

Chandni

ONCE upon a time there lived an old man in Almora. He was popularly known as Abbu Khan. He lived all alone except for a few goats which he always kept as pets. He gave his goats funny names such as Kalua, Moongia or Gujri. He would take them out for **grazing** during the day and talk to them as one talks to one's own children; at night he would bring them back to his little **hut** and put a **string** round the neck of each goat.



Poor Abbu Khan was a little **unlucky** in the matter of his goats. Very **often** at night one of the goats would pull and pull at the string till it **broke loose**, and then would **disappear** in the hills beyond.

Goats in hilly regions **hate** being tied to trees or poles. They love their freedom. Abbu Khan's goats were of the best hill **breed**. They too loved their freedom. So whenever they got the chance, they would run away only to get killed by an old wolf who lived in the hills. Whenever one of his goats **disappeared**, Abbu Khan was very sad. He did not understand why even the **juiciest** grass and **grains** that he gave them, and all the love that he **showered** on them, would not stop these **unfortunate** goats from running straight into **the jaws of death**. Are these goats mad, he **wondered**! Or was it their love for freedom! But freedom meant **struggle, hardship**, even death. Abbu Khan couldn't solve the **mystery**.



One day, when all his goats had left him, Abbu Khan said to himself, "No more goats in my house ever again. I may yet live for a few more years but I'll live without goats." However, the poor old man was **terribly** lonely. He simply couldn't do without his pets. Very soon he bought a young goat.

He thought, "A young goat will stay with me much longer. She will soon begin to love me as well as the food I give her every day. She will never want to go to the hills." And he laughed with joy. The new goat was very pretty. She was white as snow, and had two little **horns** on her little head, and a pair of **gleaming** red eyes. She had a friendly **temperament**, and would listen to Abbu Khan's **tales** with a lot of interest and **affection**.

Abbu Khan called her Chandni, which means '**moonlight**'. He loved Chandni and would **narrate** to her stories of all his friends who were dead and gone. Several years passed; Chandni was still there. Abbu Khan believed that Chandni would never leave his **compound** for the free and fresh air of the hills beyond. **Alas!** he was mistaken again.

Vocabulary

1. **Graze** (verb) – let feed in a field or pasture or meadow चराना
2. **Hut** (noun) – Shed, shelter झोपड़ी
3. **String** (noun) – line, chain, cord, series, rope डोरी
4. **Unlucky** (adjective) – unfortunate, hapless, luckless, inauspicious, ill-fated बदकिस्मत
5. **Often** (adverb) – frequently, in many instances, repeatedly, again and again अक्सर
6. **Break loose** (phrase) – to free oneself by force बलपूर्वक स्वयं को मुक्त करना
7. **Disappear** (verb) – vanish, fade, go away, evaporate, dissolve गायब होना
8. **Hate** (verb) – hatred, dislike, loathe, detest, despise से नफरत करना
9. **Breed** (noun) – Kind, variety, type नस्ल
10. **Juiciest** (adjective) – juicier, juicy, succulent, saucy, finest रसदार
11. **Grain** (noun) – cereal, whit, crumb, scrap अनाज
12. **Shower** (verb) – give a great number of things to someone (love) बरसाना (प्यार)
13. **Unfortunate** (adjective) – Unlucky, luckless, unsuccessful, unhappy अभाग
14. **The jaws of death** (phrase) – (literary) used to describe an unpleasant situation that almost happens: मौत के जबड़े
15. **Wonder** (verb) – ponder, think about, deliberate about सोचना
16. **Struggle** (noun) – fight, battle, strive, combat, conflict संघर्ष
17. **Hardship** (noun) – adversity, trouble, misery, distress, misfortune कठिनाई, क्लेश
18. **Mystery** (noun) – secret , secrecy रहस्य
19. **Terribly** (adverb) – very, extremely, tremendously, exceedingly भयानकता से
20. **Horn** (noun) – a hard, pointed, often curved part that grows from the top of the head of some animals, or the hard substance of which a horn is made सींग
21. **Gleam** (verb) – shine, glint, glow, glitter, shimmer जगमगाना
22. **Temperament** (noun) – disposition, nature, character, personality स्वभाव

NCERT: Class VII – By English Madhyam

23. **Tale** (noun) – story, short story,
narrative, anecdote कहानी

24. **Affectation** (noun) – love, fondness,
tenderness, liking, passion स्नेह

25. **Moonlight** (noun) – moonshine, moon,
moonbeam चांदनी

26. **Narrate** (verb) – tell, relate, recount,
recite, report वर्णन करना/कहानी सुनाना

27. **Compound** (noun) - An enclosure of
residences and other building परिसर

28. **Alas** (adverb) – Unfortunately, sadly,
regrettably, unhappily, unluckily हाय!

Tap word to know meaning



[Click here to download English Madhyam App](#)