

Wisdom

Tree

Class - 8

Chapter 1. A Boy Named Eklavya

Check Your Knowledge

- A. 1. – (a), 2. – (b), 3. – (a).
- B. 1. – True, 2. – True, 3. – False, 4. – True, 5. – false.
- C. 1. Eklavya was the son of a tribal chief in the forest in the kingdom of Hastinapura. Eklavya was a brave and handsome boy and loved by all.
- 2. Eklavya was sad because he did not want to remain a mere hunter but wanted to become a warrior. He wanted to be a great archer and become the disciple of the great Dronacharya, the great tutor of archery in Hastinapur.
- 3. A Gurukul is the place of the Guru or teacher. It is a type of ancient Hindu residential School, where the students(shishyas) and the guru or teacher lived in proximity, many times within the same house. In gurukul the students resided as equals, irrespective of their social standing. The students learned from the guru and also helped him in his day-to-day life, including carrying out mundane chores like washing clothes, cooking, etc. The education imparted was wholesome.
- 4. Guru Drona refused to teach Eklavya because he was belonged to the lowest social community according to the Vedic caste system. He was a Shudra.
- 5. Eklavya made a mud statue to Guru Drona and practiced archery before it. He worshipped the statue and started practice.

Check Yourself

If I was selected in my school basketball team and had a match with a team from another school, which is better than ours, I will not be afraid but will practice more to give them a tough competition.

Write a letter to your friend, who cannot play basketball, explaining him various ways to practice more and improve his skills.

Dear Friend,

I hope this letter finds you in good spirits. I understand that you have a strong desire to be a good basketball player, but not being able to play well can be frustrating, but don't lose heart. There

are numerous ways to practice and enhance your basketball skills even off the court.

Firstly, focus on building your physical fitness. Strength, endurance, and flexibility are crucial for basketball. Engage in exercises like running, jumping rope, and stretching to improve these areas. You can also practice dribbling drills at home or any open space available to you. Dribbling around obstacles or just free dribbling can significantly improve your ball-handling skills.

Another key aspect is shooting. You don't need a hoop to work on your shooting form. Practice your stance, grip, and release with a basketball or even a smaller ball at home. Visualize the hoop and focus on your arm movement and follow-through.

Watching games and analysing players can also be beneficial. Pay attention to their movements, strategies, and teamwork. Try to understand the game at a deeper level which will help you make better decisions when you're able to play.

Lastly, mental preparation is just as important as physical training. Read books on basketball techniques and strategies, watch tutorial videos, and stay mentally engaged with the game.

Remember, improvement takes time and patience. Keep practicing consistently, and you'll see progress in your skills.

Best regards,
Nita Kapoor.

Time to Think

I will always respect my mathematics teacher even though the teacher always mispronounces some words and my English teacher who always starts the class with pop quizzes, because both these teachers are really good teachers and are experts in their subjects. Their teaching methods are really good and help students understand the subjects deeply.

The features a good teacher should have the following traits:

- **Adaptability** : A good teacher is flexible and can adjust their teaching methods to meet the diverse needs of students. They continuously evaluate what works and what doesn't, ensuring effective learning.
- **Active Listening** : Great educators listen attentively not only to students but also to

colleagues, administrators, and families. Active listening fosters better understanding and communication.

- **Collaboration** : Teachers collaborate with colleagues, parents, and the community. They recognize that education is a team effort and work together to create a positive learning environment.
- **Creativity** : Good teachers think outside the box, using innovative approaches to engage students. They find creative ways to present information and encourage critical thinking.
- **Engaging Students** : The teachers capture students' interest and maintain their attention. They create dynamic lessons that inspire curiosity and active participation.
- **Focus on Growth** : Effective teachers prioritize student growth and progress. They set clear goals and help students achieve their full potential.
- **Lifelong Learning** : Great educators never stop learning. They stay updated on educational trends, research, and best practices, continually improving their teaching skills.
- **Patience** : Teaching requires patience. Good teachers remain calm, understanding that students learn at different paces and may face challenges.
- **Preparedness** : Being well-prepared is crucial. Good teachers plan lessons, and anticipate potential issues.
- **Fairness and Respect** : Teachers treat students with equality and fairness. They treat students, colleagues, and parents with respect.
- **Clear Communication** : Effective communication ensures students understand instructions, expectations, and feedback. Good teachers express themselves clearly and actively listen to others.
- **Value Real-World Learning** : Great educators connect classroom content to real-life situations. They help students see the relevance of what they're learning.

Real Life Skill

The Mahabharata, an epic narrative of the Kurukshetra War and the fates of the Kaurava and the Pandava princes, is replete with profound verses.

One such verse is from the Bhagavad Gita, which is a 700-verse Hindu scripture that is part of the epic. A notable verse from this scripture is 2.47:

“कर्मण्येवाधिकारस्ते मा फलेषु कदाचन।

मा कर्मफलहेतुर्भूर्मा ते संगोऽस्तत्त्वकर्मणि॥”

This translates to “You have the right to work only but never to its fruits. Let not the fruits of action be your motive, nor let your attachment be to inaction.” This verse encapsulates the essence of ‘Karma Yoga’ or the ‘path of selfless action’, which is a central theme in the Gita. It teaches detachment from the results of actions and emphasizes performing one’s duty without attachment to outcomes, a principle that resonates with many philosophical and spiritual traditions worldwide.

Chapter 2. Akbar and Birbal

Check Your Knowledge

1. Birbal thought that a man would do anything for money.
 2. Akbar thought no one could spend the entire night in the cold water of the lake.
 3. Akbar challenged Birbal for finding a man who could stand entire night in the lake.
 4. The poor man spent the night standing in the lake by gazing at the street lamp.
 5. Birbal did not come to court because he was cooking khichri.
1. Akbar announced that he would reward the person who spent the entire night in the cold water of the lake with a thousand gold coins.
 2. A poor man who was desperate for money accepted the challenge. He survived by fixing his attention on a streetlamp to get diverted from the cold.
 3. Akbar refused to reward the poor man by saying that the poor man had survived the night in the lake by the warmth of the streetlamp.
 4. To make Akbar understand his mistake Birbal did not go to the court the next day. When a messenger was sent to his home, the messenger was sent back saying, he would come once his khichri was cooked. When Birbal did not go even after many hours, Akbar went to see himself. He saw Birbal

sitting on the floor near some burning twigs and a bowl filled with khichri five feet above the fire. Akbar said to Birbal that how can the khichri be cooked if it's so far away from the fire. Then Birbal replied that in the same way the poor man received heat from the street lamp that was more than a furlong away. This made Akbar realise his mistake.

Check Yourself

Once my friends dared me to enter the local talent show. They knew I loved magic tricks but had never performed in front of a crowd. The challenge? To pull off the greatest magic act the town had ever seen. I spent weeks practicing, learning new tricks, and even creating some of my own. When the big day came, I was nervous but ready. With a deck of cards, a magic wand, and a top hat full of surprises, I wowed the audience and won first place! It was all about believing in myself and taking that leap of faith.

Time to Think

I have the unique and God-gifted talent of telling jokes. I can tell jokes that make even the grumpiest of grown-up's chuckle. My parents realised my talent and encourage me to develop it by making me perform at family gatherings and school stage. They also made me participate in a TV comedy show and talent show. Once I joined a stand-up comedian in his show, which worked out well and I enjoyed public appreciation.

My mother says about my talent – Akash's humour is like sunshine on a cloudy day. He reminds us to find joy in the simplest things. Life is better when you can laugh.

My father says, "Our boy is a comedy comet! His talent is a gift, and we'll support him no matter where it takes him. His punchlines are like ticklish feathers, and his timing is as impeccable.

Real Life Skill

Once upon a time in the heart of India, there lived a wise man named Birbal who was a minister in the court of Emperor Akbar. Birbal was known for his wit, wisdom, and his ability to solve any problem with ease. One day, Akbar challenged Birbal to find the most loyal citizen in his kingdom within a week. Birbal accepted the challenge with a smile.

As the days passed, Birbal observed the people of the kingdom closely. He noticed a farmer who worked tirelessly from dawn to dusk, a teacher who dedicated her life to educating children, and a soldier who guarded the kingdom's gates with unwavering commitment. However, Birbal was looking for something extraordinary.

On the seventh day, Birbal brought a man to the court who had helped a thirsty traveller without expecting anything in return. Akbar was puzzled and asked why this act made the man the most loyal citizen. Birbal explained that loyalty is not just about fulfilling duties but also about showing compassion and selflessness without seeking rewards.

Akbar was impressed by Birbal's wisdom and declared the man as the most loyal citizen of his kingdom. The court erupted in applause, and once again, Birbal's sharp intellect had won the day.

Chapter 3. A Pandit

Check Your Knowledge

- A. 1. – (b), 2. – (c), 3. – (c).
- B. 1. The Pandit was well versed in all scriptures.
2. He knew everything, but he was poor.
3. A rich man gave those clothes to the Pandit.
4. The householders were surprised.
- C. 1. The Pandit lived in a village. He was well versed in all scriptures. He knew everything but was very poor and had no house. He used to get his meals with great difficulty. His clothes were worn out. He had to beg for food and alms.
2. The rich man offered him to have food inside the house. He was served a variety of soups, sweetmeat, vedas, and sweet foods.
3. The Pandit offered food to his clothes because it was due to these new clothes he was offered good food.
4. This story gives us a lesson that we should not judge anyone by their clothes or outer appearance.

Check Yourself

I thank God for everything he has given me. I think a good way to thank God is to perform good deeds to help someone. I do some deeds to thank God for his blessings.

- I share my food with a hungry person begging for food.
- I give away my extra clothes and toys to the needy.
- I spend time with my grandparents. I do all the small tasks they need help with.
- I visit an old couple in my neighbourhood. They are old and lonely, so I go and play with them and help them in getting things from the market.
- I help old or blind persons to cross the road.
- I help my mother to carry groceries from the market.

Time to Think

If I meet two hungry persons on the road asking for food. If I have food I will divide it equally and give a portion to each, without thinking about the difference in their clothes. If I am not carrying food at that time, I will buy them equal amounts of food with the money I have.

Real Life Skill

A person is rich if he/she is rich from heart not with money

True wealth isn't about having an abundance of material possessions or money. It's about being rich from heart. Richness from heart means being rich in kindness, compassion, and love. When someone has a heart filled with generosity and empathy, they possess a kind of richness that money can't buy. This wealth of spirit brings joy not only to themselves but also radiates out to those around them, creating a ripple effect of positivity and warmth. That's the true measure of richness.

Time to learn More.

In life, there exists a profound truth: we truly live when we extend our hands to others.

Imagine a world where every act of kindness, no matter how small, ripples outward, touching hearts and souls. It need not be monumental—a smile, a comforting word, or a selfless gesture can ignite a spark of life within us.

To live is to connect, to bridge the gaps between our own existence and that of others. When we lend a hand, share a burden, or offer solace, we truly live. Each deed done for others contributes to a richer, more vibrant existence.

So, dear friend, embrace the beauty of living by reaching out, by making a difference. For in those moments, when we selflessly serve another, we discover the essence of life itself.

It is truly said, "You have not lived until you have done something for someone who can never repay you". That's the essence of selfless giving; it's an act that's done without any expectations, without any desire for recognition or a payback. It's about making a difference in someone's life, about bringing a smile to their face when they least expect it. It's these moments that truly define living, where you find joy and fulfilment not in receiving, but in giving.

Chapter 4. The Speaking Mountain

Check Your Knowledge

1. Effective communication is a gateway to success.
 2. Listening is as vital as speaking in communication.
 3. Life is simply a reflection of our actions.
 4. People will reply in the same tone as we will use with them.
1. Communication is an act of transmitting messages and sharing thoughts, feelings, and ideas through verbal and nonverbal means.
 2. When the boy was walking through the mountains with his father, he fell down and screamed and to his surprise he heard the voice was repeated in the mountain. He curiously spoke many times and each time whatever he said was repeated back.
 3. Echo is the repetition of a sound caused by reflection of sound waves from a surface back to the listener. When sound waves encounter an obstacle, such as a wall, mountain, or any other obstructing surface, they bounce back and reach our ears after a slight delay. This phenomenon results in the perception of a repeated sound, distinct from the original direct sound.
 4. Echo teaches us a lesson of life that our life is a reflection of our actions.

Check Yourself

One day I was waiting for the milkman to deliver milk. I waited a long time but he did not come. I was

losing my patience. I had to put the milk safely in the refrigerator before I went for my tuition class. I was getting late and if I went for my class without putting it in the refrigerator, the cats would tear the packets with their paws and finish up all the milk.

I was very irritated by the time he came. I didn't wait for an explanation and just shouted rudely at him that he had no value for time, and I had got delayed just because of him. I was so angry that I didn't notice he limped back and left. Next day, he told my mother that he had met with an accident. His cycle was broken, and he had suffered a leg injury. Despite his problems, he came to deliver milk and instead of offering him some water and soothing words, I shouted at him. I realised; I was so wrong. My rudeness amounted to inhuman behaviour. I should have at least asked him the reason for delay. If I had known his plight, I could have offered to apply some ointment on his injury, offered him some water to drink, and asked him to rest for a while before going away. He could have left his broken cycle in our house and taken it later for repair. At that time, he could have gone home in a rickshaw. There was so much I could have done to help. I regret my behaviour and even apologised to him, next time I met him, but the guilt will remain with me.

Time to Think

Read and explain the quote by Stephen Covey – Seek first to understand and then to be understood.

Stephen Covey's insightful quote, "Seek first to understand and then to be understood," points out at a principle of effective communication. It suggests that before we put forth our own ideas and seek agreement from others, we should actively listen and truly comprehend their perspectives and feelings. This approach fosters respect and openness, paving the way for more meaningful and constructive dialogues. By prioritizing understanding, we build a solid foundation of trust and empathy, which are crucial for any successful interaction. Covey's advice is particularly relevant in professional settings where collaboration and conflict resolution are key. It encourages us to listen actively, ask clarifying questions, and withhold judgment until we have a full grasp of the situation. This principle not only enhances interpersonal relationships but also leads to more effective problem-solving and decision-making.

Real Life Skill

Write a letter to your cousin who speaks very rudely with everyone. Make him understand that he is wrong and the need of being polite.

Hello Bobby,

I hope this message finds you well. I've been meaning to talk to you about something that's been on my mind. It's about the way you speak with people. I know you're a straight-shooter and like to say things as they are, but sometimes your words can come off as pretty harsh.

I get it, being direct is your style, but there's a fine line between being honest and being rude. When you're rude, it doesn't just reflect badly on you, but it also hurts the people around you. It can make them feel disrespected and undervalued.

Being polite isn't about being fake or not being yourself; it's about showing respect for others. It's about finding a way to say what you mean without making someone else feel small. It's about being kind because everyone is fighting their own battles that we know nothing about.

I believe in you, and I know you can communicate your thoughts in a way that's assertive without being offensive. It'll make your relationships stronger and your conversations more productive.

Please understand that I want you to improve because I care for you.

Take care,
Romila

Time to Learn More

Steve Jobs, the iconic co-founder of Apple Inc., was renowned for his exceptional communication skills, which have left a lasting impact on leadership communication. His ability to articulate his vision with clarity and passion was instrumental in Apple's success. Jobs' presentations were meticulously planned and executed with a storyteller's flair, making complex technology relatable and desirable to the masses. He mastered the art of simplicity, ensuring that every word and image served a purpose, avoiding unnecessary jargon that could confuse or alienate his audience. Jobs also excelled in creating a narrative around Apple's products, positioning them as not just gadgets but as tools that could enhance one's life and work. His non-verbal communication was equally

powerful; he used pauses effectively to emphasize points and engaged with his audience through eye contact and body language that conveyed confidence and enthusiasm. From Steve Jobs, leaders can learn the importance of clear, passionate communication, the power of simplicity, and the ability to connect with an audience on an emotional level.

Chapter 5. Little Boy's Love for his Family

Check Your Knowledge

- A. 1. – (c), 2. – (c), 3. – (a), 4. – (a).
- B. 1. – False, 2. – True, 3. – True, 4. – False, 5. – True.
- C. 1. The little boy want to buy the doll to send to his sister because she loved it and wanted it. He wanted to gift it to her on her birthday but now since his sister had already gone to be with God, he would send it with his mother. His mother would be soon leaving to be with God too. Before her mother went away, he wanted to give her the doll for his sister and a white rose for his mother because his mother loved white roses.
2. The man who had gone to Big Bazar store for shopping helped him in buying these things.
3. The accident took place about two days back when a drunken man driving a truck hit a car occupied by a young woman and a little girl. The little girl died right away, and the mother was in a critical stage. The victims of the accident were that boy's mother and little sister.
4. The man came to know about the funeral of little boy's mother from a newspaper.

Check Yourself

If I met a small child crying alone in a street, I would ask him/her the reason for crying. I would help the child to the best of my abilities. In case the child is lost or separated from his family, I will try to reunite them by tracing the family. If the child is injured, I will arrange for first aid and then drop the child home. In case the child does not know his address, I will seek help from the local police to find his home.

Time to Think

In an incident when I was driving my bicycle on the wrong side of the road and a car came speeding in front of me; I would never say wrong words to the

driver. I would admit my mistake and apologise. I will let the matter go but definitely I will never repeat my mistake.

Real Life Skill

(Do it yourself)

Chapter 6. An Interview

Check Your Knowledge

- A. 1. – (a), 2. – (b), 3. – (c).
- B. 1. The young man was academically an excellent person who had applied for a managerial position in a big company. His mother had paid his fee to educate him by earning from washing clothes for people.
2. The director made a request to the youth that on returning home that day he should clean his mother's hands and see the director the next morning.
3. The youth noticed his mother's hands for the first time. They were wrinkled and bruised, some bruises were very painful, and they hurt even with water. He realised it for the first time that these hands had washed clothes everyday to enable him to pay his fee. The bruises in the mother's hands were the price that the mother had paid for his graduation, academic excellence, and his future.
4. The director was looking for certain qualities in a person to be manager of his company. He was looking for a person who could appreciate the help of others, a person who knew sufferings of others to get things done, and a person who would not put money as his only goal in life.

Check Yourself

I appreciate my parents for working hard to provide me with so many luxuries in life, particularly when I see there are so many parents who are not able to provide their children with a good living. I have never praised them or thanked them for it but now I will surely show them my appreciation. I will first tell them verbally; how much I love and appreciate them then I will show it by my actions. I will listen to them, obey them, help them in daily chores like cleaning the house, bringing things from the market, running errands like setting and clearing the table

after meals, and keeping my room and cupboards clean. If my parents tell me they can't afford to spend on something I want, I will not act stubborn or obstinate and manage without that thing. I will not trouble them with my behaviour.

Time to Think

I have realised the hardships my parents are facing to educate me. They sacrifice their own needs, fun times, enjoyment, and interests so that they can use those resources for my education and comforts. So many times, they want to go out with friends and family, but they don't do so to use the time and money for me. Their life revolves around me and all the time they adjust their schedules according to my health, tests, coaching classes, school timings, and my playtime and my outings.

Their journey as parents is filled with sacrifices, hard work, and unwavering commitment. They work long hours to manage the financial burden of school fees, tuition classes, coaching for extra-curricular activities like music, dance, sports, art, and craft. The emotional support they offer during those tough exam periods shows their efforts are relentless. They navigate through their own hardships, all while ensuring that I have a brighter future. It's a testament to their love and dedication to my well-being and success.

Real Life Skill

These are the qualities that a good manager should have:

1. **Communication Skills** : A good manager can convey expectations clearly and listen to feedback. Effective communication helps prevent misunderstandings and encourages positive work environment.
2. **Work Ethic** : Leading by example, good managers demonstrate a strong work ethic.
3. **Goal-Oriented** : Successful managers set achievable goals and create strategies to meet them. They break down long term goals into smaller steps to keep the team motivated.
4. **Positive and Inspirational** : Good managers encourage teamwork and empower their team members. They create environment where all members feel valued.
5. **Fair Treatment** : They treat all team members

fairly and equally. They do not discriminate on any basis.

6. **Constructive Feedback** : They provide feedback that helps employees improve for growth and development.
7. **Effective Delegation** : They delegate the tasks properly understanding the strengths and weaknesses of their employees. This improves workflow.
8. **Consideration and understanding** : Good managers consider the difficulties faced by their employees and support them in difficult times.
9. **Hold a high moral character** : A manager should set an example of a good moral character, so the employees respect him/her.
10. **Respect employees** : A manager should never humiliate any employee in front of others. If there is a problem, it should be sorted out in seclusion without announcing it to the entire team.

I think I have almost all the qualities required to be a good manager, and I can work to improve the ones that need to be refined.

Chapter 7. He Knew his Duty

Check Your Knowledge

1. - (c), 2. - (a), 3. - (c), 4. - (b).
1. The doctor always did his duty with responsibility.
2. The doctor was not angry with the father of the patient.
3. The surgery took several hours.
4. The nurse told about the doctor to the father of the patient.
1. The doctor entered the hospital in a hurry, changed his clothes and directly went to the surgery block.
2. The doctor calmed the father of the patient by replying calmly and smiling when the patient's father yelled at him. The doctor apologised and said that he was not in the hospital and came immediately after being called. He asked the father to calm down so that he could do his work. The doctor smiled and said that they would do their best by God's grace and he should pray for his son's healthy life.

3. The nurse told the father of the patient that the doctor had lost his son in a road accident a day before. He was at his son's burial when he was called for the surgery. The doctor had left for his son's burial after saving the life of the patient.
4. I think the doctor did a super-human task by leaving his son's burial and coming to perform surgery. In such a time of grief, it is emotionally disturbing and very difficult to concentrate on a surgery, yet the doctor operated for several hours and left only after saving the patient's life.

Check Yourself

I think if I was in place of the doctor, I would react in a similar way to the father of the patient. Though it is very difficult to keep yourself composed in such a tragic situation but when duty comes first, one has to keep a control over emotions. I would do the same.

Time to Think

I salute to the endurance of the doctor in the story. I don't think I have the power to bear hardships of the life so calmly, especially when they are related to the loss of someone dear to you. I am a very emotion driven person. I can endure hardships in life and act calmly in difficult situations like someone having a medical emergency, loss of some materialistic thing, a fire breakout, injury, missing a train or flight, damage to property, etc; but I tend to lose calm when someone close to me is suffering. I cannot bear the agony of separation.

Real Life Skill

There are two professionals who constantly inspire me with their unwavering honesty and commitment to their duties.

The first is my teacher. She is someone who shapes the future with every lesson she imparts. Her dedication to truth and education goes beyond the classroom; she is a beacon of integrity, guiding students not just academically but morally as well.

The second is a nurse, whose tireless work often goes unnoticed. Their honest care and diligent attention to patients embody the very essence of dutiful service. Both these individuals, in their own unique ways, reinforce my belief in the good that comes from being truthful and dedicated to one's responsibilities.

Time to Learn More

I want to construct railway bridges when I grow up. I have studied about it, and I understand that there are many responsibilities that I will have to take up. The responsibilities of my chosen profession include:

- Ensuring the safety, efficiency, and longevity of railway infrastructure.
- Collaborating with engineers and architects in initial design phase to develop blueprints that meet specific technical requirements and safety standards.
- The selection of materials that are durable and suitable for the environmental conditions of the bridge's location.
- Overseeing the construction process is a critical responsibility, ensuring that all work is carried out according to plan, within budget, and on schedule. This involves coordinating with various teams, including construction workers, project managers, and other engineers, to facilitate smooth operations. Regular inspections during construction are essential to detect and address any issues.
- Once the bridge is completed, ongoing maintenance becomes a key responsibility to prevent structural degradation over time. This includes regular monitoring for wear and tear, scheduling repairs, or upgrades as necessary, and ensuring compliance with all regulatory requirements.
- In case of any incidents or accidents, leading investigations to determine causes and implement corrective actions to prevent future occurrences.
- Priority is public safety and environmental considerations.

Chapter 8. The Triple Filter Test

Check Your Knowledge

- A.
 1. One day a student came to Socrates and said, "Socrates, I have just heard some news about one of your friends."
 2. The first test was about truth.
 3. The second test was about goodness.
 4. The third test was about usefulness.
- B.
 1. Socrates was a great philosopher.

- The student wanted to tell him something that he had heard about one of Socrates's friends.
- The triple filter test is a set of three questions to confirm if the statement is true, good, and useful.
- We learnt from the story that we should not spread what we have heard until we are sure that it is 100 percent true, good, and useful. We should be peace makers and not trouble makers.

Check Yourself

Yes, I have passed on information about someone after hearing from the third person many times. The reasons that compelled me to do so were - sometimes I wanted to be in the good books of the person, it sounded interesting, and it made me feel important. After reading the story I think I shouldn't have done it.

Time to Think

Gossip is enough to make God angry. Do you agree with this? Discuss.

Gossip, often seen as a harmless pastime, but it can have far-reaching negative consequences because it involves the spreading of unverified information which can lead to damage reputations, erode trust among friends, lead to misunderstandings, and cause unnecessary conflict and even lead to workplace discrimination. From a moral standpoint, many believe that gossiping is a form of lying or deceit, as it involves discussing unverified information that can harm others' reputations. In various religious texts, gossip is considered sinful or morally wrong because it sows discord among people and goes against the principles of speaking truthfully and with kindness. While the statement "Gossip is enough to make God angry" may be interpreted differently across cultures and beliefs, it underlines the potential for harm of gossip's impact on individuals and communities.

Real Life Skill

You can write these points to avoid getting caught up in gossiping, on separate stickers and put them up in the class.

- Avoid spreading toxic information.
- Do not spread one-sided information.

- Consider whether the gossip is true, necessary, or harmful.
- Reflect on whether you'd say it to the subject's face.
- Steer conversations away from gossip: When someone starts gossiping, change the topic to something more positive or productive.
- Put yourself in the other person's shoes: Imagine how you'd feel if someone spread rumours about you.
- Avoiding gossip not only benefits you but also contributes to a healthier social environment.

Chapter 9. Arjun and his Friends

Check Your Knowledge

- A. 1. - (a), 2. - (a), 3. - (c), 4. - (a).
- B. 1. After the impact, the sphere opened up.
2. Both the boys met in an interplanetary chat there.
3. Sachin was scared so much that he could hardly speak.
4. Arjun was always hesitant on the planet.
5. Perfect justice system is a necessary part of justice.
- C. 1. Arjun met Sachin.
2. When Sachin was showing wonders of the planet, Arjun tripped over and bumped his head on a sphere that was lying by the path.
3. The sphere opened up and a little man came out of it. The little man had an enormous bruise on his head and was hopping madly. Two enormous uniformed robots turned up. They took out a few small devices and scanned the whole area. They gave a small metal card to the little man and whisked Arjun away with the little man. Arjun was locked inside a large sphere where the little man gave Arjun a hard blow to the head. Now Arjun was given a metal card and asked not to exceed the limit stamped on the card.
4. The people at the planet discovered that forgiveness is a necessary part of justice.

Check Yourself

What is your fantasy of entering another world? Write a diary entry about it.

Dear Diary,

Today, I embarked on the most extraordinary adventure of my life. I found myself walking deep at the floor of an ocean. I was breathing normally under the water as if in air. I was in the underwater sea world where all the sea animals could speak and understand my language. The spectacle under water was breathtaking. On the floor of the deep ocean, a mysterious and enchanting world unfolds. Here, amidst the serene darkness, creatures of various forms and sizes thrive. The ocean floor is dotted with vibrant coral reefs, serving as bustling metropolises for marine life. These reefs are home to a variety of organisms, from the tiniest of algae to the more conspicuous sea anemones that sway gently in the underwater currents. Schools of colourful fish dart through the nooks and crannies of the reefs, while larger predators lurk in the shadows, awaiting their chance to strike. Amidst this bustling ecosystem, plants like kelp and seagrass form underwater forests, offering shelter and sustenance to countless species. The deep ocean floor is a treasure trove of biodiversity, where life continues in a delicate balance, largely unseen by human eyes. I began talking to the colourful fish swimming by. I told them that I had come to live with them. They gently touched me with their fins and said, "see you again". This world was alive, breathing with possibilities and wonders waiting to be discovered. I can't wait to see what tomorrow holds in this enchanting new world!

Yours excitedly,
Amitosh

Time to Think

It is true that often when we apologize, our words are limited to a simple 'sorry' or an admission of our mistake. Yet, what frequently remains unaddressed is the crucial next step: asking how we can rectify the harm caused by our actions. Genuine contrition is not just about acknowledging wrongdoing; it's about taking responsibility to mend what has been broken. It involves a willingness to listen, understand the impact of our actions, and take concrete steps towards making amends. This may require patience, effort, and creativity, but it is only through such proactive measures that we can truly express remorse and rebuild trust.

Real Life Skill

(Do it yourself)

Wisdom Tree

Chapter 10. Fairy on the Lake

Check Your Knowledge

- A. 1. – (a), 2. – (a), 3. – (c), 4. – (b).
- B. 1. The fairy told her followers that it would not be an easy journey. They would have to face many dangerous and difficult situations on their way. They will be troubled by odd and fearful things, but her followers told her that they were not afraid and would face anything that comes their way.
2. Shadow did not have any exceptional qualities like being the bravest, the best fighter, the most quick-witted, or fun to be with.
3. The crystal stone had magical powers and using these powers the fairy could go back to the lake. With the magic of the crystal stone she could make the evil beings in her area vanish.
- C. 1. The voyage was even harder and more terrible than the fairy had imagined and warned them about. They had to march day and night, lost in deserts, hungry and thirsty. The fairy and her followers met the terrifying beasts.
2. The shadow said to the fairy that he would follow her in spite of all difficulties, and that is what he was doing. He said he would not turn his back on the fairy just because the journey had been hard.
3. The fairy saw a monster guarding the crystal stone when she found it.
4. In the memory of Shadow, and to show everyone the value of loyalty and commitment, the fairy presented every being on earth with its own shadow during the day; but when night time comes all these shadows travel to the lake, to spend time with the sad fairy, and to try to console her for her loss.

Check Yourself

I have a fear of walking in the dark and someone suddenly appearing in front of me and making a noise to scare me. I do the following things to overcome my fears:

- I question myself like what am I afraid of and why am I afraid? This reduces my fear to some extent.
- Trust myself: I believe in myself and trust myself to handle frightening situations when faced with them.

- **Step Outside Comfort Zones:** I try to push myself beyond my comfort zone and face my fears. Gradually I increase my exposure to fears to adapt to them.
- **Face the fears head-on:** I evaluate risks, create action plans, and avoid complete avoidance.

Time to Think

Respect is earned, honesty is appreciated, love is gained, and loyalty is returned. Write your views.

Respect, honesty, love, and loyalty are cornerstones of meaningful human interactions.

- **Respect** is not simply given; it is earned through consistent actions that demonstrate regard for others. Respect can be earned when you're genuine, your actions align with your words, recognize others' efforts and achievements, when you respect boundaries and take permission without overstepping, admitting mistakes and apologising for them, and support them in tough and happy times. People notice and appreciate it and you earn their respect.
- **Honesty** is appreciated and valued as it builds trust, a fundamental aspect of any relationship. Honesty lays the foundation for trust. When you're honest, others perceive you as reliable and transparent, and trustworthy. Honesty bridges gaps and connects people in a bond.
- **Love** is gained in many acts and thoughts. It can be gained as a reward for kindness and understanding extended towards others. It is found in whispered secrets, gained by waiting patiently and nurturing connections. Love tiptoes in on the wings of kindness, shared moments, accepting a person with his/her flaws without expecting or demanding perfection. You gain love when you show your scars, your true sentiments, your fears, and the warmth of a smile. It is built on trust, gained with the shoulder to cry on, and the forgiveness offered freely.
- **Loyalty** is returned when one feels a strong sense of fidelity and support. It is a deep-rooted commitment, an unspoken promise that binds souls. It stands firm through storms, listens without judgment, shields, and defends to stand guard. Loyalty is a silent bridge between minds.

Real Life Skill

When I think of loyalty, my friend Nandini

immediately comes to mind. Nandini has been my rock, a friend who has stood by me through thick and thin. Whether I'm facing personal challenges or any hard times, Nandini is always there, offering a shoulder to lean on with words of encouragement. Her unwavering support and steadfast presence have been a constant source of strength for me. It's rare to find someone who is as selfless and dedicated as Nandini; she truly embodies what it means to be a loyal friend. I'm incredibly grateful for her friendship and the peace of mind that comes from knowing she'll always be there for me, no matter what life throws my way.

Chapter 11. Cheerful Charlie

Check Your Knowledge

1. - (c), 2. - (c), 3. - (b).
1. - True, 2. - False, 3. - True, 4. - False, 5. - False, 6. - False.
1. Charlie could not walk because he had met with an accident when he was very small.
 2. Waterworks always cried because he was a very negative child and always found reasons to be sad. He always complained and grumbled for things he didn't have or didn't like.
 3. When both the boys were in the street someone dropped a pie from a window above, and it landed right on Charlie's head.
 4. At last waterworks felt good, that he understood why Charlie was happy and cheerful. He realised that he was now so used to Charlie's enthusiasm that he couldn't help but see the good and funny side of everything.

Check Yourself

My younger sister Myra is feeling down because her pet dog has gone missing. I went to her and told her; I can understand her being upset but we should not lose hope of finding the lost pet. I suggested some plans to help her find the dog. I suggested we draw some missing posters and put them up in the neighbourhood. We could also go around in the neighbourhood door-to-door, asking neighbours if anyone had seen the dog recently. We could also go the nearby park where she used to play with her dog and papa used to take the dog for a walk. I stood by her trying to soothe her and help her find her dog. I

reminded her that dogs are smart and resilient, and there's a good chance her furry friend will find its way back home.

Time to Think

Things that make me sad:

- When I see someone suffer from disease or illness.
- Separation or loss of a loved one.
- When I am sick and cannot play or go to school
- When anyone in my family is sad or upset
- When I had to change school and leave behind my old friends
- When my aunt returns to her own home after staying with us in summer vacations.

Things that make me happy:

- When I score good grades in my tests and exams.
- When my family and friends are cheerful.
- Celebrating with my grandparents
- My grandmother telling me stories and incidents when she was a child.
- Eating tasty dishes
- Riding my bicycle
- Going for walks by the riverside
- Watching birds flying in the sky
- Playing with small puppies
- Watching funny videos
- Dancing to music
- Going for picnics
- Eating ice cream
- Playing games with friends

Real Life Skill

A play based on the story

CHARACTERS:

Charlie - A boy who could not walk but was known for his cheerfulness and pleasant nature; popularly called cheerful Charlie.

Waterworks - A new boy in town, known as a cry-baby and for his constant complaints for everything.

SCENE 1:

(At the market, CHARLIE is sitting on his wheelchair, greeting passersby with a smile. WATERWORKS is standing nearby, frowning.)

CHARLIE: (cheerfully) Good day, Mr. Builder!

That's a fine hat you've got there!

BUILDER: (laughing) Thanks, Charlie! You always know how to make a man feel good about his fashion sense.

WATERWORKS: (grumbling) It's just a hat. What's so special about it?

CHARLIE: (smiling) It's not about the hat, Waterworks. It's about noticing the little things that make life brighter.

SCENE 2:

(A POSTMAN walks by, looking tired. CHARLIE calls out to him.)

CHARLIE: Hey, Mr. Postman! You look like you've been working hard today. Keep up the great work!

POSTMAN: (sighing with a smile) Thanks, Charlie. Your words are like a cool breeze on a hot day.

WATERWORKS: (rolling his eyes) Cool breeze? More like hot air...

SCENE 3:

(A TAXI DRIVER honks as he drives by. CHARLIE waves at him.)

CHARLIE: That's the spirit, Mr. Taxi Driver! Honk if you're happy!

TAXI DRIVER: (laughing) Only for you, Charlie! Your joy is contagious!

WATERWORKS: (scoffing) Contagious? I must be immune...

SCENE 4:

(At the market, CHARLIE and WATERWORKS are standing under a window. Suddenly, a pie falls and lands on CHARLIE's head.)

CHARLIE & WATERWORKS: (speechless)

(A moment of silence passes.)

WATERWORKS: (surprised) Wow, Charlie, that's a nice clown disguise you just put on. And so quickly too!

CHARLIE: (laughing) Well, you know me, always ready for a bit of fun!

WATERWORKS: (smiling for the first time) I guess... I guess I see it now. The good and funny side of everything.

CHARLIE: (beaming) That's the spirit, Waterworks! Life's too short to not laugh at the pies life throws at you.

(END OF PLAY)

Chapter 12. Women Break out of Gender Discrimination

Check Your Knowledge

- A. 1. The girls across Maharashtra are escaping the oppression by becoming members of an Adolescent Girls' Group (AGG) project.
2. The girls become member of a project called Deepshikha.
3. The project has been initiated by Barclays-UNICEF.
4. Several NGOs across Maharashtra, including SPARSH are involved in the project.
5. The most vulnerable section of the society are adolescent girls between 15 – 20 years of age
6. The aim of the project is to impart the knowledge of gender, health, nutrition, and financial skills. The aim is also to train facilitators, or 'prerikas' who will pass these skills on to smaller sub-groups of 15- to 20-year-olds across the state.
7. The girls joined the programme to improve their communication skills, seek an opportunity to get out of the house for a few hours, enter a competitive work environment in order to earn their own livelihood, and serve as a vehicle to help them find part-time jobs.

Check Yourself

Gender discrimination remains a common issue in many professional environments, despite increased awareness and efforts to address it. It manifests in various forms, such as unequal pay, biased hiring practices, and limited advancement opportunities for the female gender. A notable incident that brought this issue to light involved a well-known technology company facing legal action due to allegations of systemic gender bias. Female employees reported receiving lower compensation than their male counterparts for similar roles and responsibilities. Additionally, they faced obstacles in career progression, often being overlooked for promotions in favour of male colleagues with comparable qualifications. This incident sparked widespread media attention and prompted discussions about the need for more transparent and equitable employment practices across all industries.

I will share an incident of gender discrimination that I personally witnessed.

Radha is a woman working as a housemaid was staying in a small hut near my house. She had four daughters and a son. Radha took two of her elder daughters out of school. Her daughters were upset because they were keen to carry on their education and were bright students. I asked Radha the reason. She told me that she was going to admit her son in a private English medium school. She didn't have enough money to pay for her son's education so the two girls will also start earning as domestic help to support her educate her son. Radha believed that her son would take care of her and the family when he grows up so good education is important for him. The girls were not going to earn after completing their education and would get married and have their own families, their education was not important and was useless so it could be sacrificed without a second thought. People in their society believe that only a son can earn and take care of their parents so he should be given the best facilities, better food, and importance. The male child is given preference and superior treatment over a girl child.

Chapter 13. Everyone is Equal

Check Your Knowledge

- A. 1. – (a), 2. – (b), 3. – (a), 4. – (b).
- B. 1. – False, 2. – False, 3. – True, 4. – True.
- C. 1. The class teacher's hundred-rupee note was lost.
2. Rakesh blamed Sathya for theft because he thought the teacher would turn against Sathya because he belonged to a lower caste and lived in a slum.
3. The class representative compared the two notes.
4. The teacher had a special habit of marking the notes before spending them.
5. The teacher said to Rakesh that before stealing he didn't know that the teacher had marked the note. The teacher also pointed out that it was easy to accuse someone else based on their background and not on their behaviour. The teacher said how could he judge all members of Rakesh's caste and status as thieves because Rakesh had committed theft.

6. Rakesh understood that people should not be judged according to their social status and caste. Sathya said that he was ready to forget about it if Rakesh promised to stop judging people based on their social status or caste.

Check Yourself

(Do it yourself)

Time to Think

Yes, I regret to admit that I was prejudiced against people with a dark complexion. After reading the story I realise that I was wrong at that time.

Real Life Skill

	Latha should	Latha should not
1	Buy food from the stall and make sure the couple see her doing so.	Be influenced by the remarks of the couple.
2	Tell her friends loudly enough for the couple to hear, that she does not judge people by actions and appearance.	Remain silent.
3	Tell her friends loudly enough for the couple to hear, that people who judge others by their colour are foolish enough not to see their capabilities.	Allow the couple to leave the fete before they are taught a lesson.

4	Go to the couple directly and ask them if they ever heard of Nelson Mandela, Whitney Houston – the iconic singer, actress, and producer, Pele – the Brazilian football legend, Michael Jackson – the king of Pop, Oprah Winfrey – a talk show host, Rihanna – a global music sensation? Let me tell you that they were all dark. How can you discriminate someone on the basis of their colour? Do understand that beauty comes in all shades and your fair complexion does not make you more beautiful, talented or unique.	Allow the other stalls to cater to the couple or sell them anything from their stalls in protest to the couple's behaviour.
5	Talk loudly to people around and say, "Ladies and gentlemen, here we have people who choose not to eat at a particular stall because the helpers are dark. Anyone who thinks their complexion will leak into the food served is welcome not to eat from them. And those who think we should rise above petty discrimination must cheer them and tell the people who discriminate about their foolishness and low thinking.	Ignore the words spoken by the couple and let them move around with full freedom in their discriminating beliefs.