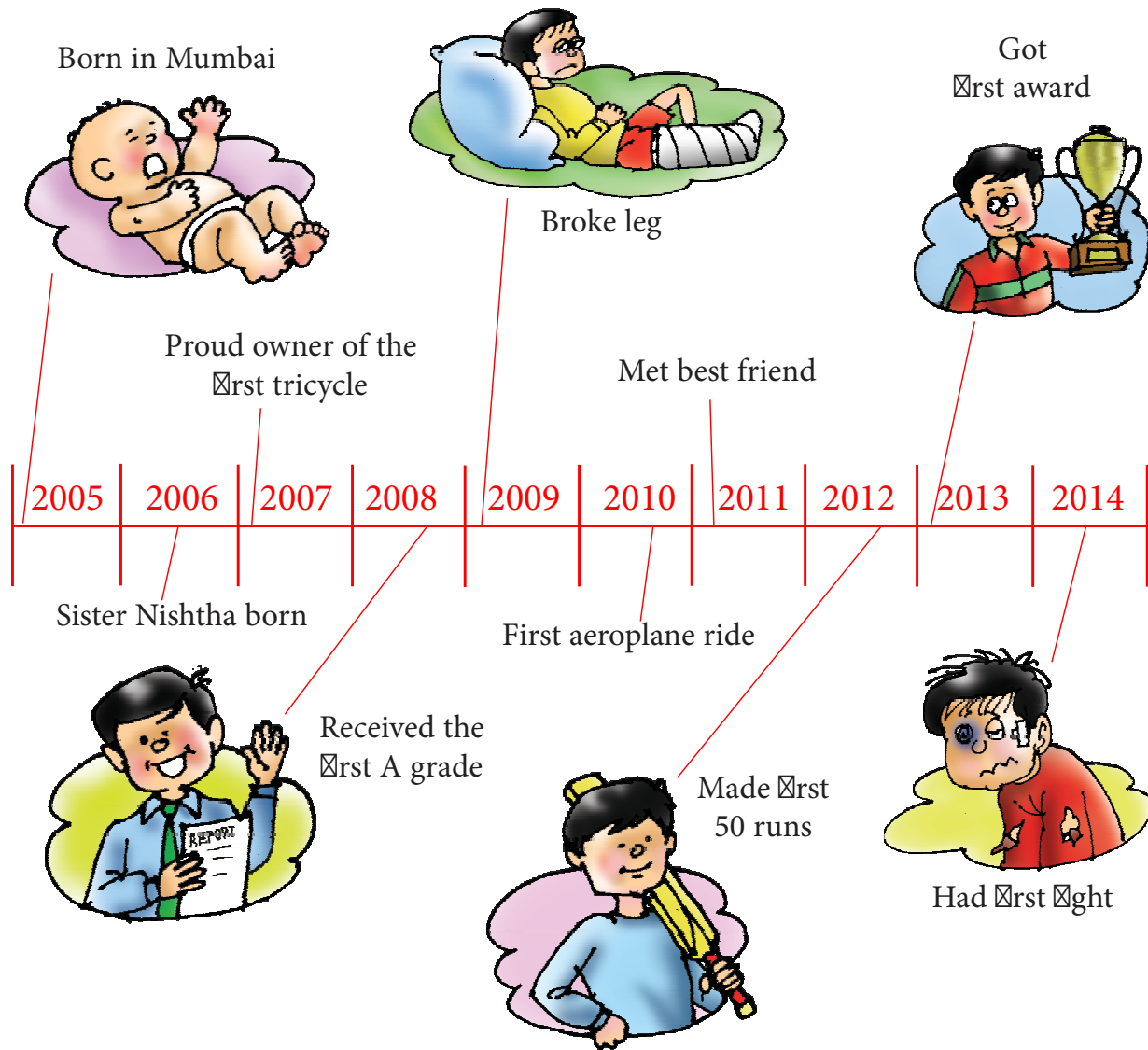


C.11. The New Year eve symbolises the commencement of another year. A timeline represents the important dates, events or incidents in a person's life, distributed over a year or many years.

Given below is the timeline of a cricketer's life. The numbers represent the years. The phrases written above and below the timeline tell us about events, people and things that were important to this cricketer at different times of his life.



For the Teacher

Guide the students to ask their elders about the milestones in their growing up from birth to their present age.



Read it Yourself

Read about an interesting ceremony—Beating the Retreat.

▶ Beating The Retreat

Republic Day celebrations which mark the unification of our country into a sovereign democratic republic is concluded with a ceremony known as 'Beating the Retreat'. It is performed three days later, on the evening of January 29, at Vijay Chowk.

The ceremony applauds the ancient custom of calling back the troops to their barracks by sending drummers down the streets heralding sunset.

The illuminated Rashtrapati Bhavan and Parliament House stand as a magnificent backdrop to the musical extravaganza. A spectacular performance by more than twenty bands from the three armed forces of the country playing martial music is the spotlight of the evening. The bands play many famous songs and hymns among which, the hymn *Abide with me*, is played as the ceremony comes to an end. As this hymn is played, the bands fall silent and a solitary bugler takes up the refrain and plays upon the tranquil note until the fading final notes augur the end of the grand celebrations of the Republic Day.

Since India became a republic in 1950, there has been only one instance when Beating the Retreat ceremony was cancelled. The function for the year 2001 was not held on account of the devastating earthquake that struck Gujarat on January 26.





Kodomo-no-Hi

Hi friends! I am four-year old Kazu. I live in Osaka in Japan. I have learnt English from an Indian teacher. I am going to tell you about Kodomo-no-hi, or children's day celebrated by the Japanese boys on the fifth day of May. The main purpose of this festival, say my parents, is to show to the young boys the importance of such qualities as strength and determination.

We begin this special day by bathing with iris leaves. It is believed that these leaves have the power to protect us from illness and to make us strong. We, then, put on a kimono—our traditional dress for the festival. This dress is famous all over the world for its beautiful design. But it is quite tight around the chest and I am happy that I don't have to wear it every day. But it doesn't matter. After all, Kodomo-no-hi comes only once a year! We enjoy this day by flying brightly-coloured steamers and carp kites for the whole day. You must be wondering what a carp kite is. Actually, the carp is a strong fish, renowned for its energy and determination. It provides a good example to Japanese boys who must also overcome obstacles and be successful.