

10. Our Little River

Which is the river closest to your house ?



Our little river twists and turns
It's just knee-deep when summer burns,
How easy is it then to cross,
Cattle and carts just ford across,
The banks slope gently, though they're high,
And in the summer, always dry.

No dirt no mud : it all so clean,
The sand glints with a golden gleam,
And to one side, there stands a bed
Of 'Kash', with white flowers overspread,
Flocks of 'mynahs' gather there
And with their chatter fill the air,
While deep at night the jackals prowl,
Piercing the silence with their howl.

Groves of palm and mango trees
Upon the other bank one sees,
Nestling beneath their leafy shade
The village houses stand arrayed,
Along the bank the children play,
Splash each other, duck and spray,
Or sometimes, having had their bath,
Catch small fish in bits of cloth,
The village women by that spot
scrub with sand their pans and pots.
They wash their clothes and have their bath,
Then back they take the homeward path .



And then, often the rains begin
The river fills upto the brim,
It rushes then upon its course
In muddy whirls and deafening roars,
Upon the banks, among the woods
A call rings out in joyful mood,
And all the village wakes again
To mark the festival of the rain.

Word Meanings

turns	change the direction
burns	heat
glints	sparkling
gleam	beam of light
prowl	creep around, lying in waiting
piercing	penetrating something
groves	trees in collective form
nestling	resting
arrayed	lined up (built in lines)
scrub	to clear by rubbing
up to the brim	completely full
course	path, way

Reading Comprehension

A. Put the tick (✓) against the right one and cross (x) against the wrong one.

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 1. The river is knee deep in summer. | () |
| 2. It is not easy to cross the river in summer. | () |
| 3. The river is straight. | () |
| 4. The river is dirty. | () |
| 5. Children play in the river. | () |
| 6. The village houses are situated far away from the river. | () |
| 7. The river fills it self up to the brim in summer. | () |
| 8. They enjoy a festival in the rainy season. | () |

B. Answer the following questions.

- How is the river ?
- Why is it easy to cross the river in summer ?
- Can the animals also cross the river in summer ?
- How do the river banks look like in summer ?
- Why does the sand glint and gleam ?
- Do you like jackals/dogs howling at night ? Why ?
- On which side of the river are the village houses situated ?
- In which season does the river fill upto the brim ?
- How does the river water look ?
- Why do the villagers have a joyful mood ?

Vocabulary

- A. 1. Go through the poem and make a list of describing words .
2. Pick up the rhyming words from the poem for the following words and supply one word more for each.



turns	cross	high	clean	bed
.....				
.....				
there	prowl	trees	shade	play
.....				
.....				
bath	spots	bath	course	again
.....				
.....				

- B. Use the following words in your own sentences

burns, chatter, glints, catch, scrub, rings, mark

Writing

Read the news extract about Advina Kant.

A girl from Korba, Chhattisgarh is the youngest child to have climbed one of the tallest peaks, Gourlata, in Chhattisgarh. The mountain peak is 4018 ft above sea level.

Given below are some more facts about Advina. With the help of these facts, write a small paragraph of 50-60 words on Advina.

1. climbed on 11 May 2015
2. age then was 5 year 10 months 03 days
3. not her first attempt
4. inspired by Bachendri Pal
5. first attempt at the age of four
6. her father Ram Kumar Kanth : a mountaineer.
7. climbed with a team of seven mountaineers.

Activity

A. 1. Some phrases are given below. Read them.

boat races

festival of Rajasthan

celebrated in August or September

wear new clothes

get up early

make colourful flower patterns

celebrated in July

get up late

horse races

festival of Kerala

take bath early in the morning

Now listen carefully to the passage. Put a tick mark in the boxes as you listen to these phrases.

See Appendix 1 Lesson 10.

2. Listen to the passage carefully and complete the table.

Festival			
C E L E B R A T E D	When		
	How	Where	
		What people do?	
		What Girls do?	
		What is done on the last day?	

Project

Make your own paper boat.

