* How the leaves of the tree look like ?
- \* Which animals live in the tree-friend ? Write their names.



### **Fill the colours :**

Find out more about your tree friend and share it with others.

Draw the picture of your tree-friend in the box given below and colour it.