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THE MOUNTAIN AND THE SQUIRREL

A. WARMER

What is the squirrel called in your local language? What do you notice about its movement? Where does the squirrel generally live and what does it eat?

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 sort 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 EMERSSON

GLOSSARY AND NOTES

- squirrel (n):** a small tree climbing bushy tailed animal गिलहरी
- former (n):** the first of the two things or persons already mentioned पूर्व, पहले का
- latter (n):** the second of the two things or persons already mentioned पश्चात, बाद का
- little prig (here n):** a self-satisfied person आत्म संतुष्ट, तुच्छ जीव
- bun (n):** refer to the squirrel because of thick hair on its body घने वालों वाला
- doubtless (adv):** without doubt वेशक
- disgrace (n):** loss of respect अपमान
- occupy (v):** take possession of ग्रहण करना, धारण करना
- spry (adj):** nimble, quick moving फुर्तीला, चंचल
- deny (v):** say that it is not true इंकार करना
- talent (n):** special ability or skill प्रतिभा, दक्षता
- differ (v):** to have an opposite opinion मतभेद होना
- wisely (adv):** with good knowledge बुद्धिमानी से, चतुर्साई से
- crack (v):** to break तोड़ना

B. LET'S COMPREHEND**B.1. THINK AND TELL****B.1.1. Answer the following:**

1. What is the poem about?
2. Who started the quarrel?
3. Do the mountain and squirrel have the same talent? Give reasons for your answer.
4. How did the squirrel defend herself?

B.1.2. Say whether the following statements are 'True' or 'False':

1. The squirrel was very wise.
2. The mountain was proud of its size.
3. The squirrel argued that everyone has his/her own qualities.
4. The squirrel cannot break a nut.
5. Bigger creatures have no right to be proud of their size.

B.2. THINK AND WRITE**B.2.1. Tick (✓) the most appropriate option for each of the following:**

1. Who is referred to as "Bun"
(a) forest (b) mountain
(c) squirrel (d) weather
2. "All is well and wisely put" means
(a) the squirrel is the most wise creature.
(b) all animals are wise.

- (c) nature has given particular talent to particular things.
- (d) wise persons keep silent.

B.2.2. Answer each of the following questions in not more than 50 words.

1. Why do you think the mountain calls the squirrel “little prig”?
2. What qualities of the mountain does the squirrel appreciate? List them.
3. What task is the mountain unable to perform?
4. Do you appreciate the logic of squirrel? Give reasons.
5. Was the reaction of the squirrel justified? Give reasons.

C. WORD STUDY

- C.1. Find out from the text the words that refer to the mountain and the squirrel and put them in the appropriate box below. One has been done as an example.**

mountain	squirrel
large	Spry

C.2. Phrasal verbs

The expression ‘taken in’ in line 8 of the poem is a phrasal verb. When a verb is followed by a preposition or an adverbial particle, it is called a phrasal verb. The meaning of a phrasal verb is different from the meaning of its parts. For example in ‘taken in’ “take” and “in” have independent meanings but when ‘in’ is added to ‘take’ it becomes a phrasal verb and it means ‘consider’ or ‘included’ which is different from the meaning of its parts.

Here are a few more phrasal verbs that have the verb 'take' in them:

Take after, take away, take back, take down, take off, take on, take out, take over, take up.

Look up a dictionary and find out what each one of these means and try to use them in sentences.

Pick out other phrasal verbs from the poem.

Fill in the passage given below with the phrasal verbs given in the box :

put on:	to wear
look after:	take
carry on:	continue
pass away:	waste
look out:	to watch
bring up:	rear a child

Parents...look after.....their children with proper care. They make them learn how to.....dresses. Theytheir kids with affection. They.....their education in best possible school. The timefast. The parents become older. Then the children.....their old parents.

D. LET'S TALK

Work in groups and discuss 'for' and 'against' any one of the following statements in your group:

- No finger in a hand is better than the other.
- Small things are less costly than big ones.
- A needle is not as useful as a sword.

E. COMPOSITION

Write a paragraph in about 50 words on:

‘Everyone has his/her strengths and weaknesses’.

F. TRANSLATION

Translate the following sentences into English:

मैं अपने माता-पिता के साथ कल चिड़ियाघर (Zoo) गया। वहाँ हमने अनेक जानवर देखे जैसे : शेर, सफेद बाघ, हाथी इत्यादि। वहाँ मैंने खिलौना रेलगाड़ी (Toy Train) की सवारी की। वहाँ अनेक प्रकार के झूले तथा मनोरंजन के अन्य साधन भी उपलब्ध थे। हमने वहाँ भरपुर आनंद उठाया।

G. ACTIVITY

1. Find out how mountains are different from hill stations.
2. Draw a picture of a squirrel and write in about 100 words a paragraph on the squirrel

