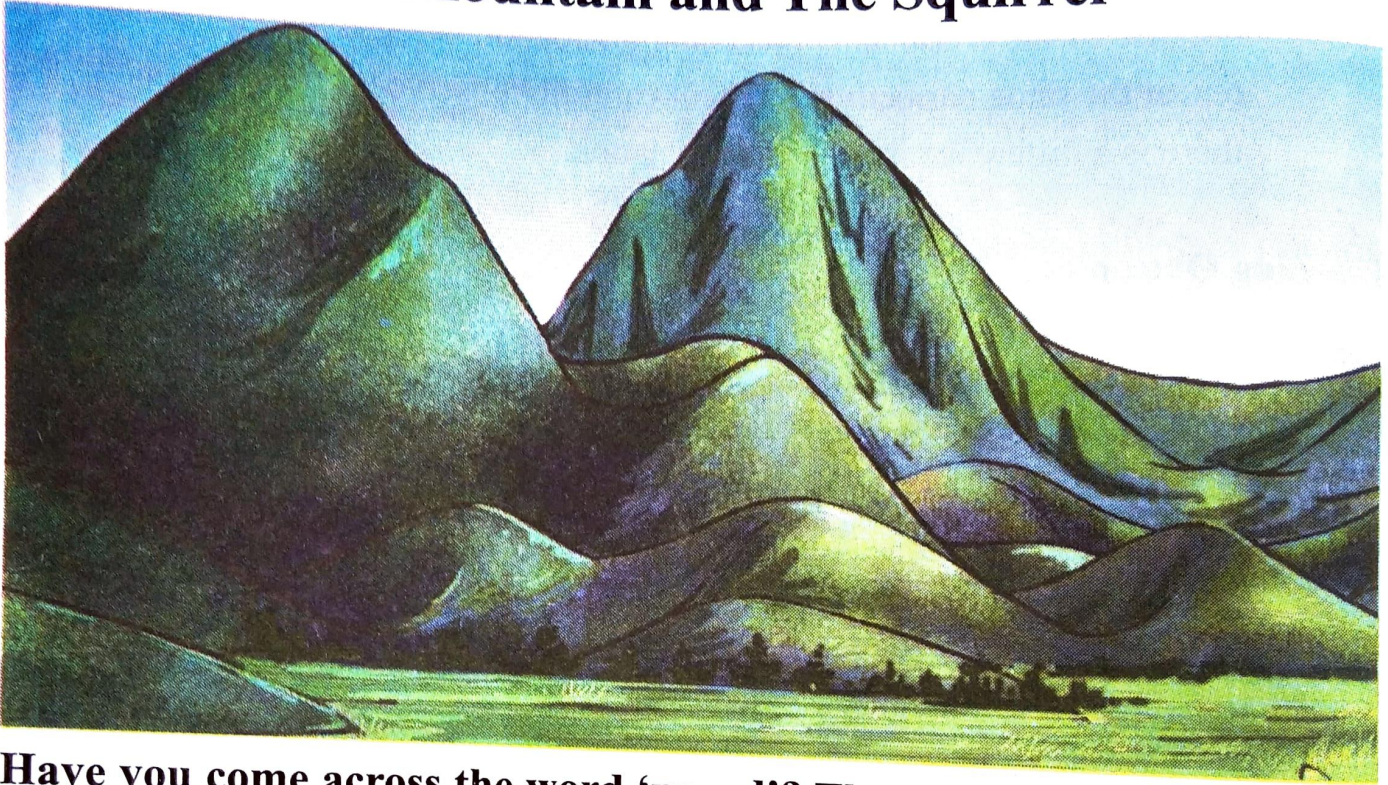


Lesson 7

The Mountain and The Squirrel



Have you come across the word 'proud'? The word has two meanings, one positive and one negative.

Work in pairs. Use the dictionary to find out both the meanings and write them in the space below:

- (a) _____
- (b) _____

Now think and tell which meaning (a) or (b) is opposite of the following words:

humble, modest

Discuss with your partner whether we should be proud or humble. Give two reasons for your answer.

Now read a poem about a mountain and a squirrel, who have a quarrel about who is greater. After reading, say which one of them is proud, and which one is humble.



The mountain and the squirrel
Had a quarrel,
And the former called the latter "Little prig".
Bun replied,
"You are doubtless very big;
But all sorts of things and weather
Must be taken in together
To make up a year,
And a sphere.
And I think it no disgrace
To occupy my place.
If I'm not so large as you,
You are not so small as I,
And not half so spry:
I'll not deny you make
A very pretty squirrel track.
Talents differ; all is well and wisely put;
If I cannot carry forests on my back,
Neither can you crack a nut."

— *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

ACTIVITIES

1. Did you like the poem? Write three words you connect with each object you read in the poem. One has been done for you.

Squirrel	Mountain	Forest
tree		
nut		
climb		

2. Read the poem once again and answer the following questions:

- Why did the mountain call the squirrel “Little prig”?
- What did the squirrel say to the mountain?
- What are the main differences between the mountain and the squirrel?
- “If I’m not so large as you,
You are not so small as I,
And not half so spry:
I’ll not deny you make
A very pretty squirrel track.”

Who said these lines and to whom?

- The word ‘former’ means *the first one out of two*, and the word ‘latter’ means *the second one out of two*. “And the former called the latter Little prig” – Who is the ‘former’ and who is the ‘latter’ in the poem?

- (f) Write down the lines from the poem that mean the following:
- (i) The squirrel is not as big as the mountain and the mountain is not even half as energetic as Bun.
 - (ii) Everyone is unique in their own way. People have different skills and everything is put very wisely.
 - (iii) To make a year and a revolution around the sun all types of things and weather must be taken into consideration.

3. Read the following lines:

But all sorts of things and weather
Must be taken in together
To make up a year,
And a sphere.

Why does the poet talk about a year and a sphere?

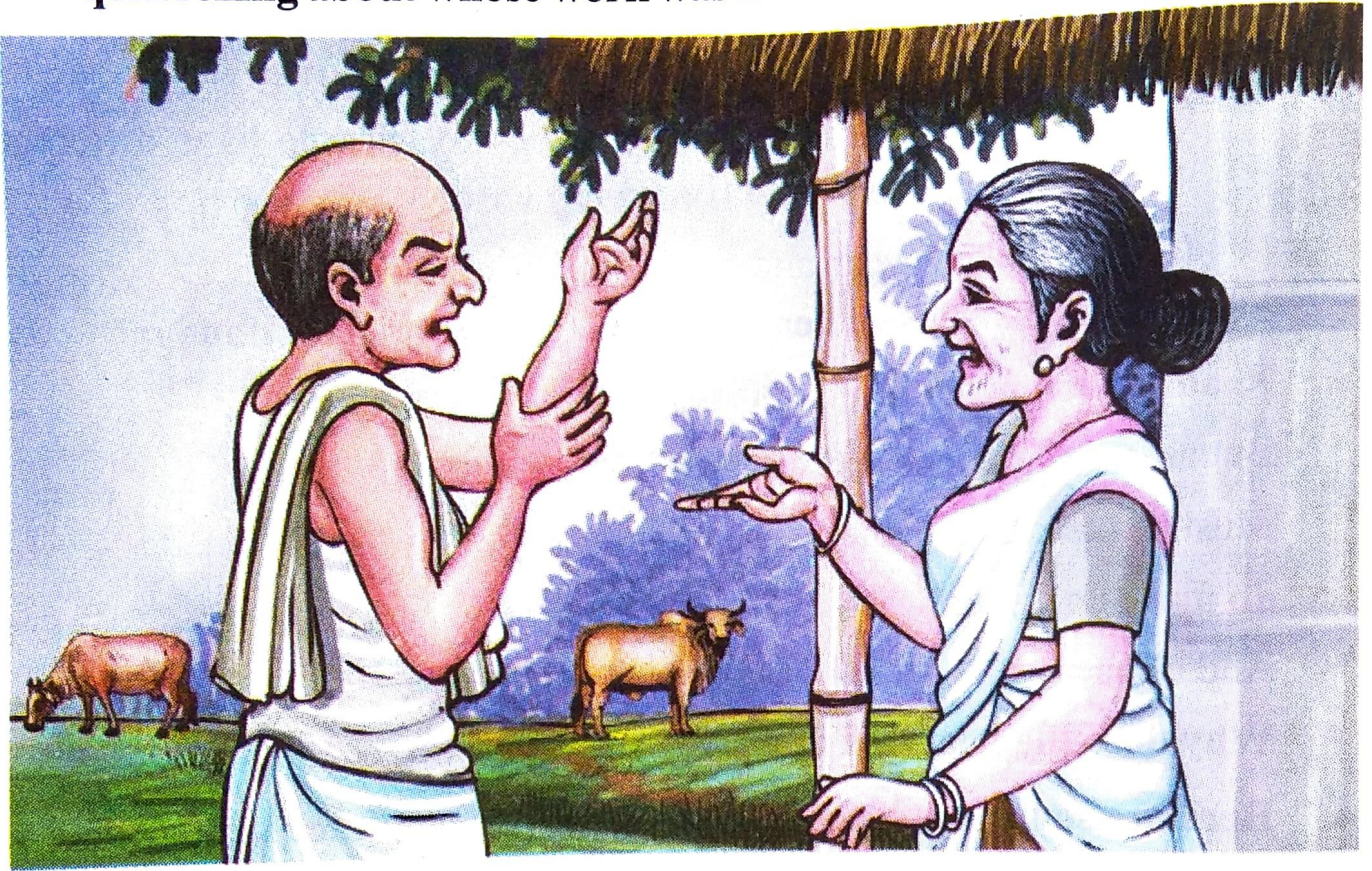
4. Here are some sentences related to the poem. Which sentences are true, and which are not true? Correct the ones which are wrong and write the correct sentences in your notebook.

- (a) The mountain called the squirrel 'Little prig'.
- (b) The squirrel told the mountain that it wasn't a disgrace to be small.
- (c) The mountain is not as spry as the squirrel.
- (d) The squirrel can carry a forest on his back.

5. Discuss in groups and share your answers with the class.

- (a) What was the cause of the fight between the mountain and the squirrel? Why do you think so?
- (b) Tell your partner two things you like about the squirrel and two things you dislike about the mountain.

6. Have you heard the folk tale of the old man and his wife? They were quarrelling about whose work was harder. Read and enjoy the story!



Once upon a time there was an old man who lived with his wife on a farm. One day they had a big quarrel. The old man said, “Keep quiet, woman! You are so lucky. You do easy work, you get time to rest and to enjoy yourself with your friends.” The old lady was very angry. “How dare you say that! I do such hard work! I work from morning till night cleaning the house, cooking food for you, washing your clothes, feeding the animals. Try doing it one day!” So the old man and the old lady decided to change places for one day. The old man stayed at home to do house work, and his wife went to the paddy field with the plough and the bullocks.

What do you think happened that day? Whose work was easier? Think of an ending for the story. Discuss your thoughts with the friend next to you and share it with the class.

7. Your teacher has written a sentence on the blackboard. Read it.

- (a) The mountain said to the squirrel, "You are a little prig."

The words used by the mountain to call the squirrel are given in inverted commas. When the exact words used by the speaker is given in inverted commas, we call the words or sentences – direct speech.

We can rewrite the sentence by providing the information indirectly as follows:

The mountain told the squirrel that he was a little prig.

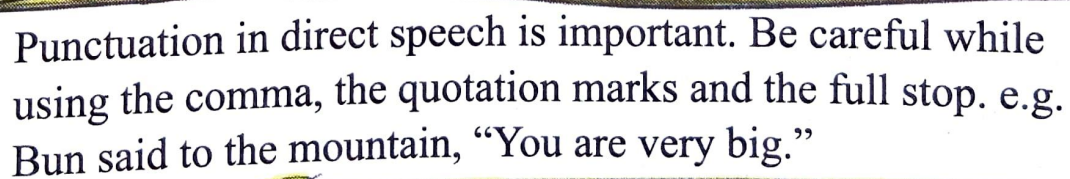
This is an example of an indirect narration – or indirect speech.
Here is another example:

- (b) Bun said to the mountain, "You are very big."

Bun told the mountain that he was very big.

What changes did you notice when the sentence in direct speech was turned into indirect speech?

- (i) You must have seen that the inverted commas and commas are removed.
- (ii) The word 'that' is added.
- (iii) The verb 'are' which is in the Present Tense changed to 'was' in the Past Tense.
- (iv) The pronoun 'you' became 'he'.



Punctuation in direct speech is important. Be careful while using the comma, the quotation marks and the full stop. e.g. Bun said to the mountain, "You are very big."

Now try and change the following sentences from direct to indirect speech.

- (i) Anurag said to Anu, "You are a lazy girl."
- (ii) Anu said to Anurag, "You are doubtless very smart."
- (iii) He said to her, "I play cricket."
- (iv) She replied, "I don't play cricket."
- (v) She added, "I dance Bihu."
- (vi) He said to her, "I don't dance Bihu."
- (vii) Arun said, "A lazy girl cannot dance."
- (viii) Anurag said, "I agree with you."

8. You know that we have names for people who do different kinds of work. For example, you are a student because you study in school. Do you know other such names? Fill in the table below with appropriate names.

(i) Who serves us food in a restaurant?	Waiter
(ii) Who takes care of sick or injured people?	
(iii) Who teaches us in school?	
(iv) Who operates the controls of an aircraft?	
(v) Who takes care of our teeth?	
(vi) Who puts out fires?	

9. What would you like to be when you grow up? Think of five reasons why you have chosen this profession and share them with the class.

10. The pictures given below show people practising different occupations or professions. Read and complete the sentences with appropriate words.

(a)



(i) Terang is a _____. He grows _____ and vegetables. He supplies food to the people living in towns and cities.



(ii) Reshma is a _____. People get their grocery supplies from her shop.



(iii) Robert is a _____. He drives the car of the Governor. He is very honest and hardworking.



(iv) Neboli is a _____. She flies the aeroplane to different parts of the country. She is very careful because the lives of the passengers depend upon her.



- (iv) Akhilesh is a _____. He is very brave. He guards our borders against enemies.



- (v) Mrs. Agarwal is a famous _____. She is a hard-working woman. She employs over a hundred people in her industrial company.



- (vii) Tina is an _____. She works in a firm that designs houses and factories.

(b) Fill in the gaps in the sentences below using the information given above. Use *although* where needed:

- (i) Although Mr. Shekhar Sharma is the Governor, when he is in his car, his life depends on the _____.
- (ii) _____ Terang is not as rich or powerful as Mr. Sharma, Mrs. Agarwal and Tina, they will get food to eat only if farmers like _____ grow crops in the fields.
- (iii) _____ Akhilesh is not a General, the people of the country are safe because of _____ like him.
- (iv) Grocers like _____ can do business only because farmers like _____ produce things which she sells in her _____.