

16. The Mountain and the Squirrel

Recite any poem in your mother tongue about any animal and about nature.



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

Word Meanings

squirrel	Small animal with a long furry tail which climbs trees and stores nuts
quarrel	to argue
former	first of two people mentioned
latter	second of two people mentioned
prig	someone who is very careful about rules
bun	refers to the squirrel as its hair seems to look like a 'bun'
doubtless	without doubt/certainty
disgrace	to bring shame
occupy	to move into and take possession
spry	active and quick in movement
deny	refuse to accept
talent	special ability or skill
differ	to have an opposite opinion
wisely	showing good judgement
crack	to break open

Reading Comprehension**A. Tick (✓) the correct Answer:**

- (i) The quarrel between the mountain and the squirrel was about
 (a) length (b) size
 (c) ability (d) strength.
- (ii) The mountain is able to
 (a) carry a forest (b) crack a nut
 (c) make a spry movement. (d) make up a year
- (iii) The squirrel is able to
 (a) make a sphere (b) crack a nut
 (c) make up a year. (d) carry forests

B. Answer the following questions:

- (i) Why does the mountain call the squirrel 'little prig'?
- (ii) What qualities of the mountain does the squirrel appreciate ?
- (iii) What tasks is the mountain unable to perform?
- (iv) Do you like the squirrel's reasoning? why?

Vocabulary**A. Find out the meaning of these phrases and make sentences:**

- (i) Little prig
- (ii) All sorts of things



- (iii) Make up a year
- (iv) Occupy my place
- (v) All is well

B. Look for words and phrases which describe the qualities of the squirrel and the mountain. An example is given to you:

Mountain	Squirrel
eg. Big	eg. Little
(1)	(1)
(2)	(2)
(3)	(3)
(4)	(4)

Grammar



A. Two or more Sentences are given below. Use ‘and’, ‘but’ to make a sentence which gives the entire meaning:

Example:

Cameras capture light on photo film.

Digital cameras capture images on computer memory.

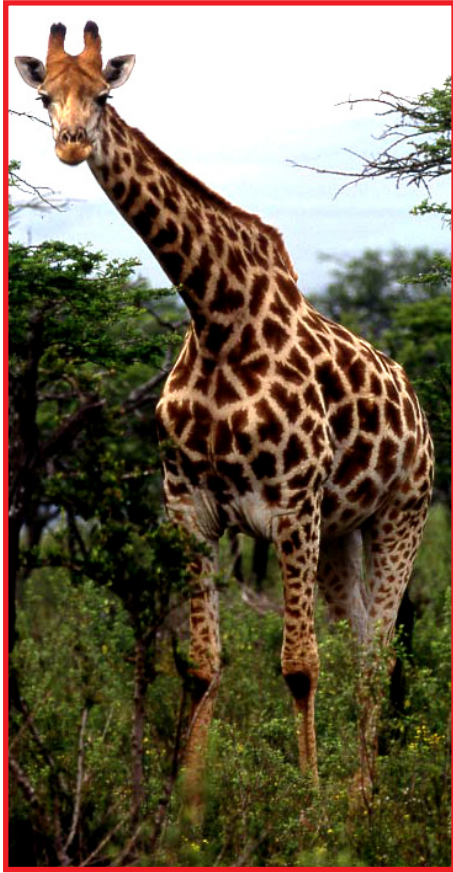
Cameras capture light on photo film **but** digital cameras capture film on computer memory

- (1) He read the text book.
He made notes from them.
- (2) The average life span of a crocodile in the wild is 45 years.
In captivity, they are known to live upto 80 years.
- (3) A cricket is an insect which varies from 0.1 to 2 inches.
It is an insect which has hind legs for jumping.
- (4) You can pay your bill with cash.
You also have the option of paying by cheque.

B. With the help of the pictures given below and the given clue in the box try to describe the animals by comparing them:

heavy, big, tall, intelligent, long, good, slow, small

Example: The giraffe is taller than the elephant.



Writing

Write a paragraph to describe an animal or a bird that you find attractive.

Activity**A. Listen to the passage:**

See Appendix-1 Lesson-16

Number the statements in the order that you hear.

Sr. No	Order	Number
(1)	Chilikha has been designated as a wetland of international importance	
(2)	Birds arrive from Baikal, Caspian Sea etc.	
(3)	Long outer channel connects the lagoon to the Bay of Bengal	
(4)	It is located on the Eastern Coast of India.	
(5)	Chilikha is a lagoon.	

B. Use 'Can, may, would, could,' and frame sentences using hints in the questions: (Pair work)

1. You are in a new city and you want to reach the market. How would you ask for directions?
2. You want to take part in the Republic Day Parade. How would you ask your teacher?
3. Your brother is playing the tape recorder very loudly. You are disturbed and want to ask him to reduce it. How would you ask him?
4. The weather is cold and your friend does not have a sweater. How would you show your concern?
5. A school trip has been arranged. You need to ask your parents for permission. How would you ask them?

Project

Describe the poem in your own language.

