

Chapter 17

Tejal in Ahmedabad

I came to Ahmedabad a month ago for my mother's treatment. My mother has been admitted in the hospital.

The Big City - Ahmedabad !

I have slowly got used to the city. I still remember the day when my mother and I got off the train at the Ahmedabad station, it was so crowded ! I quickly caught hold of my mother's hand.



I was thinking about how *Mama* would find us in the crowd. Just then, I heard someone calling loudly from behind, "Tejal, Tejal." I turned back, and there was *Mama*.

We left the station and were soon on our way to *Mama's* house.



For the teacher : Mother's brother is called *Mama* in Gujarati. Ask children what do they call mother's brother in their family ?



But it was very crowded everywhere. There were many huts lined up all along the narrow street. We walked through the street to reach *Mama's* house. *Mama*, *Mami* and their two daughters and a son - all live in one room. Now, I too live here with them. It is here that we sit, sleep, cook and wash - all in one room.

My house in the village also has only one room, but we have separate places for cooking and for bathing. We also have a courtyard outside.

Water, Water

Rutva, *Mami* and I get up at 4 o'clock every morning and go to the public - tap to fill water. Oh no ! You won't believe how many fights are there for water. If we are just a little late, then we are not able to fill water for the day. There is no tap in our house in the village too. The pond in the village has water. It takes twenty minutes to walk to it. In summer, sometimes, the water in the pond dries up. Then we have to walk for almost an hour to the river to get water.



Tejal in Ahmedabad

But in the village, there were no fights for water.

In the street where *Mama* lives, there is a toilet at one end. Everyone in the street uses that toilet. It is always very dirty and smells so bad. In the beginning I



felt like vomiting. At times, there is no water. We have to take water with us. Now I am getting used to all these. In the village, people go to the open places or fields for toilet. The men and women go to different places.

Write :

- Why did Tejal have to bring her mother from the village to Ahmedabad ?

- Why did Tejal used to feel like vomiting when at first she had to use toilet where *Mama* lived ?

- In what ways did Tejal find her *Mama*'s house to be different from her house in the village ?

- What differences did Tejal find between getting water from the public tap and in the village ?

- Was there electricity at the place where Tejal's *Mama* lived ? How do you know ?

Learnt



Everyday I go to the hospital by bus to see my mother. At first, I was too scared to get into such crowded buses. I was not at all used to it. I was afraid. But now, it is not like that. I know how to stand in line, how much to pay for the ticket, where to get down.

Where we stay, there is a tall building nearby. My *Mami* works in seven houses there. She washes utensils and cleans the houses.

One day I went there with her. When I first saw the building, I thought that it was one big house. But I found that there were many houses, one on top of another. I was wondering how I would climb so many stairs, but there was a lift to take people up and down. It was like a big iron cage with fan, light and even a bell. So many of us got into the lift. Somebody pressed the button and lift went up quickly. Really, I was very scared in the beginning.



Tell :

Has any of your relative been admitted to a hospital ?

- For how many days ?
- Did you visit the person in the hospital ?
- Who was looking after the patient at the hospital ?
- Have you ever seen a tall building ? Where ?
- How many floors did the building have ?
- How many floors did you climb ?

Another House :

Mami took me first to Harsh's house. His house was on the twelfth floor. What a big house ! So many rooms - one to sit in, one to eat in, one to sleep in, and one to cook in. Their toilet was also in the house ! It took *Mami* a lot of time to clean Harsh's house, but she could work easily. There was a tap in the kitchen and water flowed from it.



Harsh has put a bucket below the tap to fill water for his bath. Then he sat down to watch TV. So much water was wasted - I did not like it. I went and closed the tap.

Harsh's house has big glass windows. *Mami* told me to look down from the window. I could see *Mama's* street and the houses, but I could not make out which was his house. From up there, everything below looked like small toys. I was quite afraid to look down from such a height.



- When Tejal first came to Ahmedabad, what were the things that she was afraid to do ?



Tejal in Ahmedabad

- What were the differences between the houses where *Mama* lived and the houses in the high-rise buildings ?

Houses in area where *Mama* lived

Houses in a high-rise building

- Why are these differences ? Discuss.

Tell about yourself :

- Draw a circle around the kind of house you live in. Is it like the house of
Tejal *Mama* Harsh Any other kind
- Where does the water come from in your house ?
- Is there an electricity connection in your house ? How many hours in a day you get electricity ?
- Which is the nearest hospital in the area where you live ?
- How far are the places given below from your house ?

	Time to walk (in minutes)	Distance (in kilometers)
Bus-stop	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
School	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Market	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Post-office	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Hospital	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

- Draw pictures in your notebook of the different kind of houses in your area.

A New Trouble

Mama has said that he would take me around to see Ahmedabad. The children around here talk a lot about River-front. They are telling that big film



stars, leaders and sports persons also come there. May be when I go there, I might see them there !

These days, *Mama* is so worried. I cannot ask him to take me to River-front. Last week some people had come with a notice that everyone should move out of this place.

This place belongs to government so it should be vacated. *Mama* is saying that this is the third time in the last ten years that he got such notices. People who live here have been given another place to make their houses. But it is a little far. *Mama* will have to spend more money and time to reach at his work place. *Mami* will have to find some other work. How will I be able to visit my mother ? Yet mother is not completely well !





Write in your notebook :

- Why does *Mama* have to change his house ?
- Have you ever moved from your house ? If yes, why did you have to move ?
- Do people in your family have to go far for their work ? Where do they go ? How far do they have to go ?



Discuss :

- Is it right that *Mama* and others have to move because a hotel is going to be built there ?
- Who will be benefited from this ?
- Who will have to face difficulties ?
- Do you know about any people who have faced problems similar to Tejal's *Mama* ? Talk about it in class.

Draw a picture of house of your choice and colour it.