

A Tale of two Birds

THERE once lived a bird and her two new-born babies in a forest. They had a nest in a tall, shady tree and there the mother bird took care of her little ones day and night. One day, there was a big storm. There was thunder, lightning and rain, and the wind blew down many trees. The tall tree in which the birds lived also came



down. A big, heavy branch hit the nest and killed the bird. **Fortunately** for the baby birds, the strong wind **blew** them **away** to the other side of the forest. One of them came down near a **cave** where a gang of **robbers** lived. The other **landed** outside a rishi's ashram a little distance away.

Days passed and the baby birds became big birds. One day, the king of the country came to the forest to **hunt**. He saw a deer and **rode** after it. It ran deep into the forest followed by the king. Soon the king **lost his way** and didn't know where he was.

He rode on for a long time till he came to the other side of the forest. Very tired by now, he got off his horse and sat down under a tree that stood near a cave. Suddenly he heard a voice cry out, "Quick! Hurry up! There's someone under the tree. Come and take his jewels and his horse. Hurry, or else he'll **slip away**." The king was amazed. He looked up and saw a big, brown bird on the tree under which he was sitting. He also heard **faint** noises issuing from the cave. He quickly got on to his horse and rode away as fast as he could.



Soon, he came to a **clearing** which looked like an ashram. It was the rishi's ashram. The king tied his horse to a tree and sat down in its **shade**. Suddenly he heard a gentle voice announce, "Welcome to the ashram, Sir. Please go inside and rest. The rishi will be back soon. There's some cold water in the **pot**. Please make yourself comfortable." The king looked up and saw a big, brown bird in the tree. He was amazed. 'This one looks like the other bird outside the cave,' he said to himself loudly.

"You are right, Sir," answered the bird. "He is my brother but he has made friends with robbers. He now talks as they do. He doesn't talk to me anymore." Just then the rishi entered the ashram.

"Welcome, Sir," he said to the king. "Please come inside and make yourself at home. You look tired. Rest **for a while**. Then you can share my food."

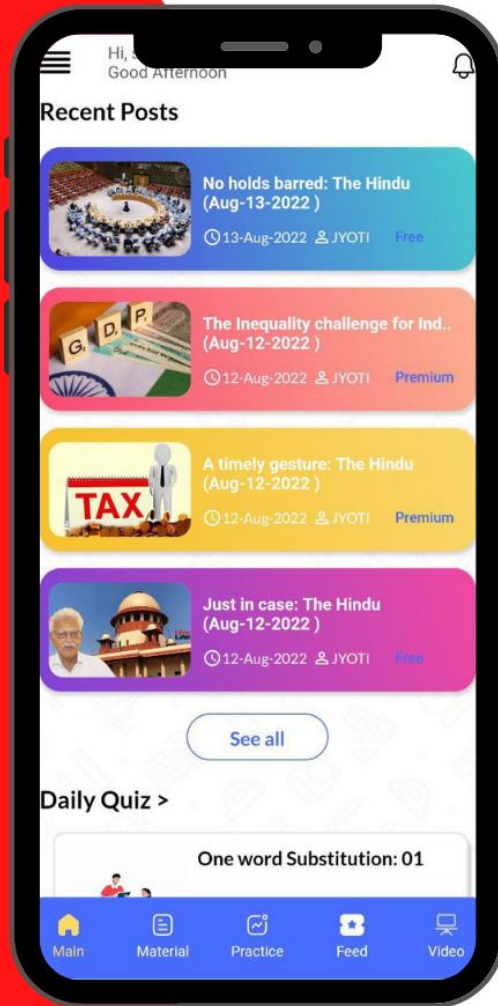
The king told the rishi the story of the two birds and how each had behaved so differently though they looked so **alike**. "The forest is full of surprises," he said.

NCERT: Class VI – By English Madhyam

The holy man smiled and said, “After all, one is known by **the company one keeps**. That bird has always heard the talk of robbers. He **imitates** them and talks about robbing people. This one has repeated what he has always heard. He welcomes people to the ashram. Now, come inside and rest. I’ll tell you more about this place and these birds.”

Vocabulary

1. **Tale** (noun) – Story, account, fiction, saga, parable
2. **Fortunately** (adverb) – Luckily, auspiciously, fortuitously, happily
3. **Blow** (verb) – to move and make currents of air, or to be moved or make something move on a current of air: उड़ाना
4. **Cave** (noun) – a large hole in the side of a hill, cliff, or mountain, or one that is underground गुफा
5. **Robber** (noun) – someone who steals डाकू, लुटेरा
6. **Land** (verb) – Arrive, disembark, alight, come down, set down उतरना
7. **Hunt** (verb) – to chase and try to catch and kill an animal शिकार करना
8. **Ride** (verb) – to sit on an animal, especially a horse, and make it move along घोड़ा से जाना
9. **Lost one’s way** (phrase) – To become lost; to become unable to find the correct course forward. खो जाना
10. **Slip away** (phrasal verb) – depart without saying goodbye; leave quietly or surreptitiously. खिसक जाना, बच निकलना
11. **Faint** (adjective) – Quiet, slight, diminished, soft, low, barely audible कमज़ोर
12. **Clearing** (noun) – an open space in a forest, especially one cleared for cultivation.
13. **Shade** (noun) – Shadow, dark, darkness छाया
14. **Pot** (noun) – Vessel, container, jar घड़ा
15. **For a while** (phrase) – for a short time थोड़े समय के लिए
16. **Alike** (adjective) – similar, identical, like, the same समान
17. **The company one keeps** (phrase) – The people with whom one associates or spends time
18. **Imitate** (verb) – copy, emulate, duplicate, replicate, try to be like नकल करना



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