

9

Sangeeta, the Brave Girl

- Do you know that every child has got some qualities?
- Name some qualities which make a child different.

Let us read the story of Sangeeta, the brave girl.

Sangeeta was a student of class VIII. She lived with her parents in the village Dabich. She loved everyone but her classmates neglected her because she had lost one of her legs in a road accident. She was always conscious of her leg. She always felt that everyone was looking at her leg and laughing at the way she walked. So she always tried to avoid people.



Mother- Wake up, Sangeeta! You will be late for school.
Sangeeta- Maa, I don't want to go to school.
Mother- Why, my child ?

Sangeeta- I feel neglected Maa, my schoolmates don't talk to me. Even they don't share lunch with me.

Mother- My dear daughter, you are a good girl, you have got so many good qualities. A day will come when everyone will praise you.

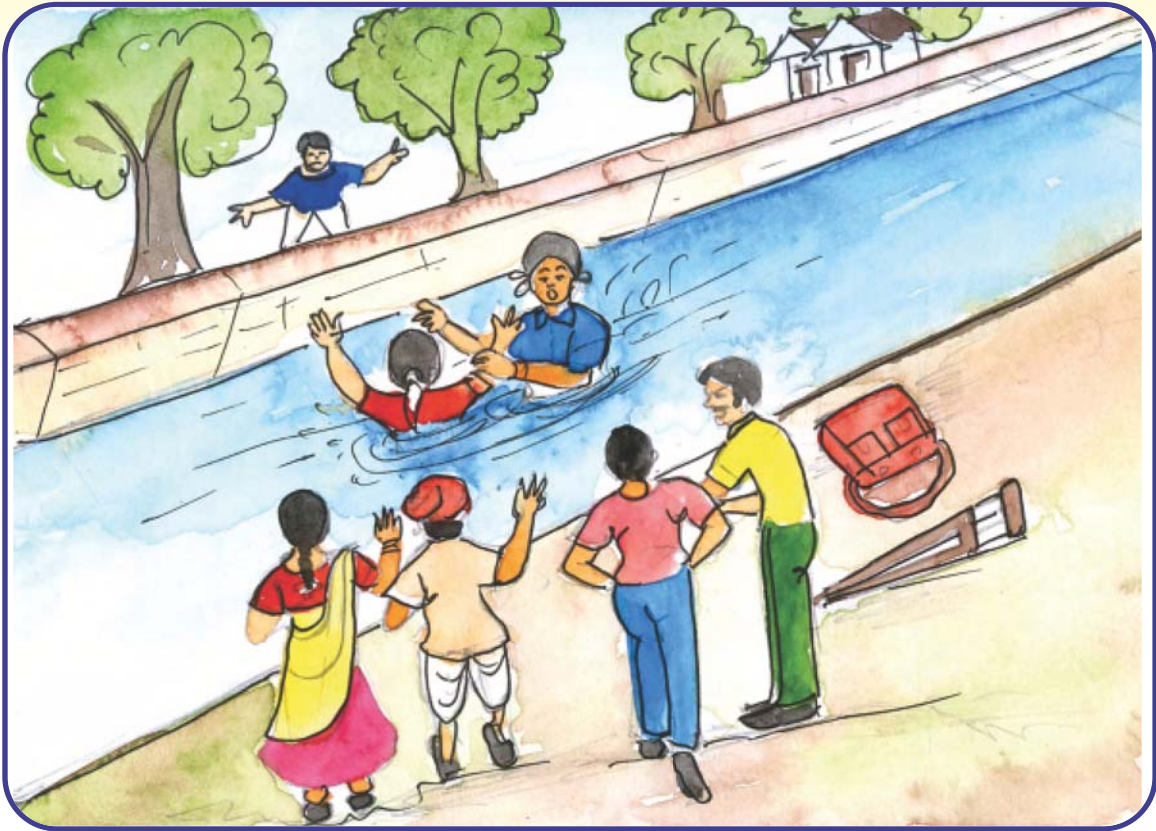
Sangeeta- (Half heartedly) Okay Maa, I'm going to school.

She walked slowly to school. She could see that everyone's eyes were fixed on her leg. She noticed that some children were staring at her. It made her more miserable. At that moment she thought of her mother's words. She pulled her chin up and walked into the class boldly. During the break, she tried to talk to Roshni who sat beside her in the class. "Your pen is very nice Roshni" said Sangeeta but Roshni turned away towards Siddhi. Roshni pretended not to have heard her. Sangeeta moved closer to Roshni so that she could listen to her. She further asked, "Do you know how to swim Roshni?"

Yes, I know how to swim. She replied without looking at her. "I can also swim," said Sangeeta. Suddenly, everyone stopped talking and looked at her.

"You know swimming" ! asked Siddhi in disbelief and they all started laughing, Sangeeta became very sad. When she reached home that day, her mother knew at once that something went wrong with her in the school. Sangeeta burst into sobs and said, "I'll never go to school again. The students are not friendly with me and nobody speaks to me either. They don't even include me in any of their games."

Stop crying Sangeeta," said her mother, "Do your work well and be friendly with everyone and you will see that very soon things will change." The next morning, when Sangeeta was going to school, she saw someone drowning in the canal. She jumped into the canal immediately. The flow of the water was fast. Sangeeta caught the hand of the drowning child tightly.



After trying hard she could pull her to the bank. When she saw the face of the rescued child she was astonished. She was none other than Roshni's sister Adhi Shri. By that time a large crowd gathered there everyone was praising Sangeeta, “Look, how brave this little girl is!” shouted they.

The next day, when she reached school, everyone was looking at her, but she did not pay attention to anyone. Roshni came to her, looking ashamed. She held Sangeeta's hand and said, “I am very sorry for my behaviour, please forgive me. I couldn't understand you.”

The principal of the school called Sangeeta during the assembly meeting, and announced about her brave deed. Now every student wanted to talk and shake hands with her, Sangeeta was very happy. So she stepped forward confidently onto the stage to receive the “Bravery Award” of the year from the principal. Then all of the students clapped together and sang the following song in praise of her :



Girls are treasure of one's family,
 Girls are the future of every nation,
 Girls give moral strength to the family,
 Girls need a little amount of attention,
 A handful of warmth, and a heart full of love,
 Education to girls, lift the family above.
 Let the girls smile and flourish.
 Otherwise humanity may perish.

GLOSSARY:

conscious	:	aware and particular for something
half heartedly	:	done without interest, unwillingly
canal	:	channel cut through land for irrigation
assembly meeting	:	prayer meeting
confidently	:	feeling sure about your own ability
neglected	:	not receiving or giving enough care or attention

staring	:	looking at something for a long attention
disbelief	:	the feeling of not being able to believe something
drown	:	to die in water
forgive	:	to stop feeling angry with somebody
step forward	:	to offer to help somebody

Activity - I

A. Tick the correct alternative.

- I. Sangeeta had lost her leg.
 - a) by birth
 - b) because of polio.
 - c) in a road accident.
 - d) none of the above.
- II. Who inspired Sangeeta?
 - a) her teacher
 - b) her mother
 - c) her friends
 - a) her father

B. Say whether the following statements are true or false.

- I. Sangeeta did not want to go to school.
- II. Roshni was the best friend of Sangeeta.
- III. All the classmates liked Sangeeta.
- IV. Sangeeta did not have any good qualities.
- V. The Principal gave away “Bravery award” to Sangeeta.

C. Answer the following question in 10 to 20 words.

- I. Why did Roshni change her behavior towards Sangeeta?
- II. Why did Sangeeta feel neglected?
- III. Why did she not want to go to school?

IV. Why were the students not friendly with Sangeeta ?

V. Who was Adhi Shree?

D. Answer the following question in 30 to 40 words.

I. Who gave away the bravery award to Sangeeta ? why ?

II. How did Sangeeta save Adhi Shree ?

III. Why was Sangeeta astonished ?

Activity - II

A. Match the following words in column 'A' with their meanings in column

'B'

A

avoid

classmates

slowly

immediately

praise

happy

B

appreciate

neglect

glad

class fellows

quickly

not fast

B. Correct the misspelt words:

I. accidend

II. studant

III. pretent

IV. silant

V. bravary

VI. lough

C. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate words given in the box.

classmates, share, clapped, close, assembly

I. Roshni and Siddhi are _____ friends.

II. They always _____ lunch with each other.

III. Their _____ like their friendship.

- IV. The Principal praised Sangeeta in the _____ and gave away the prize.
 V. All the student _____ for her.

Activity - III

A. Rewrite the following sentences using correct punctuation marks and capital letters.

Example :- Father will be angry if you do not go to school
 Father will be angry if you do not go to school.

- I. Chiya said please come and help me.
 II. Rahim said these grapes are sour.
 III. The tailor said give me your dress material.
 IV. He asked me how I was.

B. Read the following sentences.

- I. She will win the first prize.
 II. You shall go there.
 III. You can go now.

will, can, shall, could and **must** are modals and they are used with the principal verb that follows them. Together with the principal verb they express the mode of action denoted by the verb. They express ability, capacity, possibility, command, permission, compulsion, etc.

Complete the sentences meaningfully with the suitable modal auxiliaries.

- I. If we don't leave now, wecertainly miss the train.(will/shall)
 II. We.....have our way. (will / shall).
 III. Ibeat you in the race. (can / could)
 IV. Even as a child she.....speak English. (can /could).
 V. Yougo now.(can/could)

VI. Inever go there (will /shall)

Activity - IV

Read the following carefully and answer the questions that follow :

Beti Bachao, Beti padhao scheme.

The Govt. of India has launched the 'Beti bachao, Beti Padhao' scheme recently on 22nd January 2015, mainly aiming at generating awareness and improving efficiency of welfare services for women. The Govt. proposed Rs. 150 crores to be spent by the Ministry of Home Affairs on this scheme to increase the safety and security of women and their empowerment.

- I. When was the scheme 'Beti Bachao, 'Beti Padhao' launched?
- II. What does the above scheme aim at?
- III. Find more schemes which promote girls' education?

Activity - V

Collect and make few slogans upon "***Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao***" and prepare a chart, flash cards and posters, etc...