LESSON 16

THE MILKMAN'S COW

Pre-reading

Activity 1.   **Talking about the topic**

Look at the title :   *The Milkman's Cow.* What do you think this story is going to be about ?

Activity 2.   **Listening to the story**

The teacher reads out the entire story while the children listen.

Here is the story :

THE MILKMAN'S COW

The milkman's cow was in a bad mood. It sat in the middle of the road and refused to move.

The milkman begged the cow to get up. "The children are waiting for their milk to help them grow strong. Please get up," he pleaded. He pulled and tugged and prayed.

But the cow was not going anywhere that day.

Along came a policeman, his buttons and buckles gleaming bright. "Humph", he said, twirling his long moustache, "I will show you how to do it right."

The policeman and the milkman pulled and tugged and prayed. But the cow was not going anywhere that day.

Along came a grocer with bags of potatoes and peas. He said, "I will move this cow with the greatest of ease".

The grocer, the policeman and the milkman pulled and tugged and prayed.

But the cow was not going anywhere that day.

Along came a wrestler, his muscles gleaming in the sun. He said, "I have the strength of ten horses, so this should be fun."

The wrestler, the grocer, the policeman and the milkman pulled and tugged and prayed.

But the cow was not going anywhere that day.

Along came the ice cream man, jingling his cart, "Cool down, cool down, it cannot be too hard."

The ice cream man, the wrestler, the grocer, the policeman and the milkman pulled and tugged.

But the cow was not going anywhere that day.

Along came a little boy. He began to grin. He said, "These grown-ups! Look at the mess they are in. It is not such a difficult problem. I learnt in the second class that human beings eat rice and wheat, and cows eat grass".

He held out a sheaf of tasty green. The cow began to chew.

He slowly led her to the side, for he knew what to do.

The grocer clapped, the policeman twirled his stick in joy.

The wrestler grinned. The ice-cream man whooped at the cleverness of the boy.

The milkman happily clattered his pail.

Being kind and loving is best, for force and strength can fail.

Activity 3.   **Comprehension check (after listening)**

1.   What is the milkman's cow doing in this story ?

2.   What did the milkman want ?

3.   How many people came to help the milkman ?

Reading

Activity 4.   Knowing the key words

twirling one's moustache   to turn the ends of one's moustache with the fingers so as to make them stand up

jingling   to ring the bell on the ice-cream cart, so as to let children know that the ice-cream man had arrived

sheaf of tasty green   a bunch of grass

The children read the story silently after the key words have been introduced.

Stage 3   After reading

Activity 4.   Comprehension

1.   What does the expression "The cow wasn't going anywhere" mean? Why did the cow not want to move that morning?

2.   Name all the people who tried to make the cow move?

3.   Who was the youngest of all the people in the story?

4.   The little boy 'began to grin' when he saw what all the grown-ups were doing. Why did he grin? Discuss your answer with a friend before telling it to the class.

5.   What did the boy do to make the cow move?

6.   Do you think the boy was clever? Why do you think so? Discuss your answer with a friend before telling it to the class.

7. Can you think of a different way to move the cow? Discuss with a friend before telling your answer to the class.

8. What is the 'lesson' that this story teaches us ?

Activity 6. **Vocabulary**

1. Say which statements are **True** and which are **False.** Correct the false statements.

   (I) A grocer is a person who sells milk.

   (ii) A policeman catches thieves.

   (iii) A wrestler teaches students in school.

2. Match the people with their place of work.

Who works	Where
grocer	restaurant
doctor	airport
waiter	school
pilot	hospital
teacher	shop

Activity 7. **Usage**

a. In the following list of words, there are some words which are the names of objects or people. There are other words in the list, which refer to actions that we perform.
   Arrange these words in two separate columns. (Put all the 'naming words' in Column 1 and the 'action words' in Column 2.)
   (Two examples are given to help you.)

play, drink, boy, eat, child, milk, help, man, dinner, kick, bicycle, girl, kite, tree, drive, milk, mother, car, ball, write, ride

Naming words	Action words
man	drive
boy	play

b.   Try to form sentences by taking words from Column 1 and matching them with words from Column 2. You may need some other words in order to form complete sentences. For example :

i.   The man is driving a car.

Activity 8.   **Writing**

Imagine that you are the cow in the story. Write the story as the cow would tell it.

A. When we talk to our elders or strangers, we use a number of polite expressions. Here are some examples :

Excuse me...., May I..., Can I ..., Can you ..., Could you ..., Please ...,

a. Read out the following dialogue and underline the polite expressions.

Bookseller	May I help you?
Rani	Yes, please. I'm looking for the book but I can't find it. It is called *The Three Arrows.* Could you please help me to find it?
Bookseller	Ok, let me try. M ..mmm…mmm.. Right !Here you are.
Sonam	Thank you very much. What's the price of the book?
Bookseller	Twenty rupees.
Sonam	Here you are.
Bookseller	Thank you.
Sonam	Thanks for your help. Good bye !

B. Complete the dialogue below using appropriate polite expressions. Then act it out with a friend.

In the school library

Mona (to the librarian)   _____ me, Ma'am. _____ I borrow a storybook for two days?

Librarian   I'm sorry, Mona. You may keep a book only for a day, not longer.

Mona   Ma'am, _____ I borrow *The Maneaters of Kumaon* for a day?

Librarian   Of course, you can. It's in the third cupboard to your right. _____ you please take it out? Please bring it to me.

Mona   Here it is, Ma'am.

Librarian   Thanks, Lona. Let me write your name in the register. Then you can borrow the book.

Mona   Thank you very much, Ma'am.

The End