

Wisdom

Tree

Class - 7

Chapter 1. Mother

Check Your Knowledge

- A. 1. The little crow was ugly looking.
 2. The creator study all creatures before sending them to their respective homes.
 3. Every mother sighed delightedly as she watched her child.
 4. It is love that makes every child beautiful.
 5. A mother is the greatest gift God has given us.
- B. 1. The creator made all the beings of the earth, sea, and sky.
 2. The creator called all mothers and their children because he wanted to study the creatures he had made. He wanted to look closely at the wings and arms, fur and fleece and hair. He wanted to make sure that each of his creations would be warm during the winter time, cool in the harshest heat, comfortable in a place they called home.
 3. The creator denied that baby crow was created by him.
 4. The creator advised the mother to go and find another child who was better looking.
 5. The little crow bowed her head as he could not say anything but She only wished his mother would love her, but perhaps she did not deserve love, perhaps she wasn't beautiful enough.
 6. The mother crow did not find any other child more beautiful than her own baby crow because for every mother her own child is the most beautiful child on earth.

Check Yourself

Good deeds me and my partner have done for our mothers:

1. Sweep the house without being asked.
2. Keep the home tidy and not throw things around.
3. Help our sibling learn a new skill or help them in schoolwork.
4. Clear the table after lunch and dinner.
5. Made a birthday card for mother on her birthday.
6. Help mother and run errands for her when a guest is coming.
7. Water the plants when mother was not well.

Time to Think

I think a child sees their mother as more precious and superior to God. She is the one who nurtures, guides, and supports her child through the journey of life. Her selflessness and unconditional love make her a source of love and strength. In the eyes of a child, a mother is like a guardian angel, always there to comfort, protect, and provide. Her touch heals wounds, her words soothe fears, and her presence is comforting. When a child looks at their mother, they see a reflection of strength, compassion, and grace. She makes the child feel safe, secure, confident, and cheerful. Her love is not bound by time or circumstance; it is eternal and unbreakable. Her heart beats in sync with theirs.

Real Life Skill

(Do it yourself)

Chapter 2. The Experiments of Miss Ellis

Check Your Knowledge

- A. 1. The experiments would aid in learning.
 2. The most famous experiment was on behaviour of people.
 3. The most difficult experiment was on freedom.
 4. Amanda used five coloured boxes for her experiment.
 5. Charlie was a bit annoyed because he had no option to choose the colours of the box.
 6. Andrea used Laylow in her experiment.
- B. 1. The teacher assigned to the students to conduct experiments on the subject 'freedom'.
 2. The teacher, Miss Ellis liked the experiments of Amanda, Charlie, and AndreA. 3 . Amanda's experiment was called - choices. It teaches us that people are happy when they get the freedom of choice.
 4. Laylow was not able to get the cheese because it was covered with glass and he could not reach it.
 5. The experiment 'Limits' teaches us that whether we know it or not, our freedom always has limits, and that these limits are not always outside ourselves. They can be inside us too, as with Laylow, who thought he would never be able to get the cheese.

Check Yourself

Will power is the ability to control your impulses and resist short-term temptations to achieve long-term goals.

To have a strong will power you must:

- Be clear about your goals and targets.
- Identify your triggers and avoid them. Triggers are the situations, people, or emotions that make you want to give up or indulge in something that goes against your goal. For example, you are not permitted to eat an ice cream, then you can avoid going to an ice cream parlour or going out at the time the ice cream vendor comes outside your house.
- A strong desire to achieve goals.
- Ability to resist temptations.
- You must understand that it is only with a strong will power you can achieve long term goals.
- Self-discipline: You cannot allow yourself to get carried away and lose control.
- Determination: You must be determined to remain firm not to indulge in any lax or temptation.
- Motivation: You must remain motivated to achieve your goals.
- Focus: You must remain focused

Time to Think

1. Initially, I will get the feeling that mom has snatched my liberty when she asks me to stop playing games on mobile phone, but later when I think about it, I will realise that my mother cares for me and knows what is best for me. Sometimes she is strict with me to discipline me. It is my good and my best interest that she tells me to do or not to do something. She is my well-wisher and I trust her decisions completely.
2. I saw many birds in cages and studied about them. If the bird is happy to be in a cage depends on which bird is in a cage. It is cruel to catch a wild free-flying bird and put it in a cage because these birds need physical space. They need to spread their wings and exercise which is restricted in a cage. Lack of space can cause discomfort and restrict their natural behaviour like flying. Separation from their flock or partner

may cause so much agony that they may even die due to separation. Sometimes monotonous environment of the cage may lead to boredom and depression. Wild birds should be caged only if they are seriously injured, cannot protect themselves from predators, and cannot survive in the wild.

Some birds are happy to live as pet birds because they feel secure. The cage provides a safe cosy comfort, protects them from predators, harsh weather, and other dangers. They feel happy with human companions and form strong bonds with them.

Some people say it is cruel to keep the birds in a cage but if you set the pet birds free from the cage after they are used to life in a cage, it would be more cruel to set them free because these birds cannot find their own food, or watch out for predators. They assume all cats and dogs to be friendly like pets they lived with. Sending them out to fend for themselves causes them separation grief and anxiety.

Real Life Skill

Names of countries that got freedom from tyrant ruler in the recent past:

1. Afghanistan: Achieved independence from British influence through Anglo-Afghan Treaty of 1919.
2. Egypt: Gained freedom from British control on February 28, 1922.
3. Iraq: October 3, 1932.
4. Jordan: Formerly Transjordan, it became independent on May 25, 1946.
5. India: Broke free from British colonial rule August 15, 1947.
6. Pakistan: Broke free from British colonial rule August 15, 1947.
7. Myanmar (formerly Burma): January 4, 1948.
8. Libya: Broke free from British and French control, December 24, 1951.
9. Ghana: Formerly known as Gold Coast, achieved independence on March 6, 1957.
10. Cyprus: August 16, 1960.
11. Nigeria: Achieved independence on October 1, 1960.

12. Kuwait: Declared independence on June 19, 1961.
13. Jamaica: August 6, 1962.
14. Kenya: Gained freedom on December 12, 1963.
15. Malawi: Formerly Nyasaland, it became independent on July 6, 1964.
16. Malta: Gained independence on September 21, 1964.
17. Lesotho: Formerly Basutoland, it achieved independence on October 4, 1966.
18. Barbados: November 30, 1966.
19. Guyana: Formerly British Guiana, gained independence on May 26, 1966.
20. Botswana: Gained independence from British colonial rule on September 30, 1966.
21. Eswatini (Formerly Swaziland): September 6, 1968.
22. Nauru: Became independent from the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand on January 31, 1968.
23. Fiji: Declared independence on October 10, 1970.
24. Oman: Formerly the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman, it became independent on December 20, 1970.
25. Bahrain: Declared independence on August 15, 1971.
26. Grenada: February 7, 1974.
27. Dominica: November 3, 1978.
28. Antigua and Barbuda: Broke free from colonial rule on November 1, 1981.
29. Brunei: January 1, 1984.

Why do people prefer democratic form of government?

People prefer democratic form of government because democracy gives people a voice and a choice in how they are governed. Democracy means that people can elect their representatives, hold them accountable, and participate in decision-making processes that affect their lives. Democracy also promotes human rights, equality, and justice, which are values that many people cherish. Democracy upholds the rights of individuals. Citizens have the freedom to express their opinions, participate in decision-making, and engage in political processes. It is favoured for protection of civil liberties such

as freedom of speech, assembly, and religion. Democratic systems aim to treat all citizens equally. Every person's voice matters, regardless of their background, wealth, or social status. Elections allow people to choose their representatives. Democratic governments prioritize social welfare programs, education, and healthcare. This form of government is not perfect, and it faces many challenges and limitations, but it is still preferred by many people over other forms of government that are more authoritarian, oppressive, or corrupt.

Chapter 3. Two Intelligent Boys

Check Your Knowledge

- A. 1 – (a), 2 – (a), 3 – (c), 4 – (b).
- B.
 1. Both the boys were incredibly intelligent and capable. They were very talented and outdid everyone around.
 2. The first boy used all his talent and intelligence to have a successful career and show everyone his superiority. He took part in all kinds of competitions, visited all the most important people and places, and was great at making friends in high places.
 3. The second boy never stopped feeling a heavy responsibility. He would do almost any task better than those around him, and he would feel obliged to help them. This didn't allow him enough time to follow his own dreams of greatness. He was always busy looking for ways to more effectively help others.
 4. The second boy was chosen as governor because he was so good at solving the problems that the disaster hardly affected people in his region. His admirable methods were adopted across the land, and his fame spread across the land.
 5. In the end, the first boy stopped taking part in the competitions or vain shows and began helping others with his talents.

Check Yourself

1. I have a talent in dancing. The two things I can do really well are dancing and reciting shlokas in Sanskrit. I do Bharat Natyam dance and have been performing on stage from the age of five. I can recite shlokas in Sanskrit and also tell their meaning.

2. I can use both my talents for the good of the society. I can do charity dance shows and donate the money for social causes. I can the talent of reciting and explaining shlokas in the temple or public meetings to benefit people gain knowledge and enlightenment. I can also use it to enlighten people in my social circles.

Time to Think

1. Some people may think that being a caring person is a talent. But caring for others is not something that only a few gifted people can do. It is a skill that can be learned and practiced, just like any other. Caring for others means being attentive to their needs, feelings, and well-being. It means listening, understanding, and supporting them in times of joy and sorrow. It means respecting their choices, values, and opinions. And it means expressing your care in words and actions that are meaningful and appropriate for them.
2. When you cease to make a contribution, you begin to die.

This quote means that life is not only about surviving, but also about giving something back to the world. It implies that we have a responsibility to use our talents, skills, and passions to make a positive difference in our society and environment. It also suggests that we can find meaning and fulfilment in our lives by contributing to a cause that is bigger than ourselves. When we stop doing that, we lose our sense of purpose and direction, and we start to decay mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. We become stagnant and isolated, and we miss out on the joy and satisfaction of making an impact. Therefore, this quote encourages us to keep growing, learning, and sharing our gifts with others, as long as we live.

Real Life Skill

Dear diary,

Today was a very rewarding day for me. I taught math to two poor students who live in a nearby slum. They are very eager to learn and have a lot of potential. They came to my house in the morning, and we started with some basic arithmetic. They were quick to grasp the concepts and asked a lot of questions. I was impressed by their curiosity and enthusiasm.

We took a break for lunch, and I shared some sandwiches and juice with them. They told me about their lives and their dreams. They want to become

engineers and doctors and help their families and community. They also thanked me for teaching them for free and said they were very grateful. I felt humbled by their gratitude and told them they deserved the best education possible.

In the afternoon, we moved on to some geometry and algebra. They were a bit more challenged by these topics, but they did not give up. They tried to solve the problems with my guidance and hints. They made some mistakes, but they also learned from them. They showed a lot of perseverance and determination. I was proud of their progress and achievements.

We ended the session with some fun games and puzzles involving math. They enjoyed them a lot and laughed a lot. They said they had never had so much fun with math before. I was happy to see them having fun and learning at the same time. I told them they were very smart and talented and that they could achieve anything they set their minds to.

They left with smiles on their faces and hugs for me. They said they would come back tomorrow for more lessons. I said I would be waiting for them with more math and more fun. I waved goodbye to them and closed the door.

I felt a warm glow in my heart as I wrote this entry. I realized how much I love teaching math and how much joy it brings me to share it with others. I also realized how much I care for these two students and how much I want them to succeed in life. They are not just my students; they are my friends.

I hope tomorrow will be another great day of math and friendship.

Chapter 4. The King, Genghis Khan and his Hawk

Check Your Knowledge

- A.
1. Genghis Khan goes into the forest for hunting sport.
 2. His favourite Hawk sat on King's wrist.
 3. During those days hawks were trained for hunting.
 4. While returning home the king chose a longer path.
 5. The hawk knocked the cup of water out of the hands of the king.
 6. The king found a dead poisonous snake in the pool of water from where the water was trickling.

- B. 1. The king went into the forest for a day's sport of hunting with his friends.
2. The king chose the different path while returning than the one chosen by others because he knew all the paths.
3. The hawk knocked the cup of water from king's hand because he knew the water was poisonous as a deadly poisonous snake was lying dead in the source of water.
4. The king killed the hawk because of his anger at the act of hawk knocking off the cup of water each time the king tried to drink from it.
5. The king repented his act of killing his favourite hawk in a moment of anger, though the hawk was only trying to save his master's life.

Check Yourself

Dear diary,

Today I had a really bad day at school. Some kids in my class were making fun of me because I wear glasses and they called me names like "four eyes" and "nerd". They also pushed me around and took my lunch money. I felt so angry and sad that I wanted to cry.

When I got home, I slammed the door and ran to my room. I didn't want to talk to anyone. My mom came to check on me and asked me what was wrong. I told her everything that happened and she hugged me and said she was sorry. She said that those kids were just jealous of me because I'm smart and kind. She also said that I should never let them make me feel bad about myself because I'm a wonderful person.

My dad came home later, and he also talked to me. He said that he used to wear glasses when he was a kid and he also got bullied sometimes. He said that he learned to stand up for himself and not let the bullies get to him. He said that he was proud of me for being brave and honest. He also said that he would talk to my teacher tomorrow and see what he can do to stop the bullying.

My sister came to my room too and she gave me a drawing she made for me. It was a picture of me as a superhero with laser eyes and a cape. She said that I was her hero and she loved me very much. She also said that she would always be there for me if I needed someone to talk to.

I felt much better after talking to my family. They made me feel loved and supported. They also made me laugh and smile. I realized that I'm not alone and that I have people who care about me. I decided to write this in my diary so I can remember this day and how my family helped me.

I hope tomorrow will be a better day.

Time to Think

My younger brother is such a pain. He never listens to me and always does whatever he wants. He thinks he can get away with anything because he is the baby of the family. I'm so sick of him. He always leaves his toys and clothes everywhere, he never helps me with the chores, and he always interrupts me when I'm doing something important. He is so selfish and spoiled.

Today, I asked him to clean his room and he just ignored me. He said he was busy playing his video game and that I should do it for him. He said I was not his boss and that he didn't have to do anything I told him. He even stuck his tongue out at me. How rude!

I was so angry with him that I wanted to slap him hard. But then I remembered that violence is not the answer and that it would only make things worse. I decided to calm down and talk to him rationally. I explained to him why it was important to keep his room tidy and to respect me as his older sibling. I told him that if he didn't do his share of the work, he would lose some of his privileges, like his video game or his allowance. I also told him that I loved him and that I wanted him to be happy and responsible.

He listened to me and apologized for being rude. He said he would clean his room and help me more with the chores. He gave me a hug and thanked me for being a good sister. I felt relieved and proud of myself for handling the situation maturely. I realized that slapping him would have only hurt him and our relationship. I learned that communication is better than aggression.

Chapter 5. Grandfather's Coins

Check Your Knowledge

- A. 1. - (b), 2. - (c), 3. - (a), 4. - (c).
- B. 1. - True, 2. - False, 3. - True, 4. - False, 5. - True.

- C. 1. The children were excited to go their grandparents' house because their grandfather would give them a few coins and ask them to buy themselves something. The children ran off to buy chewing gum, lollies, or chocolates.
2. The elders wanted the children to learn to manage their money.
3. Monty was a clever boy in the family. He decided to start managing his money in exchanging it buying and selling things. He suffered a loss because he began investing in risky deals.
4. I think the real winner was Julia. She invested her money in learning a skill of playing a violin. She earned and saved money, and she turned her dreams into reality by using the few coins wisely.

Check Yourself

I spend my pocket money on:

- Buying a snack and a gulab jamun from the canteen every day.
- Every Sunday I rent a bicycle and go for a ride for two hours.
- I save some money for spending in the ice cream parlour with my friends.
- I give small gifts occasionally to my friends and members of my family on special occasions.

Expenditures I can avoid, to save money:

- Instead of buying a snack and a gulab jamun every day, I can skip one item on some days.
- I can rent the bicycle for 1 hour instead of two hours.
- Instead of buying gifts from the market, I can craft home made gifts which will cost less.

Time to Think

The statement – 'A person who has no habit of saving a single penny, would face hardships in future' means that if someone spends all their money without saving any, they will have trouble when they need money for something important or unexpected. Money should be saved for the following reasons:

- **Financial Emergencies/Unexpected Expenditures:** Without a savings habit, unexpected expenses like medical bills,

car repairs, or home repairs can become overwhelming. Having a saving helps during such emergencies.

- **Retirement Planning :** A person who doesn't save may struggle during retirement. Savings provide the means to maintain a comfortable lifestyle when regular income stops.
- **Debt Avoidance :** Regular saving prevents dependence on borrowings or loans for everyday expenses. Accumulating debt due to lack of savings can lead to financial stress.
- **Opportunity Costs :** Not saving means missing out on investment opportunities. Money saved and invested can grow over time, providing financial security and freedom.
- **Quality of Life :** Saving allows for experiences like travel, hobbies, and leisure activities. Without savings, life may become monotonous and restricted.
- **Career Flexibility :** Having savings gives you the freedom to explore new career paths or start your own business without financial constraints.
- **Peace of Mind :** Knowing you have a financial buffer reduces stress and anxiety. It provides peace of mind, knowing you're prepared for the unexpected.
- **Legacy Building :** Saving allows you to leave a financial legacy for your loved ones or support charitable causes.
- **Education :** Saving for education ensures access to quality learning opportunities for yourself or your children.
- **Compound Interest :** Regular saving, even small amounts, benefits from compound interest over time. It's like planting a seed that grows into a tree.

Saving is essential for financial stability, security, and a bright future.

Some other statements that can explain this fact are:

- A penny saved is a penny earned. Saving money today can help you earn more interest and have more money tomorrow.
- You can't predict the future, but you can prepare for it. Saving money can help you deal with emergencies and opportunities that may come your way.

- Money doesn't grow on trees. You have to work hard to earn money, so you should not waste it on things you don't need. Saving money can help you achieve your goals and dreams.

Real Life Skill

Banks like SBI, HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, and ODFC bank are offering to open accounts for minors with a minimum balance of Rs. 2500. They help the child to manage and save their money under the guidance of an adult. Some of the details I found are as follows:

- **IndusInd Bank** : offers Indus Young Saver Savings Account, where minors above 12 years can open and operate their savings account, but if they are less than 12 years of age, the account should be opened as 'under guardian' account, where the guardian operates the account. An average monthly balance of Rs. 5000 has to be maintained for this account. Special features and benefits are: A unique Gold Debit card is issued in the name of the minor above the age of 12. The card can be customised with a fun image, and a cheque book will be issued with the name of the minor on it, to guide the minor on handling and saving money wisely.
- **ICICI Bank** : Young Star and Smart Star Accounts:

ICICI Bank Young Stars Account can be opened for minors to operate the account according to your minor's need, right from a young age.

Features & Benefits

- ICICI Young Stars Account offers free Young Stars Debit Card, which will help the minor to make direct purchases through a POS (Point of Sale) machine and also withdraw cash using ATMs.
- You can choose Young Stars Account with withdrawal limits Rs. 2,500 / Rs. 5,000 for shopping and cash withdrawal each day
- It also comes with facilities like money multiplier facility and standing instructions facility, which helps to debit money from parents account to the youngsters account.

Smart Star Account

Any minor above the age of 10 can open and operate ICICI Smart Star Account all by themselves. This will help them to make a habit

of savings and a responsibility to spend wisely.

Smart Star Account comes in two variants:

1. Smart Star Savings Account with Guardian Consent – has a debit transaction limit of Rs. 2 Lakh in a financial year
2. Smart Star Savings Account without Guardian Consent – has a debit transaction limit of Rs. 50,000 in a financial year

Features & Benefits

- ICICI Smart Star Account offers free Personalised Debit Card with the spending and withdrawal limit of Rs. 5,000
- It also provides a personalised cheque book, which can be issued to the child
- ICICI Smart Star Account also comes with features like free internet banking access, free mobile banking access, free email statement and prepaid mobile recharge facility.

Other banks where accounts for minors can be opened are Axis Bank – Axis Bank Future Stars savings account, IDBI Bank – Power Kids account, Kotak Mahindra – My junior account, and SBI – Pehli Udaan, Pehla Kadam.

So, introducing a minor to savings by opening a Savings Account for him/her is just the foundation of savings and investments for the child. The child will be motivated and encouraged to save and will also understand the value of money and banking services.

Chapter 6. August Heat

Check Your Knowledge

1. – (b), 2. – (b), 3. – (b), 4. – (c).
1. August Heat lived in a big house.
2. A rather unusual kind of mouse lived with August.
3. Percy Veering wanted August Heat to live his way.
4. August laid paralysed in the snow.
1. August Heat lived in a big house with all comforts like warm water to bathe in, hot food, plenty of clothes, and other facilities.
2. Percy Veering was an unusual mouse who lived with August. Despite all comforts he could give something up every day to make himself stronger.

3. One night so much snow fell on the city that the two friends were cut off from the outside world.
4. Percy managed quite well, but August deprived of his hot bathes, food, and warm shelter was on the verge of losing control.

Check Yourself

If I see a junior lying unconscious in the corridor, I will first check if he/she is breathing. If the junior is not breathing, I will try to give CPR but if he/she is breathing then I will check for injury or bleeding. If there is injury, I will raise the injured part above heart level. If I notice a swelling, I will not move the child much. I will try to keep the child warm and protected till the recess is over and I can get help so that medical assistance can be provided to the junior.

Time to Think

Yes, I fully agree that when children get all the facilities and do not have to struggle for anything in life, it makes them get used to comforts and they do not encounter any challenges in their lives. They become accustomed to luxury and lose the ability to cope with or overcome difficulties. This is because such children do not develop the necessary skills and attitudes that are essential for facing the realities of life, such as resilience, perseverance, problem-solving, and self-reliance. They may also lack gratitude, empathy, and humility, as they take their privileges for granted and do not appreciate the struggles of others. Therefore, I believe that it is important for parents and educators to expose children to some degree of hardship and adversity, in order to help them grow into mature, responsible, and compassionate adults.

Real Life Skill

The task I tried to do:

I went to stay in a village with my grandmother where there was shortage of water. My old grandmother used to walk two miles every day to reach a well, fill the bucket with water and bring it for us every day. Once my grandmother fell sick and I had to go to get water. I was so used to getting water from taps without making any effort that I did not realise, getting drinking water could be so tough.

I had to walk for two miles on an uneven narrow road with an empty bucket, Draw the water from a well

and fill the bucket with water and bring it home to my grandmother in the village. I failed terribly in the task but now after reading this story, I realise, if I had tried harder and put in more effort and dedication, I could have completed the task.

Chapter 7. A Great Leader

Check Your Knowledge

- A. 1 – (b), 2 – (b), 3 – (a), 4 – (a).
- B.
 1. The king ordered his sons to build two large aqueducts to supply water to his country estates, which were in a poor state due to a great drought.
 2. The first son took part of his father's riches and a part of the army. He travelled with them North where he ordered the people of those lands to work hard on building the aqueduct. He supervised the work carefully, paid the villagers fairly, and finished the project within the predicted two years.
 3. The second son completed his aqueduct in one year in the South, and he had managed to do the work with hardly any money, or soldiers. He deviated from the plans to improve it, created so many outlets that barely half the water reached the royal estates. He even confronted the prime minister in front of the villagers to defend justice and left without paying any of the workers. He convinced the villagers to work quickly and without pay. He even used the king's soldiers as labourers as he had the charisma to set his soldiers to work even more hours than the villagers. His commitment was so great that he himself worked hardest on the project, forgetting his status.
 4. I think both the brothers did their very best, but the second brother had leadership qualities and stronger commitment, so he was able to get the best out of people.

Check Yourself

List of leadership qualities I have:

- **Accountability** : I can take ownership of responsibilities and both positive and negative outcomes. I can take responsibility for my team's work and my own.
- **Active listening**: I actively listen to team

members, receive feedback, and understand the meaning behind words. I show interest and listen to others.

- **Good at communication** : I collaborate and communicate with others for better understanding.
- **Empathy** : I am sensitive to others' feelings and perspectives. I try to understand and consider what others say.
- **Communication** : I am good at communication, so I ensure clarity, alignment, and understanding.
- **Adaptability** : I am not rigid. I am flexible in response to changing circumstances.
- **Positivity** : I have a positive attitude so it influences team morale and productivity.
- **Team building** : I can create cohesive teams, and I can encourage people around me to work as a team.
- **Decisiveness** : I am quick to take sensible decisions.
- **Time management** : I complete my tasks within a specified period so people around me respect me for this.
- **Conflict resolution** : I sort out differences and conflicts constructively among team members and find solutions acceptable to them.
- **Patience** : I don't easily lose my patience. I remain calm during challenges and tough situations.

Leadership qualities I want to gain to be a great leader:

- **Decision making**: I want to improve my decision making. I want to make sensible decisions even if they are unpopular or difficult.
- **Innovation**: I want to be more innovative and encourage creativity, adaptability, and forward-thinking to drive growth.
- **Problem-solving**: I want to improve my skills at problem solving. Better Leaders should tackle challenges, find solutions, and guide their teams.
- **Integrity**: Upholding honesty, ethics, and consistency builds trust.
- **Resilience**: Leaders bounce back from setbacks and maintain a positive attitude.
- **Growth mindset**: Embrace learning, improvement, and development.

Time to Think

Some children are 'born leaders' or they 'learn to be' leaders

One of the most debated questions in the field of leadership development is whether children are 'born leaders' or they 'learn to be leaders'. Some researchers argue that leadership is an innate trait that some children possess from birth, while others contend that leadership is a skill that can be acquired and improved through education and experience. For example, a study by Zaccaro et al. (2004) found that children who scored high on measures of cognitive ability, personality, and motivation were more likely to emerge as leaders in peer groups than those who scored low on these factors. There are many other studies that have examined different aspects of leadership behaviour, such as social interaction, reasoning, motivation, and gender differences among young children. I personally hold the view that though some children have innate qualities of leadership, still training and nurturing specific skills can shape leadership qualities.

Some ways that can help children develop leadership skills are:

- Develop active listening skills to understand the needs and concerns of your team members.
- Focus on continuous improvement and skill building by reading books, taking courses, finding mentors, and seeking feedback.
- Communicate clearly and effectively by expressing your point of view, goals, expectations, and reasons for your decisions.
- Influence and motivate others by building relationships, understanding their interests, and showing them the benefits of your ideas.
- Learn from your experiences by reflecting on your successes and failures, adapting your approach, and seeking new opportunities to grow.
- Be decisive and confident by analysing the available information, weighing the pros and cons, and making timely decisions.
- Be innovative and creative by thinking outside the box, exploring new possibilities, and encouraging others to share their ideas.
- Be committed and courageous by setting high

standards, taking risks, overcoming challenges, and following through on your actions.

- Be flexible and adaptable by responding to changing situations, embracing diversity, and being open to feedback.
- Manage conflict and build teams by resolving disagreements, promoting collaboration, fostering trust, and celebrating achievements.

Real Life Skill

I agree that a leader is someone who works hand in hand with his people, who listens to their needs and concerns, who supports them in their challenges and celebrates their achievements. A leader is someone who inspires his people to grow and learn, who encourages them to make decisions and take actions, who trusts them to do their best. A leader is someone who leads by example, who shows his people the way forward, who sets the vision and the goals, but also works along with them. A leader is someone who works hand in hand with his people because he knows that together they can achieve more than alone. A leader is not someone who just gives orders and expects others to follow.

Chapter 8. The Great Gifts

Check Your Knowledge

- A. 1. – (a), 2. – (b), 3. – (b), 4. – (a), 5. – (b).
- B. 1. – Anything, 2. – Football, 3. – Teacher, 4. – Fountain of hearts.
- C. 1. Tarun was seen as a bit of fool by other children in school. He didn't like fights, or sports, or anything. He didn't even defend himself when children began hitting him. He was a little strange.
2. The children found a wooden chest in the cave and in the chest, there was an enormous book.
3. The book found in the wooden chest was giving off a magical shine. The book was called 'The Great Gifts' and it recounted wonderful tales about great inventors, artists, wise writers, explorers, and treasure hunters.
4. The children felt ashamed of every time they had laughed at his clumsiness and funny quirks because after reading the book they felt that Tarun was exactly one of the special

cases, as the book had described. The book said that some hearts end up much emptier than normal. In those cases, the hearts fill up with a last gift which makes the person exceptional.

Check Yourself

1. If I were Ajay, I would not care for children who made fun of me. Instead, I will do things that my height gives me advantage of, like playing basketball and easily putting the ball in the basket. This will make them realise that extra height is not a disadvantage.
2. If I see my friends laughing at others, I will stop them and tell them that if a person lacks some qualities, he/she may have some other special qualities.
3. I think Ajay's uniqueness could be a great gift for him in many ways. He can reach higher shelves and stocking areas and easily place or remove things from a higher place. His height could be an added advantage in many sports like basketball, football, discus throw, javelin throw, and running races etc.

Time to Think

Some personalities who were unique:

1. **Stephen Hawking** : Stephen Hawking was one of the most well-known physicists in the world and was diagnosed with ALS when he was 21.
2. **Muhammad Ali** was known to many as a champion boxer and a man who fought for racial and social justice his entire life. He acquired Parkinson's at age 42 and became a role model for people with physical disabilities. What many may not know, however, is that Ali also had dyslexia.
3. **Girish Sharma** : When Girish Sharma was a child, he lost his leg in a train accident. His only leg, albeit weak, is strong enough to carry him across the court. His dedication to developing his athletic abilities was so strong that he was able to become well-known in the badminton field. He is a seven times national champion.
4. **Helen Keller** : An American author, political activist, and lecturer, Helen Keller was the first deaf and blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree. Her story was famously portrayed in the play and film, The Miracle Worker, which

documented how her teacher Anne Sullivan was finally able to develop a language that Helen could understand. Helen wrote a total of twelve published books, including her spiritual autobiography, *My Religion*, and was also a member of the Socialist Party in America. She campaigned heavily for women's rights and other labour rights and was also awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Lyndon Johnson in 1964.

5. **Sudha Chandran** : Sudha Chandran is a famous 'Bollywood' dancer and television actress, who lost a leg to infection in 1981 after a car accident. A dancer in the Bharatanatyam form of Indian classical dance, Sudha taught herself how to dance using a prosthetic "Japir foot," resulting in her becoming one of the most highly acclaimed dancers in the world. A Bollywood film, *Mayuri*, was also made about her life.

6. **Ira Singhal** : Nature of Disability: Scoliosis
Life and Achievement : Ira Singhal is an IAS officer who topped the UPSC exam in 2014. Ira was born on 31 August 1983 in Meerut. She graduated in computer science and did dual MBA in Marketing & Finance from Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi.

7. **H. Boniface Prabhu** : Nature of Disability: Quadriplegic

Life and Achievements: H. Boniface Prabhu is a Padma Shree awardee wheelchair tennis player from India. He was born on 14 May 1972 in Bangalore. At the age of four, a blotched lumbar tumour made him quadriplegic. He began his sporting career with shot put and javelin throw. Prabhu went on to win gold medal in shot put and silver medal in discus throw at the 1996 World Wheelchair Games, UK. He is the first Indian to win a medal in the International Paralympic Games.

Then he shifted his focus to wheelchair tennis and he won a medal in 1998 World Championship. He has reached a career best world ranking of 17 in singles and 19 in doubles.

8. **Arunima Sinha** : Nature of Disability : Below knee amputation in left leg.

Life and Achievements: Arunima Sinha is the first female amputee to climb Mount Everest. She was born on 20 July 1988. She was interested

in sports and became a national level volleyball player. On 12 April 2011, Arunima took a train. But she was pushed out of a general coach of the train by robbers wanting to snatch her bag and gold chain. As a result, her left leg had to be amputated below the knee. Arunima reached the summit of Mount Everest at 10:55 am on 21 May 2013. She has been awarded with Padma Shri and Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award (2016) and the First Lady award (2018).

9. **Ravindra Jain** : Nature of Disability : Blind since birth

Life and Achievements: Ravindra Jain (28 February 1944 – 9 October 2015) was a veteran Indian music composer, lyricist, and singer. He gave music in hundreds of Hindi films and TV serials. His music in films like *Ram Teri Ganga Maili*, *Chitchor*, *Ankhiyon Ke Jharokhon Se*, *Henna*, *Geet Gata Chal*; and TV serials like *Ramayana* is still very popular. Ravindra Jain received basic training under Pandit G.L. Jain, Pandit Janardhan Sharma, and Pandit Nathu Ram. He was awarded with Padma Shri and Filmfare Award for Best Music Director.

Real Life Skill

Five people who help me daily:

1. **Mother** : My mother helps me from morning till night, everyday and in almost all the things I do. She wakes me up, helps me get ready for school, cooks for me and prepares my breakfast, lunch, snacks, and dinner. She also makes tasty things for my friends when they come home. She cleans and organises my room and the entire house. She never forgets to give me medicines when I am sick. She takes me to the doctor when needed. I can't imagine life if she was not there in my life. Life will come to a standstill and the impact will be so deep that my life will be miserable.
2. **Father** : My father takes me to the bus stop every morning and if I miss the school bus he drops me to school. He gets me toys, candy, games and all the things that I could wish for. In the evenings he helps me with my homework and explains subjects that I find difficult. If he was not there in my life, I will have to struggle to reach school, doing my homework, and find someone who could teach me. There will be no one to get toys, games, and gifts for me.

3. **Maid** : She cleans my room, organises my cupboards, and washes my dirty dishes and clothes. If she was not in my life, I will have to do all these chores myself and I will not get any rest or spare time for playing, practicing things of my interests like painting, and dance.
4. **Teacher** : She teaches me many subjects and solves my difficulties. If she was not there in my life, it would leave me uneducated and illiterate.
5. **School Bus driver** : He drops me to school on time and brings me back home comfortably. If he was not there in my life, I would have to stand in lines for the buses to arrive. I would spend hours in traveling every day, commuting to and from school.

Chapter 9. The Incredible Black Rain

Check Your Knowledge

- A. 1. – (a), 2. – (b), 3. – (c), 4. – (a).
- B. What did Joe Grumplings do in the following situations?
 1. When someone gave him a car, it was too big, or too slow for him.
 2. When he went to zoo, he'd come back disappointed because they hadn't let him feed the lions.
 3. When he played football with his friends, he would complain, saying there were too many of them for just one ball.
- C.
 1. Joe Grumplings was a boy who was never happy with anything. He had loving parents and many friends but he only thought of what he didn't have and things he had but he was unhappy with.
 2. Gloria was a generous and happy girl who hanged around Joe even during the black rainy days. Gloria showed him the positive side of black rain and suggested that they could play some fun games with it.
 3. Gloria took Joe to the swimming pool and left him there till the water in the pool was black. She went and got other kids to play in the pool. They played hide and seek.
 4. At the end Joe started to see the positive side of things. He stopped complaining and began to focus on the good in life.

Check Yourself

1. Four positive character traits about myself, which I truly appreciate:
 - Optimistic
 - Cheerful
 - Helpful
 - Focused
2. Four weaknesses that I need to improve upon:
 - Trust people easily
 - Not good at sports
 - Limited analytical ability
 - Restless

Time to Think

Our parents do everything to make us happy. What is our responsibility towards them and towards ourselves? It's a cycle of love and care that never ends. From the moment we're born, our parents dedicate their lives to our well-being, sacrificing their time, energy, and often their own desires to ensure we have a better life. In return, it's our responsibility to appreciate these efforts, to respect and obey them, never be rude to them, never answer them back, not to refuse them if they ask us to do anything, help them in tasks that are possible for us, and to take care of them as they age. Towards ourselves, it's our duty to use the foundation they've given us to build a life of purpose and happiness. It's about making choices that honour their sacrifices while fulfilling our own dreams and aspirations.

Real Life Skill

Dear Diary,

Today was tough. I tried really hard at school, but things just didn't go my way. I missed a couple of questions on the math test that I thought I knew, and I stumbled during my presentation in front of the whole class. It felt like everyone was laughing at me, and it made me feel small and unsure of myself.

Mom and Dad noticed I was upset, and they sat down with me after dinner. They told me that everyone has bad days, even adults. They said that what matters is that I keep trying and learning from my mistakes. They reminded me that they're proud of me no matter what, and that they love me for who I am, not just for my grades or if I do everything perfectly.

It helped a little to talk about it. I guess I just need to remember that one bad day doesn't define me. I'll try to be kinder to myself tomorrow.

Goodnight.

Imagine you had a good day which resulted in high self-esteem.

Dear Diary,

Today was an extraordinary day! I aced my math test, which was really tough, and my teacher praised me in front of the whole class. It felt amazing to be recognized for my hard work. Then, at recess, I scored the winning goal in football. My teammates lifted me on their shoulders, and I felt like I could achieve anything. It's days like these that make me believe in myself and my abilities.

Compare them and see how you can improve your positive self esteem

When comparing two diary entries, I realised that to improve my positive self-esteem, I must work hard in areas which lower my confidence. I should not lower my self-esteem even if I fail to get recognition or in my assigned tasks. I must work hard in my strong areas too where I get recognition so that I can maintain my position and keep up my positive self-esteem. These insights will help me develop a positive self-image and self-esteem and build my confidence.

Chapter 10. The Best Choice

Check Your Knowledge

- A. 1. – (a), 2. – (c), 3. – (b), 4. – (a).
- B. 1. – True, 2. – True, 3. – False, 4. – True.
- C. 1. The children wished to meet Santa Claus.
2. They waited a long time in a big dark empty hall for Santa Claus to appear.
3. When Santa arrived for a short while, Todd ran to hug Santa and Rodd went to the bicycle he had always dreamed of having.
4. After having met Santa, the children learnt to go in the right direction, helping those who had nothing, giving love to those who almost never received it, and putting smiles on the faces of the unhappy. They learnt to choose what was most important – not caring too much about materialistic things but being the good person.

Check Yourself

Materialism refers to a concern with the material aspects of life such as wealth and possessions. It is all about the belief that physical stuff—like money, possessions, and all the things you can touch and see – is the most important thing in life. Some people

think that if you've got a good job or business, fancy cars, and a big house, you're settled. But others argue that it's not about what you have, but what you do and the relationships you build that really count. It's a hot debate with strong opinions on both sides. Personally, I think balance is the key. It is good to have all the comforts and nice things, but they shouldn't be central to your existence.

Time to Think

We can learn to differentiate between the truly important and unimportant choices of our life by following these:

- **Making the right choice** : Understand the significance, value, and relevance of our choice. These choices impact our goals, lives, and well-being. The choices may be about decisions related to relationships, health, education, friends, family, finance, or personal development. The unimportant choices relate to trivial or unnecessary matters that do not impact our lives.
- **Setting Priorities** : Allocate more attention, resources, and time to choices that matter more. The matters that do not have significant consequences or do not add value to our life are unimportant and can be postponed.
- **Long term implications** : Those values or decisions that impact long term goals and well-being are important.

We can take guidance from the following to make the right choices in life:

- **Mentors and role models** : Get connected to people who have experience and wisdom in areas relevant to your decisions. They can offer valuable insights and share their own journeys.
- **Trusted friends and family** : Discuss your dilemmas with close friends and family members. They know you well and can provide emotional support and practical advice.
- **Professional help** : You can take help from professionals in the related fields, as for financial decisions, consult financial advisors or planners. You can seek a lawyer for legal matters and a doctor for health-related advice.
- **Self-reflection** : Take time to introspect. Trust your intuition, sometimes it helps.
- **Books, learning material** : Books, articles can guide you in making the correct choices.

- **Online communities and forums** : participating in online communities related to your interest, discussing, asking questions, and learning from them could help you.

Real Life Skill

Dear Mom and Dad,

I cannot express enough gratitude for the boundless love and support you've showered upon me. Your sacrifices and hard work have not gone unnoticed, and every opportunity I've had is because of your unwavering belief in me. The joy and happiness I experience daily are gifts from your endless efforts to provide a life filled with laughter, learning, and love. Thank you for being my guiding stars, my safe haven, and my biggest cheerleaders. You've given me everything, and for that, I am eternally grateful.

With all my love,
Richa/Rakesh

Chapter 11. Lady at Airport

Check Your Knowledge

- A. 1. The lady had to sit in the VIP room because her flight was delayed due to bad weather and she had to wait for many hours.
2. She decided to buy a book and a packet of cookies to spend her time.
3. The lady didn't like the man sitting next to her in the VIP room at the airport because he was shabbily dressed and poor looking.
4. The lady felt ashamed because she realised that she was wrong as the packet of cookies that was being shared by her and the man belonged to that man. Her own packet was in her purse. The man had divided his cookies with her equally, without being angered or bitter, while she had been angry thinking that she was dividing her cookies with him.
5. If I was in place of the man, I would let the lady enjoy my cookies but after the cookies were finished, I may have made her realise that they were my cookies she had shared without being thankful.

Check Yourself

1. ✓, 2. ×, 3. ✓, 4. ✓, 5. ✓, 6. ✓, 7. ✓, 8. ✓, 9. ✓, 10. ✓.

Time to Think

Yes, I have tried to help someone at the railway station. There was a lot of rush at the ticket counter

and a lady with a small baby wanted to buy a ticket. I helped her get a ticket, but she rejected my kindness. I did not disrespect her, instead I asked her politely the reason for such behaviour. She realised her mistake and explained that she was worked up because the baby was crying, and she was very hungry. She couldn't sit down to eat as she had to arrange the ticket first and calm the child. All these things irritated her and without realising she took out her frustration on me.

Chapter 12. The Spirit of Service

Check Your Knowledge

- A. 1. Siddharth, Kedarnath, and Ridhinath were three men.
2. The land of the village was dry and barren.
3. Some villagers saw a big procession coming towards the village.
4. They divided the village into four zones.
5. Ridhinath stayed in the village forever serving people.
- B. 1. Ridhinath, Kedarnath and Siddharth gone to a big city to earn money.
2. When Ridhinath, Kedarnath, and Siddharth returned to the village, they saw that the land was dry and barren. Men and animals were dying because of lack of food, water, and medicines. The village was in the grip of a severe drought.
3. Siddharth's men beat drums and called the villagers to the square where he generously distributed gold and silver to the people. His men quickly built his statue at the square to show what a great man Siddharth was.
4. The villagers were asked to touch Kedarnath's feet because he had gone to each house in the village and distributed all the food he had with him.
5. Ridhinath won the respect and love of villagers because he helped them stand on their own feet. To help the villagers, Ridhinath came back with men carrying tools for agriculture, machines for pumping water from the ground, and experts to guide the villagers about sowing and caring for the crops. He divided the village into four zones

with four supervisors and got the work done under his own inspection. After six months the condition of the village was improved. He stayed back in the village for ever serving people. He did true service and got love and respect of the villagers in return.

Check Yourself

	He Should	He should not
1	Help because he knows it is the right thing to do.	Think that he is too young to be of any help.
2	Realise that to help those in need is true service.	Shirk from helping, thinking that the food being served in the village may get over.
3	Take help from others to move the injured to a safe place till help arrives.	Ignore the people who are stuck and to be supported and drawn out of carriages.
4	Help people stuck inside the carriages to get out if they are in a position to move out.	Think whose lunch packet or water bottle it is before taking it and using it for helping people.
5	Pick up lunch packs carried by people in the train and feed the injured.	Hide the situation from friends or relatives
6	Get bottles of drinking water from the train and distribute among the injured.	Spread false rumours.
7	Spread the news of accident from your phone and ask railway authorities and people to send help.	Keep praising himself for the work he is doing for the injured and helpless.

Time to Think

What is the meaning of true service. How you as a 10 year-old child can serve people

True service means putting others before yourself. It's that genuine urge to help without expecting anything in return. It's not just about doing a job; it's about making a difference in someone's day or life. To give real service, you must add something which cannot be bought or measured with money, and that is sincerity and integrity. True service is when you go that extra mile just to see someone smile or to ease their burden, even if it's just a little bit. It's about being present, being compassionate, and being real with people.

Small acts of kindness can have a big impact. Even as a child, you can make a difference in someone's life. These are the ways you can serve others and make a positive impact:

- Smile** : A simple smile can brighten someone's day. Smile at your classmates, neighbours, or anyone you meet.
- Listen** : Be an attentive listener. Sometimes people just need someone to talk to.
- Help** : Offer to help your family members with chores or tasks. Set the table, fold laundry, or water the plants.
- Write Letters** : Create handmade cards or letters for elderly neighbours or family members.
- Share Toys** : Donate toys or books you no longer use to children in need.
- Clean Up** : Organize a neighbourhood cleanup. Pick up litter in the park or on the streets.
- Plant Trees** : Participate in tree-planting drives. Trees benefit the environment and provide shade.
- Visit Seniors** : Visit a local senior center. Chat with the residents, play games, or read stories to them.
- Be Kind** : Treat your classmates with kindness. Include everyone in games and activities.
- Feed Birds** : Put out bird feeders or scatter breadcrumbs for birds in your garden.
- Say Thank You** : Express gratitude when someone does something nice for you.
- Share Knowledge** : Help a friend with homework or explain a concept they find challenging.
- Stand Up Against Bullying** : If you see someone being bullied, be their friend and stand up for them.

Real Life Skill

- Do it yourself
- Services some adults did in their youth:
 - Volunteer to provide meals to the needy.
 - Offer to help elderly neighbours by getting them things they need from the market or take them to the doctor when they are sick.
 - Share kind words with someone who is going through a difficult time or needs a boost of confidence.

- Donate your time and money to the homeless, orphanages, or old age homes.
- Volunteer to spend time and work with blind students and other children with special needs.
- Volunteer for neighbourhood associations for community improvement.
- Participate in environmental cleanups to keep your community and natural spaces beautiful.
- Organise a clothing or book drive to collect them for the needy.
- Help organise events such as festivals or neighbourhood gatherings.
- Tutor younger students in subjects you are good in.
- Volunteer to take care of animals on the streets like stray dogs, cats, or cows; help in their adoption to homes.
- Plant trees.
- Participate in blood donation camps.

Services I can do now:

- Offer to help elderly neighbours by getting them things they need from the market or take them to the doctor when they are sick.
- Share kind words with someone who is going through a difficult time or needs a boost of confidence.
- Volunteer to spend time and work with blind students and other children with special needs.
- Participate in environmental cleanups to keep your community and natural spaces beautiful.
- Organise a clothing or book drive to collect them for the needy.
- Tutor younger students in subjects you are good in.
- Plant trees.

Chapter 13. Save the Environment

Check Your Knowledge

A. 1. – (a), 2. – (b).

B. 1. – True, 2. – True, 3. – True, 4. – True, 5. – True.

1. The environmental organisations protect the environment.
2. Bhairavi saw the sea spray, a humpback whale suspended in the air for a moment, and then slowly fell back into the water.
3. Whale music is like our basic notes – sa, re, ga, ma and so on. It has certain elements like low moans or trills, just like a combination of notes forms a raga, elements of the whale song combine to form phrases. All the boats and ships create a lot of noise causing sound pollution which drown the songs of whales.
4. Sindhu heard about the interesting work the organisations were doing to protect the whales and the sea. He was so impressed that he said he was glad to know there were such organisations and decided to volunteer in the work to protect the singers of the sea.

Time to Think

If our oceans are not clean, the most affected by this pollution would be the marine life and coastal communities. Pollution in our oceans can lead to a decrease in biodiversity, disrupt food chains, and negatively impact the health of both marine organisms and humans who rely on these ecosystems for their livelihood. It is important that we take action to preserve the cleanliness of our oceans to prevent such effects.

Real Life Skill

The quotation – ‘Only when the last tree is cut, only when the last river is polluted, only when the last fish is caught, only then will they realise that no one eats money’;

serves as a reminder of the consequences of unsustainable environmental practices. It suggests that humanity’s relentless exploitation of natural resources is leading to a future where the natural wealth we depend on is exhausted. The ‘last tree,’ ‘last river,’ and ‘last fish’ symbolize the depletion of vital ecosystems and resources. The stark realization that ‘no one eats money’ highlights the futility of wealth in the absence of the natural resources that sustain life. This quote is a call to action, urging us to recognize the intrinsic value of nature and the urgent need to protect and preserve our environment before it’s too late.