

The Missing Bat



WARM UP

Look at this picture. What is missing?



Abdul Rehman Chacha owned a big cricket bat factory in Sangam, near Srinagar. One could see cricket bats neatly stacked in rows all around his factory. Chacha was an old man with a hunchback. He was always frowning and always on his feet, tapping his walking stick as he went, trying to see what his workers were doing. Ahmed's father, Aamir, was a worker at Chacha's factory. Ahmed stayed with him at the factory every day after school. He would stare at the tall stacks of

★ **chacha** Hindi word for uncle; sometimes used to refer respectfully to someone older
★ **stacked** piled one on top of another **hunchback** someone whose back is bent forward





cricket bats in awe. He liked to hold and run his fingers across the bats after his father had shaped them with his machine. Gripping one by its handle, he would swing it in the air with a flick of his wrist.

If Chacha caught Ahmed with a bat in his hands, he would clear his throat and say, “That’s not a play thing, boy. Put it back.” And under Chacha’s watchful eye, Ahmed would put the bat in its place. Did the old man know that he dreamed of being Sachin Tendulkar someday?

Chacha was very particular about his stock. He liked to count the number of bats in his warehouse. He did this every evening before the workers left for home, and every morning, as he loaded the bats onto his truck. He had imagined how he would play detective if any of his bats went missing.

And then it happened! One morning, when Chacha opened the warehouse to take the stock out and load it into his truck, he found that there was one bat missing. He was furious, because he had admired the bat just the previous evening. It was the biggest and the lightest one of all!

That afternoon, Chacha gathered the workers and made them stand in a row. “One bat is missing. Where do you think it could have gone?”

The workers looked down and shook their heads. They found it difficult to look at Chacha when he was angry.

“No one other than you all and me enters the warehouse. So where is it?” shouted Chacha.

His eyes found Aamir. “A bat can’t disappear overnight, can it?” he asked.

“You’re right, Chacha. It can’t,” Aamir agreed.

“Where is Ahmed today, Aamir? I do not see him around.”



flick sudden, quick movement **play detective** pretend as if one is solving a crime
overnight during the night



“Ahmed is not well, Chacha. He is resting at home today,” Aamir answered, now looking straight at the other man.

Suddenly, one by one, the workers began to giggle. Chacha’s beard quivered in anger as he shouted, “What is so amusing?” Aamir began to study his toes again.

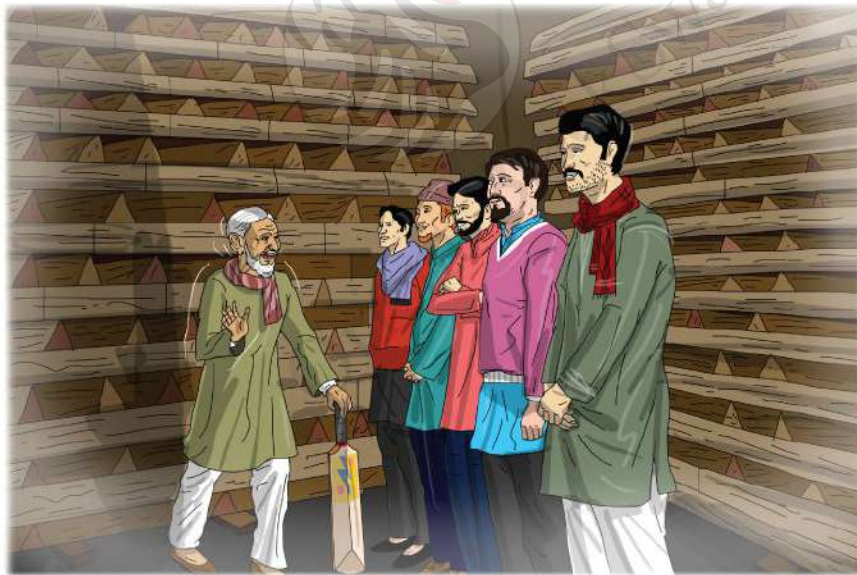
Upon hearing him shout, everyone burst into laughter. “We found the missing bat, Chacha!” exclaimed Aamir.

‘Surely, this had to be some joke,’ thought Chacha! He didn’t think he could get any angrier than he already was. “You have been standing in front of me all this time! So how could you have found it?” he spat out.

Eyes shining, a big grin on his face, Aamir pointed at Chacha’s walking stick. The old man looked down.

None of the workers had known until that day that Chacha could laugh so loudly. Or that he wore dentures!

Vaishali Shroff



★ **giggle** laugh softly **quivered** shook **dentures** false teeth

★ **Vaishali Shroff** is a writer, editor and storyteller. She has written many short stories for the *Chicken Soup* books and runs a children’s storytelling club in Pune, India. Her stories reflect her love for travelling and her experience with children.



COMPREHENSION

A. Answer these questions.

1. Where did Ahmed's father work?
2. What did Abdul Rehman Chacha like to do twice a day?
3. Why was the missing bat special?
4. Who had taken the missing bat?
5. How would you describe Abdul Rehman Chacha?

B. Tick (✓) the correct answers.

1. Ahmed liked to hold the bats his father made because
 - a. he loved his father very much.
 - b. he dreamed of becoming a cricketer.
 - c. he wanted to annoy Abdul Rehman Chacha.
2. We know that Abdul Rehman Chacha was a suspicious man because
 - a. he always walked around to see what his workers were doing.
 - b. he counted his bats twice every day.
 - c. both of the above.
3. Abdul Rehman Chacha asked Aamir where Ahmed was because
 - a. he was worried about the boy's health.
 - b. he had seen Ahmed around the factory.
 - c. he thought that the boy had stolen the bat.
4. Aamir looked straight at Abdul Rehman Chacha because
 - a. he had been told to do so.
 - b. he wanted to make it clear that Ahmed was not a thief.
 - c. he was not afraid of him anymore.
5. Abdul Rehman Chacha laughed loudly when the bat was found. This shows that
 - a. he realised the workers could get angry at him and wanted to distract them.
 - b. he realised that his reaction to the situation was not correct.
 - c. he realised that he could make mistakes too.

C. Think and answer.

We know that the workers in Chacha's factory were afraid of him. Do you think it would make a difference if they were not? How would this help both the workers and Chacha himself?

GRAMMAR

Read these sentences.

- ★ Abdul Rehman Chacha **has counted** all the bats.
- ★ He **has noticed** that one of the bats is missing.



The verbs in colour are in **the present perfect tense**. We use this tense to talk about completed actions or about past events which have some effect on the present.

We can also use **the present perfect tense** to talk about actions that started in the past and are still going on.

- ★ Aamir **has made** cricket bats for many years.
- ★ **Have you lived** here for long?



A. Complete these sentences with the correct forms of the verbs in brackets.

1. Arpana **has bought** (buy) some books for her birthday.
2. Sudipto _____ (park) his bicycle in the new stand.
3. _____ you _____ (read) the latest Tinkle Digest?
4. I _____ already _____ (watch) this film.
5. _____ she _____ (not tell) you the news yet?



B. Complete the answers to these questions using the present perfect tense.

1. Have you ever been to Kolkata?
2. Have you ever seen a play?
3. Has it rained recently in your city?
4. How many times have you helped someone in difficulty?
5. How many books have you read in the last one month?

VOCABULARY

Read these sentences.

- ★ Abdul Rehman Chacha was a **suspicious** man.
- ★ Abdul Rehman Chacha was a **careful** man.





The adjectives used to describe Abdul Rehman Chacha in the sentences above—**suspicious** and **careful**—mean the same thing.

But, the word **suspicious** suggests a negative meaning. **Careful** is a more polite and formal word.



Sort the words given in the box into the correct columns.

slim cunning inexpensive shy proud
scared cheap clever vain skinny

meaning	positive	negative
1. nervous	shy	scared
2. thin		
3. not expensive		
4. able to use your intelligence to do or get something		
5. pleased about your looks or abilities		

Now, complete these sentences with the correct words.

- The _____ fox tricked the crow into dropping its food from its beak.
- I have only enough pocket money to buy Megha an _____ gift for her birthday.
- Sarah is too _____! Doesn't she eat anything?
- Robin was too _____ to talk to the new student in his class.
- My sister is very _____ of the many medals she has won in school.



We already know that in a diary entry, we write about what happened during a day.

We write about our thoughts and feelings.



Imagine you are Ahmed. Write an entry about a day spent in the cricket bat factory with your father. Describe what you see, hear and smell. Mention your thoughts and feelings about Abdul Rehman Chacha, after he catches you playing with a bat.



★ SPPELLING

A. Listen to the words and complete them using -al, -el or -le.

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. hand ____ | 2. jew ____ | 3. med ____ |
| 4. sand ____ | 5. met ____ | 6. sign ____ |
| 7. hot ____ | 8. ridd ____ | 9. gigg ____ |

B. Listen to the words and complete them using -ie or -ei.

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. b ____ ng | 2. rec ____ ve | 3. bel ____ ve |
| 4. p ____ ce | 5. n ____ ce | 6. pr ____ st |
| 7. ch ____ f | 8. th ____ f | 9. th ____ r |

★ SPEAKING

Read this conversation.

Chacha: A bat can't disappear overnight, can it?

Aamir: You're right, Chacha. It can't.



We use these phrases to say that we agree with what another person is saying—

- ★ You're right.
- ★ You're absolutely right!
- ★ I agree (with you).
- ★ I think so too.
- ★ Yes, I totally agree.
- ★ I think that's true.



Work in pairs and practise expressing agreement in these situations.

1. You and your friend are walking home from school. Your friend says that it is very hot.
2. You ask your cousin if he/she finds English very easy.
3. You think watching the news on television is boring. Your sister finds it boring too.
4. You are shopping for new shoes with your mother. You want her to buy a pair but she feels that they are expensive.

 **PRONUNCIATION**



A. Listen and repeat these words.

king song thing wrong drink
bank uncle ankle junction anxious

B. Listen and repeat.

king and sing Let's sing for the king!
bring and young Bring the young man inside.
uncle and strong My uncle has very strong arms.



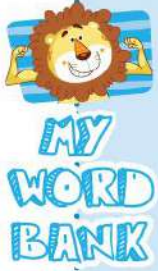
When we pronounce words that end with **-ng**, we often make the mistake of emphasising the **g** sound at the end.

While making the **-ng** sound, the back part of our tongue should rise toward the roof of our mouth. Thus, the **g** sound produced is very soft—we can hardly hear it.

 **LIFE SKILLS**

Your new neighbours have just moved in. They have a boy around your age. You want to be friendly, so you try to speak to the boy, but he is rude and makes a face at you. You are shocked and irritated. You go back home. Your younger sister comes running to you with a smile on her face, asking if you want to play.

How will you behave towards your sister?



awe (*noun*) a feeling of great respect or fear: **The tourists looked up in awe at the Great Wall of China.** *similar words: wonder, admiration*

frown (*verb*) to bring the eyebrows close together in anger: **My father frowned at my little brother when he saw him tearing pages from his notebook.** *similar words: scowl, glare*

furious (*adjective*) very angry: **The furious cricketer glared at the umpire as he walked off the pitch.** *similar words: mad, enraged*

quiver (*verb*) shake in anger or fear: **The boys quivered as the Principal entered their classroom.** *similar words: tremble, twitch*

The state of Jammu and Kashmir is known all over the world for its cricket bats. There are hundreds of cricket bat workshops and factories here. Cricket bats are made from the wood of the willow trees that grow here. The wood from these trees makes some of the best quality bats in the world. Famous cricketers like Sunil Gavaskar, Virender Sehwag and Yuvraj Singh have used bats made in Kashmir.



**AMAZING
INDIA**



2

The Land of the Little People



WARM UP

Look at this picture.



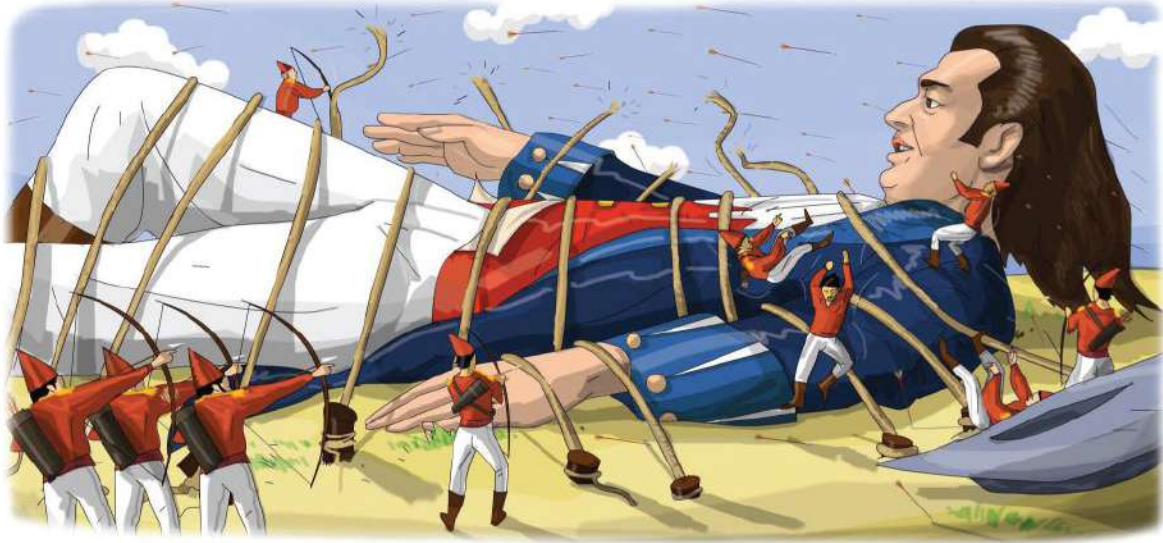
What will the ants think about the feet? Tell the class about it.

Lemuel Gulliver is an Irish surgeon and sailor. During one of his voyages, there is a great storm and the ship on which he is sailing sinks. He manages to swim to land.

Gulliver was tired and lay down on the soft grass near the shore. He slept soundly for many hours. When he woke up, it was daylight. He tried to get up but could not. His legs, arms and hair were tied to the ground and he could not move his body or turn his head. He was afraid.

★ **voyages** journeys by ship **slept soundly** slept peacefully





Then a strange thing happened. Gulliver felt something moving, first along his left leg and then on his chest. Looking down, he saw a little man, not more than six inches tall, with a bow and arrows in his hand. About fifty other little men followed him, all carrying bows and arrows.

Gulliver was astounded. He shouted loudly and pulled his arms up from the ground, breaking the cords which tied them down. Then he tried to get up, ripping the cords that held down his legs and hair. This frightened the little men and they ran away. But they soon returned and started shooting arrows at Gulliver from a distance. The arrows pricked Gulliver like needles.

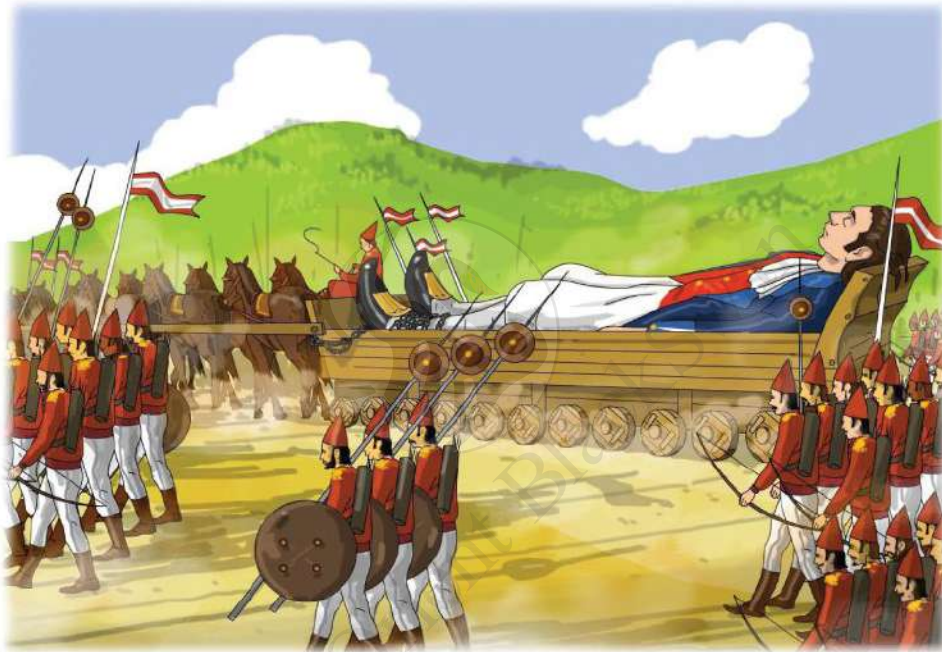
Gulliver acted wisely. He did not try to catch any of the little men. Instead, he made a sign to them and they stopped shooting arrows at him. Then he brought the fingers of his right hand to his mouth to show that he wanted food. The little men understood and soon brought several baskets of food and two barrels of wine. The food consisted of legs of mutton and loaves of bread. The men put their longest ladders against Gulliver's sides and carried the baskets of food



astounded very surprised **ripping** tearing with great force

to his mouth. Gulliver chewed and swallowed two or three legs of mutton and three of the tiny loaves at a time. After he had emptied the baskets, the little men rolled the barrels of wine over his chin and opened the tops. He emptied each barrel in one gulp and wanted more, but they had no more to give him. Gulliver felt better now.

The king and queen of these little people lived in the capital, about half a mile from where Gulliver was. The king ordered his men to bring the 'man-mountain' to him. It was not an easy thing to do, but the little men were very clever. They made a long carriage which was three inches high and had twenty-two wheels. Nine hundred of the strongest men among them rolled Gulliver onto it and fastened him safely. Fifteen hundred of the king's finest horses pulled the carriage along the road.



The next day, Gulliver was brought to the capital. They untied his hands and legs and allowed him to stand up because now they knew that he did not intend to harm them. But they chained his left foot to the carriage with ninety tiny chains to prevent him from escaping.

The king, the queen and thousands of little men, women and children came to see the 'man-mountain'. Most of these people were friendly to Gulliver, but some of them were hostile and started shooting arrows at him. Gulliver stretched out his hand

★ **intend** to want or plan to do something **prevent** stop **hostile** very unfriendly

and caught six of the men. He put five of them into his pocket and pretended to eat the sixth one! The men started crying and Gulliver let them go.

Gulliver lived happily on this island for many months. The king appointed three hundred cooks to prepare his food and three hundred tailors to make a new suit for him. Six of the wisest men taught him the language of the island. From them, he learned that the little country was called Lilliput.

adapted from Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift

Jonathan Swift (1667–1745) was a well-known Anglo-Irish author. His work is remarkable for its use of satire—a style of writing where the author draws attention to people's faults or mistakes by making fun of them. *Gulliver's Travels* was Swift's most famous novel.

COMPREHENSION

A. Answer these questions.

1. Why could Gulliver not get up?
2. What was the 'strange thing' that happened?
3. How did Gulliver tell the men what he needed? Did they understand him?
4. What was the 'clever' thing that the little men did?
5. How did Gulliver warn the men not to be hostile towards him?

B. Complete these sentences in your own words.

1. The little men were carrying bows and arrows because _____
_____.
2. The men ran away when _____.
3. Gulliver acted wisely by _____.
4. We know that the little people were friendly and kind because _____
_____.
5. The king and the other little people thought Gulliver was _____
_____.



C. Think and answer.

Think of three adjectives each to describe Gulliver and the Lilliputians. Support each one with an example from the story.



Look at these sentences.

★ Gulliver was a sailor.

↓ ↓
subject verb

★ The men were afraid of Gulliver.

↓ ↓
subject verb



We know that in a sentence, the noun or pronoun that does the action is called the **subject** and the action itself is called the **verb**.

The **main verb** in a sentence must always agree with its **subject** in number and person.

First person	I	am / was; have / had; go / went
	We	are / were; have / had; go / went
Second person	You	are / were; have / had; go / went
	You	are / were; have / had; go / went
Third person	He / She / It	is / was; has / had; goes / went
	They	are / were; have / had; go / went

- ★ The **boys are** healthy.
- ★ I **like** birthday presents best.
- ★ **She plays** outside in the evening.
- ★ The **tourists have** lost all their money.

Words like **pants, scissors, glasses / spectacles, shorts** and so on are **pair nouns**. They take plural verbs.

- ★ Those **trousers are** too long for me.

Words like **a pair of shorts, a pair of jeans** and so on take singular verbs.

- ★ Those **trousers are** too long for me but this **pair of shorts is** the correct length.



Complete these sentences with the correct forms of the verbs in brackets.

- Where are the scissors? (to be)
- The butter _____ in the fridge. (to be)
- Savitha _____ to school every day. (walk)
- We _____ our mother in the kitchen every night. (help)
- The children _____ in the afternoon. (play)
- Karan _____ brinjal and bitter gourd but I _____ them. (not like, like)
- My father _____ listening to old film songs. (enjoy)
- Aditi and Suhail _____ on Sundays. (run)
- Tammy _____ whenever she _____ the milkman. (bark, see)



VOCABULARY

Read these sentences.

- Gulliver pulled his arms up from the ground, **breaking the cords** which tied them down.
- The little people trusted Gulliver, because he never **broke the laws** of their land.



In both the sentences, the two different forms of the verb **break** (**breaking** and **broke**) mean two different things.

In Sentence 1, it means to split or shatter into pieces.

In Sentence 2, it is part of a fixed expression. It has a special meaning and conveys something different from the meaning of the two words, break and law. Since the law cannot be broken into pieces, the expression means **to not follow a set of laws**.

A. Match the expressions with break in column A to their meanings in column B.

A	B
1. break someone's heart	a. stop doing something (usually bad) that you do regularly
2. break a record	b. not do something that you said you surely would do

A	B
3. break a habit	c. do something better than the previous time
4. break a promise/one's word	d. be the first to inform someone of something
5. break the news	e. cause great mental pain to someone

B. Now, complete these sentences with the correct expressions from exercise A. Change the forms of the verbs (tense or number) and the articles or pronouns if necessary.

1. Leo doesn't know how to _____ of the accident to his mother.
2. Amira always does what she says she will do—she never _____.
3. I bite my nails all the time! I must do something to _____.
4. Gauri _____ Vidya's _____ when she told her that they were not friends anymore.
5. Imtiaz hopes to _____ in archery this year.



One of the places Gulliver travels to is Brobdingnag. Listen to Gulliver speak about his first few hours there. Then, answer the questions.

1. How tall are the grass and corn stalks?
2. What does Gulliver say is 'like thunder'?
3. What does the giant's baby do with Gulliver?
4. How big are the rats?
5. What does Gulliver mean when he says 'I feel like a Lilliputian'?





We have learned about a paragraph and how to write one. A **topic sentence** is the most important sentence in a paragraph and it conveys the whole idea of the paragraph. It is usually the first sentence in a paragraph.

Read this paragraph.

Gulliver lived happily on the island of Lilliput for many months. The king appointed three hundred cooks to prepare his food and three hundred tailors to make a new suit for him. Six of the wisest men taught him the language of the island. The little people trusted Gulliver because he did not break their laws. Gulliver was very happy.



The sentence '*Gulliver lived happily on the island of Lilliput for many months*' is the topic sentence of the paragraph above. It gives us an idea of what the rest of the paragraph is about (where Gulliver lived, what his life was like, how the people reacted to him, and so on).

A. Read this paragraph and identify the topic sentence. Write it down in your notebook. Then, write what the paragraph is about.

We know that children like watching cartoons, but do we know why? Cartoons are fun—they do not allow children to get bored. Cartoons are unreal—they show things that do not happen in real life. This attracts children. Many cartoon characters behave like children—they are young, naughty and always getting into trouble! So children are able to understand and enjoy what they see. All cartoons on television have a lot of colour, music and movement. This makes children want to watch them again and again.

B. Write topic sentences for these paragraphs.

1. _____.

If we want to have a healthy body, we must eat a lot of fruits and vegetables every day. Fruits and vegetables provide vitamins, minerals and fibre, which help us fight diseases. Fresh fruits and vegetables are a natural source of energy. We will not put on a lot of weight if we eat a lot of fruits and vegetables because they do not contain much fat. They are also easy to digest and tasty to eat.



2. _____ .

Your body and mind must do many different things together and in the right order to make your handwriting neat and legible. Your shoulder needs to stay steady while your wrist and elbow move in just the right way. Your eyes have to follow what your hand is doing. You must remember how words and letters look.

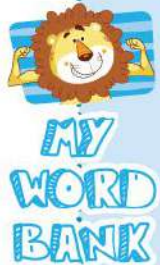


Rewrite these sentences with full stops, question marks, capital letters, exclamation marks and possessive apostrophes in the correct places.

1. where are tanmays books
2. regina will come home in the teachers car
3. that's a really beautiful painting
4. why didn't walter tell arthi the truth when she asked him
5. oh I have lost my brothers new storybook



Take turns to read the story aloud in class. Each student can read one paragraph.



astound (verb) to cause great surprise: Our class teacher was astounded when all of us began to sing 'Happy Birthday' for her this morning. *similar words: stun, amaze*

fasten (verb) to join firmly to something else: The policeman fastened the badge to his uniform. *similar words: attach, fix*

prevent (verb) to stop something from happening: The tall compound wall prevents thieves from getting into the house. *similar words: stop, forbid*

rip (verb) to cut with great force: The strong winds ripped trees from the ground. *similar word: tear*

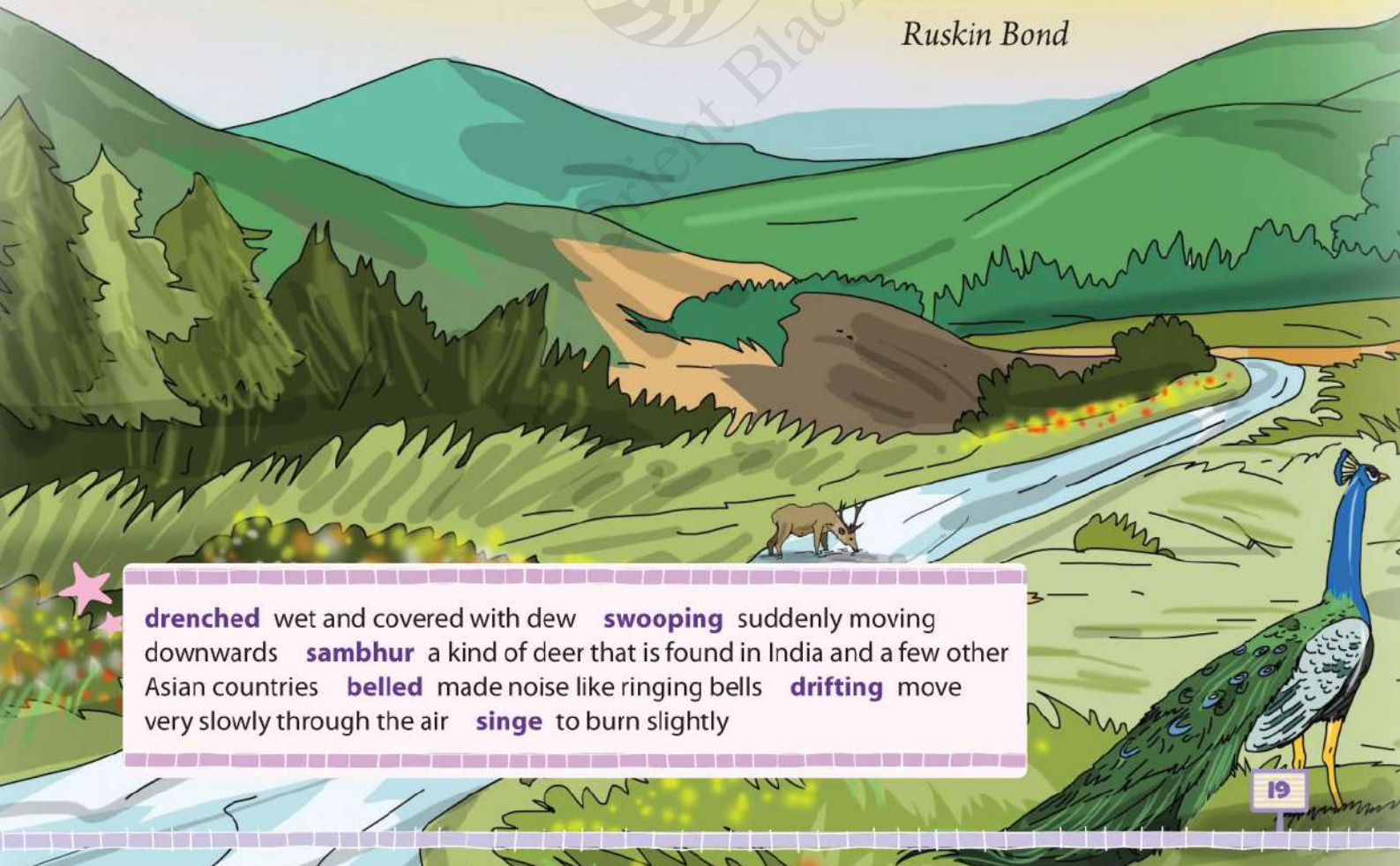
On Wings of Sleep



On wings of sleep
I dreamt I flew
Across the valley drenched in dew
Over the rooftops
Into the forest
Swooping low
Where the Sambhur belled
And the peacocks flew.
And the dawn broke
Rose-pink behind the mountains
And the river ran silver and gold
As I glided over the trees
Drifting with the dawn breeze

Across the river,
over fields of corn.
And the world awoke
To a new day, a
new dawn.
Time to fly home,
As the sun rose, red and angry,
Ready to singe my wings,
I returned to my sleeping form,
Creaking bed and dusty
window-pane,
To dream of flying with the wind
again.

Ruskin Bond



drenched wet and covered with dew **swooping** suddenly moving downwards **sambhur** a kind of deer that is found in India and a few other Asian countries **belled** made noise like ringing bells **drifting** move very slowly through the air **singe** to burn slightly



Ruskin Bond (1934–) is one of the most loved authors in India. As a child, Ruskin Bond read a lot and he was inspired to write. He wrote his first novel, *The Room on the Roof*, when he was seventeen years old. A lot of his writing is about his childhood experiences in the beautiful hill station of Dehradun.



Ruskin Bond's love for nature is clearly visible in this poem. It is about a child who dreams that he is flying over the beautiful countryside. Everything he sees inspires wonder in him, so that his bed and home seem boring.

A. Answer these questions.

1. What does the speaker mean by 'wings of sleep'?
2. What are the places the speaker flies to?
3. What will sing the speaker's 'wings'?

B. Think and answer.

Contrast the speaker's feelings in his dream to those when he returns home. What does this tell you about him?

C. Find the meanings of these words.

1. fly – _____
2. swoop – _____
3. glide – _____
4. drift – _____

What do all these words refer to?

D. What do you often dream of? Draw a picture.