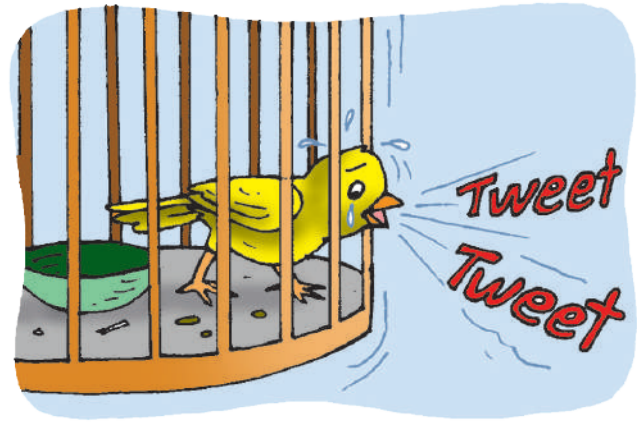


'Tweet-Tweet,' called Molly loudly, but Somu was busy playing with his new toy gun and took no notice of the little bird. She cried and her friends felt very sorry for her. Tears ran down her face. 'Oh, I am in this cage and I can't get out to find food and water for myself,' she said.



Chirpy, the sparrow was sad too and said, 'We wish we could help you.' The little canary drooped her little yellow head and prayed to God.

Early next morning, Somu's mother came to wake him. She was surprised when she did not hear the sweet voice of the canary.



She peered into the cage. Molly was lying there half dead. Somu's mother took her out of the cage carefully and stroked her yellow feathers. She fed the little bird with fresh seeds and water. She was very angry with her son. 'Somu, what a dreadful thing! If you can't look after this poor creature, you have no right to keep it. I'm so ashamed of you,' said the mother. Somu burst into tears and felt sorry. Thereafter, he looked after Molly, the little canary, very well.

C.3. Tick (✓) the correct option to complete the following sentences.

(i) A canary is—

- a water bird.
- a small yellow bird.
- a bird of prey.



(ii) Molly was very happy with Somu because he—

- took good care of her.
- had many friends.
- liked to hear her songs.

(iii) Somu lost interest in Molly because he—

- had got a new toy gun.
- found looking after her boring.
- had become careless.



(iv) Molly was lying half dead because—

- she was sick and sleepy.
- she was sad and unhappy.
- she had not been fed with food and water.

(v) 'What a dreadful thing!' said Somu's mother.

The dreadful thing was that—

- Somu was ignoring Molly.
- Somu kept sleeping till late in the morning.
- Somu often left his room untidy.



C.4. Work in groups of four. The sentences below tell you the sequence of events in the story. However, they are in jumbled order. Number them correctly. One is done for you.

- In the beginning, Somu regularly gave seeds and fresh water to Molly.
- Molly's friends were jealous of her.
- Somu's mother fed the little bird.
- After some time, Somu lost interest in Molly.
- Somu felt sorry and thereafter started taking good care of Molly.
- Somu's mother saw that Molly was lying half dead in the cage.
- Molly could not sing because she was thirsty.
- Somu's mother scolded her son.
- 1 Somu's father gave him a canary on his birthday.
- The little bird cried and her friends felt sorry for her.



C.5. Answer the following questions briefly.

(i) How did Somu look after the canary initially?

(ii) How do we know that Somu lost interest in Molly? Write three things.

(iii) Why was Molly in tears?

(iv) What did Somu's mother do after she took Molly out of her cage?



C.6. Find words from the story which are opposite in meaning to the following:

- (i) found _____
- (ii) remembered _____
- (iii) sad _____
- (iv) stale _____



C.7. You are going on a long holiday. You decide to leave your pet dog with your friend. Tell your friend four things that he needs to do to take care of your dog.

C.8. Value Based Question

Why do you think Somu started ignoring Molly? Was he right in behaving so? Explain with reasons.



D.1. Animals and birds have occupied a central place in many of our fairy tales, folk tales and fables. Work with your partner and crack the following general knowledge quiz involving birds and animals. You may use the Help Box if needed.

(i) The thirsty bird that put pebbles in a pot to drink water.

— R —

(ii) A very small animal that shares its name with a computer part.

— U —

(iii) A popular animal found in New Zealand that is also the name of a fruit.

— I —

(iv) A collection of Indian animal stories written by Pandit Vishnu Sharma.

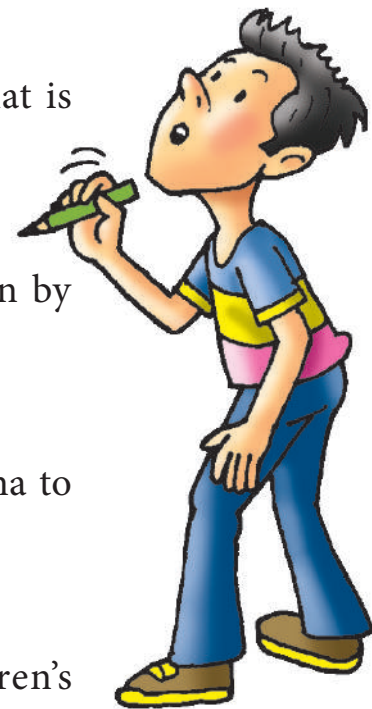
P — — — — T — — — —

(v) The mythological bird that fought with Ravana to rescue Sita.

J — — — —

(vi) The popular character in films and children's books who has the characteristics of a small insect.

S — — — — M —



Help Box

Kiwi

Jatayu

Crow

Spiderman

Panchtantra

Mouse

D.2. You must have read the story 'The Hare and the Tortoise'. Narrate it to the class. Tell the class the moral of the story.

Now read this story.

▶ THE OSTRICH AND THE HEDGEHOG

One beautiful morning in summer, a hedgehog went for a walk across a barley field. There were rows of tall barley plants in the field. At the edge of the field, he met an ostrich.

‘Good morning!’ he said to the ostrich in a cheerful voice. But the ostrich looked down at him and said, ‘I don’t talk to stumpy-legged creatures like you.’

‘My legs may be stumpy, but I can run faster than any other animal,’ said the hedgehog.



‘No one can run faster than I can. Don’t you see how long my legs are?’ said the ostrich.

‘Why don’t we have a race?’ said the hedgehog. ‘Then we’ll see who is the faster runner—you or I.’

‘Agreed,’ said the ostrich. ‘Shall we start?’

But the hedgehog said, ‘Let me go home and take my breakfast. I can’t run on an empty stomach. Shall we have the race at mid-day?’

‘Sure,’ said the ostrich.

The ostrich went home and went to sleep.

The hedgehog went home and brought his mother and father, brothers, sisters, cousins, even aunts and uncles to the barley