

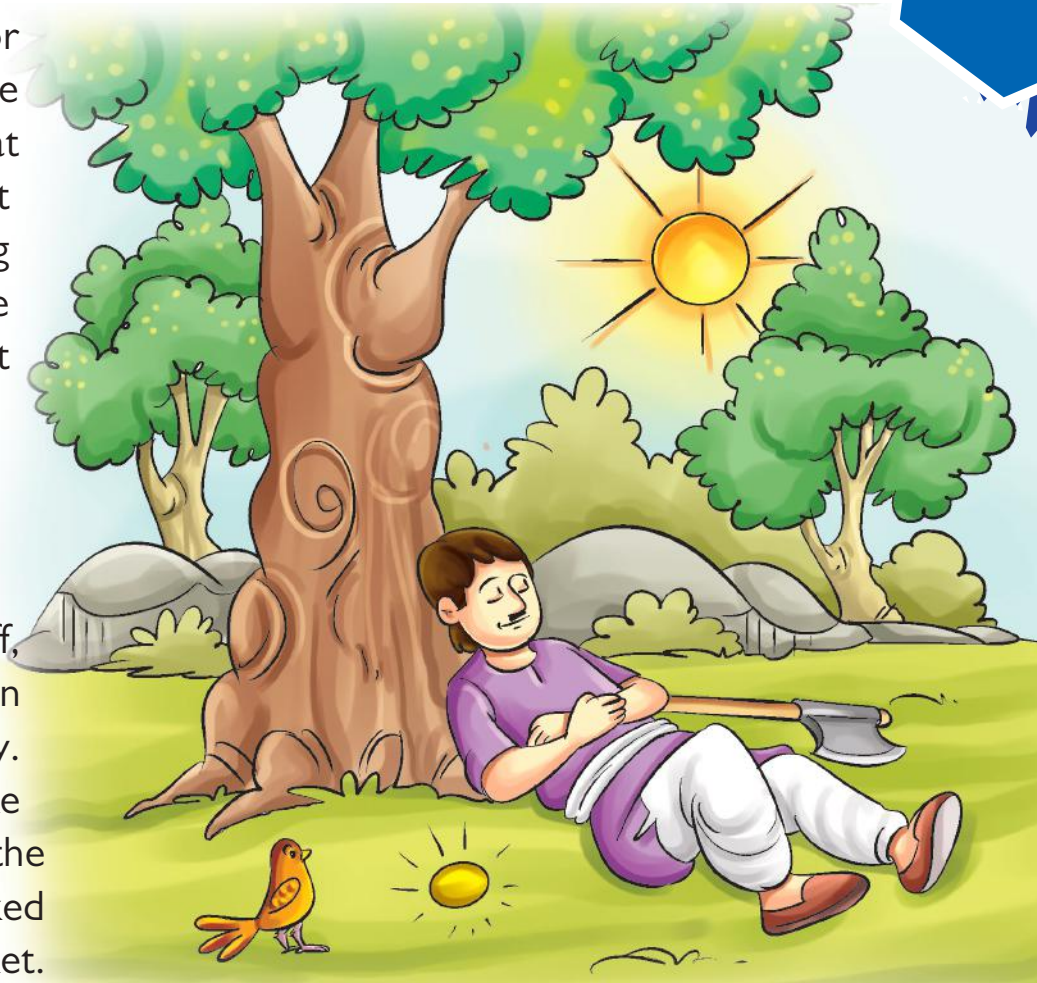
The Lucky Bird

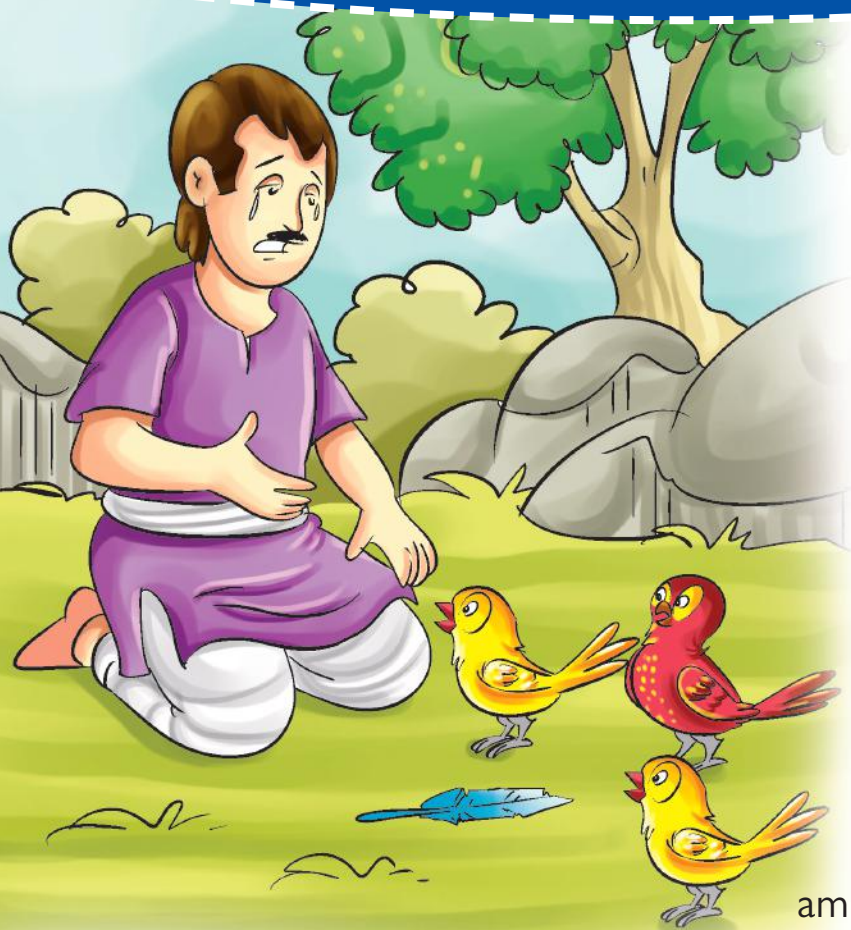
Once there was a poor Woodcutter. One day while working, he felt tired and sat down under a tree to rest for a while. A little bird flying about happened to see the woodcutter and felt sad at his *miserable* condition. "I must help him," thought the bird, and *perched* beside the woodcutter.

As the woodcutter dozed off, the little bird laid a golden egg near him and flew away. When the woodcutter woke up, he was surprised to see the golden egg. He quickly picked up and slipped it into his pocket.

Then he bundled the logs he had chopped that day and carried them to the shopkeeper to whom he usually sold his wood. "Such a small bundle today?" asked the shopkeeper. "You bring big bundles everyday; it seems you didn't work very much today!"

The woodcutter then told him how he had dozed off and that he had found the golden egg when he woke up. The shopkeeper, a *cunning* man, *lured* him into exchanging the egg for a single gold coin. The *innocent* woodcutter accepted. The shopkeeper also told him that if he could bring the bird that laid the golden egg, he could get five gold coins. Promising to bring the bird, the woodcutter went home.





The next day, he went to the same tree where he had found the golden egg and sat down, pretending to sleep. The little bird came again and perched beside him.

Just then, the woodcutter sprang up and caught the bird. "Now I shall sell you to the shopkeeper for five gold coins!" said the woodcutter. "But one golden egg is a hundred times more valuable than five gold coins, don't you know that?" **screached** the bird. "The shopkeeper has made a fool of you!"

The woodcutter realized his mistake. "I am sorry I got greedy and harmed you," he said, and released the bird, but the bird was about to faint.

Soon the bird fell to the ground. "My end is near," she **moaned**, "I come from the family of Lucky Birds. We bring luck to men, but we are **destined** to die if ever caught by humans."

The woodcutter heard this and wept bitterly. He asked, "Is there any way I can help you?" The bird said, "When I die, **pluck** a feather from my wing and show it to the fire; you'll be transported to my home. Give my feather to my family and tell them the truth." Saying this, the Lucky Bird died.

The woodcutter did as he was told.

In an instant, he found himself **amidst** the Lucky Bird's family. He showed them the feather and narrated his story to them. "Oh, we must act fast!" said the Father Bird. He kept the Lucky Bird's feather on the ground and began to hop around it. After ten rounds, the Father Bird touched the feather. And lo! The Lucky Bird's lifeless body was transported there.

The Mother Bird and the Sister Birds then brought some green leaves and grass that could raise the dead, and **stuffed** them into the Lucky Bird's beak. In no time, the Lucky Bird opened her eyes.

The woodcutter was *ecstatic* to see her alive again. The Lucky bird then spoke, "Luck appears and disappears; and so do we Lucky Birds. But we don't stay with those who are greedy," The woodcutter cried, "I have lost you because of my foolishness!" "Don't be *disheartened*, friend!" said the Lucky Bird. "You have helped me, and so I shall return to you once again. But you will have to wait for that time."

The woodcutter returned home with a heavy heart, but with the hope that the Lucky Bird would return someday.

—Kashmiri Folk Tale

Word Treasure

miserable : very unhappy or depressed

lured : tempt to do something

moaned : expressed suffering

stuffed : fill tightly with something

disheartened : cause to lose determination or confidence

cunning : clever

perched : sit

innocent : fault less

destined : be intended for a particular purpose

ecstatic : very happy

screached : harsh, shrill cry



EXERCISE TIME

Comprehension Skills

A. Tick (✓) the correct option :

1. Who saw the woodcutter sitting under a tree?

a. Shopkeeper b. God c. Lucky bird

2. What did the woodcutter see when he woke up?

a. Golden egg b. Golden feather c. Golden nest

3. For how much did woodcutter sell that golden egg?

a. 2 gold coins b. 1 gold coin c. 5 gold coins

4. Why was the woodcutter pretending to sleep?

a. So that he could catch the bird

b. So that he could take a rest

c. So that shopkeeper would not tell him to do work

B. Fill in the blanks with the correct option :

ecstatic, woodcutter, miserable, destined, golden egg.

1. A little bird felt sad at woodcutter's _____ condition.
2. Woodcutter was surprised to see the _____.
3. Little bird was _____ to die if ever caught by humans.
4. The woodcutter was _____ to see the lucky bird alive again.
5. The _____ returned home with a heavy heart.

C. Who said to whom :

1. "Such a small bundle today?"
_____ said to _____
2. "Now I shall sell you to the shopkeeper for five gold coins!"
_____ said to _____
3. "My end is near"
_____ said to _____

D. Answer the following questions :

1. How did the little bird help the poor woodcutter?
2. Why did the woodcutter bring small bundle of wood that day?
3. How did the woodcutter was make fooled by the shopkeeper?
4. What did the shopkeeper tell the woodcutter to do?
5. Why did the bird die? And what did bird's parents do to make her alive again?

Fun with Words

E. Tick the correct sound words that go with these animals :

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Birds | | | |
| a. grunt | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. twitter | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | c. hiss | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Mice | | | |
| a. scream | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. growl | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | c. squeak | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Duck | | | |
| a. quack | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. bark | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | c. buzz | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Dove | | | |
| a. howl | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. coo | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | c. hum | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Essential Grammar

Verb : A verb is a word that states something about a person or thing.

Transitive Verb : It is a verb that denotes an action which passes over from the subject or does to something or the object.

Intransitive Verb : It is a verb that denotes a state or an action that is complete in itself, it does not pass over to an object.

F. Underline the Transitive and Intransitive verbs in these sentences :

1. School opens at nine o'clock.
2. The man killed a snake.
3. The boy opened the window.
4. He spoke loudly.
5. John broke the glass.
6. The ship sank.
7. The baby laughs.
8. He runs a hotel.

Essential Speaking

G. How some words ending with-'ance' are given, read them carefully :

Clear + ance	=	Clearance	Accept + ance	=	Acceptance
Guide + ance	=	Guidance	Assist + ance	=	Assistance
Insure + ance	=	Insurance	Disturb + ance	=	Disturbance
Allow + ance	=	Allowance	Attend + ance	=	Attendance

Essential Writing

H. Write eight lines about the given picture :

