

LESSON - 4

THE MOUNTAIN AND THE SQUIRREL

Session - 1

I

PRE-READING

- Socialisation :
- Look at the picture below. Can you name them? Can they talk like human beings? Do you think they show themselves off? We people do so. Now let us read a poem how the objects and creatures in the poem talk like human beings to show themselves off.

II

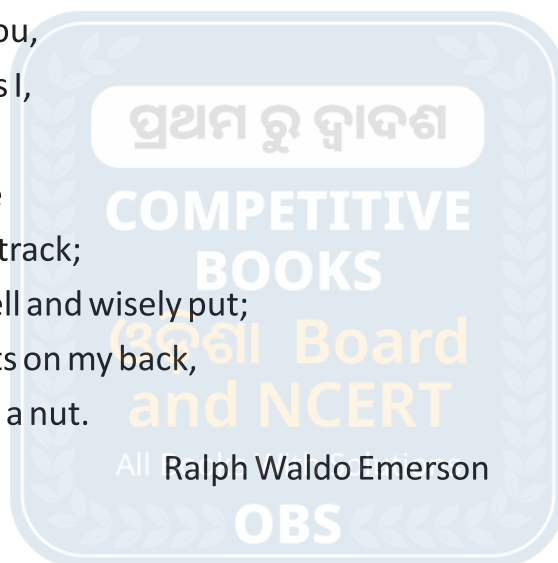
WHILE-READING

- *Your teacher reads the poem aloud first and you listen to him/her with your books closed.*
- *Your teacher reads the poem aloud for the second time and you listen to him/her and follow the poem in your book.*
- *Now read the poem silently and answer the questions that follow.*

TEXT



The mountain and the squirrel
 Had a quarrel;
 And the former called the latter 'Little Prig.'
 The latter replied,
 'You are doubtless very big;
 But all sorts of weather
 Must be taken in together,
 To make up a year
 And a sphere.
 And I think it no disgrace
 To occupy my place.
 If I'm not as large as you,
 You are not as small as I,
 And not half so spry.
 I'll not deny you make
 A very pretty squirrel track;
 Talents differ; all is well and wisely put;
 If I cannot carry forests on my back,
 Neither can you crack a nut.



• **Comprehension questions:**

1. What is the poem about ?
2. Who had a quarrel ?
3. What does 'the former' refer to? And 'the latter' ?
4. Who started the quarrel ?
5. Who called whom "Little Prig" ?
6. Did the squirrel take it easy ?
7. How did he feel about it ?
8. What makes up a year ?
9. What makes up the sphere ?

10. Does the squirrel feel inferior to be a tiny creature ?
Which line tells this ?
11. The mountain is big. What can it do and what cannot ?
12. The squirrel is small. What can it do and what cannot ?
13. Who does 'I' in the last two lines refer to ?
14. How are they different from each other ?
15. What do you mean by 'all is well' ?
16. 'Wisely put' means _____
17. Who talks more in the poem ?
Do you think he is a little bit quarrelsome ?
18. Do we find such people among us ?
19. Who of the two do you like more ? why ?
20. Find the rhyming words in the poem ?

Session - 2

III

POST-READING

1 Visual Memory Development Technique (VMDT) :

Whole Text : Picture of the mountain, squirrel, squirrel track in it
The title of the poem
Little prig- And I think it no disgrace-Talents differ- Neither
can you crack a nut

Part : Stanza-2 - disgrace –occupy my place –large-small-
deny- pretty – squirrel track – talents- carry forests- crack a
nut

2 Comprehension Activities :

(a) MCQs : Complete the sentences choosing the correct options.

1. 'And I think it no disgrace to occupy my place' means _____
A. nothing in the world has any value.
B. everything in the world has no value.
C. one should not feel inferior to others.
D. one should think himself to be superior to others.

2. The squirrel has the talent to _____
- speaking less
 - cracking a nut
 - carrying forests on its back
 - Moving a mountain
3. 'Disgrace' means _____
- an insult
 - admiring others
 - saying good of others
 - being good to others

(b) Match the words under 'A' with the words under 'B'.

Write (1) or (2) in brackets before the words under 'B'.

A	B
(1) Mountain	() small
	() big
	() little prig
	() not active
	() cannot carry forests
(2) Squirrel	() can crack a nut
	() can carry forests
	() cannot crack a nut
	() cannot make a squirrel track

Session - 3

3 Listening :

- (a) Your teacher reads aloud the following text. You listen to him/her and fill in the gaps.

One day a _____ and a _____ had a _____. The mountain called the squirrel '_____.'

In reply the squirrel said to him, "You are very _____ but I'm very _____. I'm _____ active but you are not. I can _____ a nut but you cannot. You can carry _____ on your back but I cannot."

- (b) Your teacher dictates some words from the list given below. Listen to him/her and tick those words.

[Word List- squirrel, mountain, quarrel, proud, doubtless, weather, sphere, disgrace, occupy, spry, deny, track, talent]

4 Speaking :

- (a) Chain-drill: “Talents differ; all is well and wisely put.” One student says, ‘Talents differ;’ the next one says, ‘All is well and wisely put’.

- (b) Practise the following dialogue.

(Teacher vs. students, students vs. students and finally in pairs)

Mountain : You, little prig.

Squirrel : You, very big.

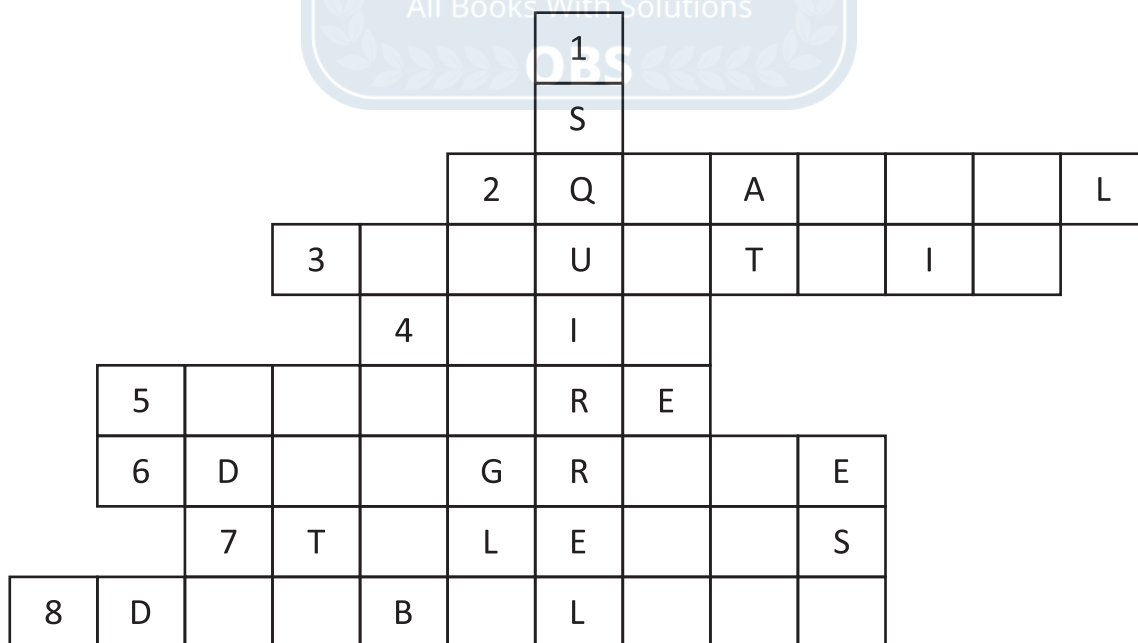
Mountain : I can carry forests on my back but you can’t.

Squirrel : I can crack a nut but you can’t.

Session - 4

5 Vocabulary :

There are eight words in this word-puzzle. Find them using the clues given.



Clues :

1. The small creature in this poem - _____
2. An angry argument - _____
(The squirrel and the mountain had it)
3. It can carry forests on its back - _____
4. The opposite of 'small' - _____
5. It means the earth - _____
6. It means 'insult' - _____
7. It means 'abilities' - _____
8. Without doubt - _____

6 Usage :

- (a) The poet uses 'as as' with 'not' in the poem. They are used to compare the qualities of two objects or persons. Use the same expressions to combine sentences. One is done for you.

- (i) The mountain is big.
The squirrel is not so big.
Ans- The squirrel is not as big as the mountain.

- (ii) Ramesh is rich.
Hari is not so rich.

- (iii) Malati is intelligent .
Surabhi is not so intelligent.

- (iv) Pratik is hardworking.
Naresh is not so hardworking.

- (v) Mani is beautiful.
Priyanka is not so beautiful.

- (vi) Gopal is clever.
Krishna is not so clever.

- (b) The poem makes it clear what the squirrel can do and what it cannot. It also tells us what the mountain can do and what it cannot.

For example;

The squirrel can crack a nut. It cannot carry forests on its back.

The mountain can carry forests on its back. It cannot crack a nut.

Using the expressions given below, write some sentences on your best friend using 'can or cannot'.

Expressions:

climb a mountain, catch a squirrel, sing a song, solve a word-puzzle, ride a bike, lift a heavy bag, compose a poem, play the guitar, play badminton

Some helps are given.

My best friend is _____. S/he can _____

_____. S/he cannot _____

- (c) Rewrite the pairs of sentences by connecting them with 'but'. One is done for you.

Q. My friend Amrita can sing a song. She cannot ride a bike.

Ans. My friend, Amrita can sing a song but cannot ride a bike.

Q. Nandita can do sums. She cannot speak English well.

Ans. _____

Q. Prabal can dance. he cannot box.

Ans. _____

Q. Rabindra can drive a car. He cannot ride a cycle.

Ans. _____

Q. Pratap can speak well. He cannot sing songs.

Ans. _____

7 Writing :

Answer the following questions.

(i) Who had a quarrel ?

(ii) What did the mountain call the squirrel ?

(iii) What must be taken together to make up a year and a sphere ?

(iv) How many times does the mountain talk in the poem ?

(v) What can the squirrel do ?

(vi) What can the mountain do ?

(vii) The mountain and the squirrel do not have the same abilities. Do we have people like them ?

(viii) Who do you like in this poem – the mountain or the squirrel ?

8 Mental Talk :

Mentally repeat the following sentence.

“Talents differ.”

9 Think :

“Talents differ.” Should we quarrel over it?

THE MOUNTAIN AND THE SQUIRREL



Summary of the Text :

The mountain and the squirrel had a quarrel between them. The former called the latter 'Little Prig'. The squirrel said that the mountain was undoubtedly very big. But he did not feel inferior to the mountain. He gave his explanation for this. He said all sorts of weather must be taken together to make up a year and all things, big and small, hot and cold must be taken together to make up the earth. So the squirrel did not feel inferior for occupying a small place. If he was not as big the mountain, the mountain was not also as small as he was. The mountain was not half so active and energetic as he was. But he admitted that the mountain made a very pretty track for him to move. At the same time he argued that things in the world have different abilities. The creator put all things in their right places with good sense. He said if he could not carry forests on his back because of his small size, the mountain could not crack a nut either.

ସାରାଂଶ :

ପର୍ବତ ଓ ଗୁଣ୍ଡୁଚିମୂଷା ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଏକ କଳି ହେଲା । ପର୍ବତ ଗୁଣ୍ଡୁଚିମୂଷାକୁ କହିଲା ଯେ ସେ ଏକ କ୍ଷୁଦ୍ର ଅହଙ୍କାରୀ ପ୍ରାଣୀ । ଗୁଣ୍ଡୁଚିମୂଷା ପର୍ବତକୁ କହିଲା, ନିଶ୍ଚିତ ରୂପେ ସେ ଏକ ବିଶାଳକାୟ ବସ୍ତୁ । କିନ୍ତୁ ଗୋଟିଏ ବର୍ଷ ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ହେବା ପାଇଁ ସବୁ ପ୍ରକାର ପାଗକୁ ଏକତ୍ର ନେବାକୁ ପଡ଼ିବ । ଅର୍ଥାତ୍ ଏଥିରେ ବର୍ଷାଦିନ, ଗ୍ରୀଷ୍ମଦିନ, ଶୀତଦିନ, ବସନ୍ତଦିନ ପ୍ରଭୃତି ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପାଗର ଦିନଗୁଡ଼ିକ ରହିବାକୁ ହେବ । ସେହିପରି ବିଭିନ୍ନ ବଡ଼ ଓ ସାନ ବସ୍ତୁର ସମାରୋହରେ ପୃଥିବୀର ସୃଷ୍ଟି ସମ୍ଭବ । ତେଣୁ ସେ ଏକ କ୍ଷୁଦ୍ରକାୟ ପ୍ରାଣୀ ହୋଇ ଅତି କ୍ଷୁଦ୍ର ସ୍ଥାନରେ ଅବସ୍ଥାନ କରୁଥିବାରୁ ସେ ନିଜକୁ ଛୋଟ ମଣୁନାହାନ୍ତି । ସେ ଯେପରି ପର୍ବତ ଭଳି ବୃହତ୍ ହୋଇପାରିବ ନାହିଁ, ପର୍ବତ ମଧ୍ୟ ତାହାପରି କ୍ଷୁଦ୍ର ହୋଇପାରିବ ନାହିଁ । ସେ ଯେପରି ଶକ୍ତି ଓ ଉଷାହର ସହିତ ଭ୍ରମଣ କରୁଛି, ତା'ର ଅଧା ବେଗରେ ମଧ୍ୟ

ପର୍ବତ ବୁଲାଇ କରିପାରିବ ନାହିଁ । ସେ ମଧ୍ୟ ସ୍ବାକାର କଳା ଯେ ପର୍ବତ ତା'ର ବୁଲାଇ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ସୁନ୍ଦର ରାସ୍ତାର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା କରିଛି । କିନ୍ତୁ ସାମର୍ଥ୍ୟର ପାର୍ଥକ୍ୟ ରହିଥାଏ । ସୃଷ୍ଟିକର୍ତ୍ତା ବିଭିନ୍ନ ବସ୍ତୁକୁ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପ୍ରକାରର ଶକ୍ତି ଓ ସାମର୍ଥ୍ୟ ଦେଇଛନ୍ତି ଏବଂ ତାହା ସହିତ ଯଥାର୍ଥ ସ୍ଥାନରେ ମଧ୍ୟ ସ୍ଥାନିତ କରିଛନ୍ତି । ଏଥିରେ ତାଙ୍କର ଭଲ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ମଧ୍ୟ ନିହିତ । ସେ ଯେପରି ଜଙ୍ଗଲଗୁଡ଼ିକୁ ନିଜ ପିଠିରେ ବହନ କରିପାରିବ ନାହିଁ, ପର୍ବତ ମଧ୍ୟ ତାହାପରି ଗୋଟିଏ କଠିନ ଆବରଣଯୁକ୍ତ ପଲକୁ ଭାଙ୍ଗିପାରିବ ନାହିଁ ।

11. The mountain is big. What can it do and what cannot ? [2017-18 (Sansthan)]

Ans. It can carry forests on its back but it cannot crack a nut.

12. The squirrel is small. What can it do and what cannot ?

Ans. It can crack a nut but cannot carry a forest on its back.

13. Who does 'I' in the last two lines refer to ?

Ans. 'I' in the last two lines refers to the squirrel.

14. How are they different from each other ?

Ans. The mountain and the squirrel are different from each other by size, talents and nature. The mountain is very big and the squirrel is small. The mountain can carry heavy loads on its back but, the squirrel is more energetic and active.

15. What do you mean by 'all is well' ?

Ans. The expression "all is well" means all things are in right and satisfactory position.

16. 'Wisely put' means _____

Ans. The expression 'wisely put' means the creator has put all things in their proper positions with good sense and judgement.

17. Who talks more in the poem ?

Do you think he is a little bit quarrelsome ?

Ans. The squirrel talks more in the poem.

No, I don't think he is quarrelsome. Because, it was the mountain who called him "Little Prig" but, the squirrel did not say any such thing to insult the mountain.

18. Do we find such people among us ?

Ans. Yes, we find such people among us.

19. Who of the two do you like more why ?

Ans. I like the squirrel most because, he did not start the quarrel and neither did he insult the mountain. He was just explaining to the mountain that everything on this earth has its proper value, place, purpose and talent. Everything small or big, is placed intelligently by Mother Nature and for some good reason.

Comprehension Questions & Answers :

1. What is the poem about ?

Ans. The poem is about a quarrel which the mountain and the squirrel had between them.

2. Who had a quarrel ?

Ans. The mountain and the squirrel had a quarrel.

3. What does 'the former' refer to ? And 'the latter' ?

Ans. The former refers to the mountain and the latter refers to the squirrel.

4. Who started the quarrel ?

Ans. The mountain started the quarrel.

5. Who called whom "Little Prig" ?

Ans. The mountain called the squirrel 'Little Prig'. [2017-18 (Sansthan)]

6. Did the squirrel take it easy ?

Ans. No, he didn't take it easy.

7. How did he feel about it ?

Ans. He felt unhappy about it.

8. What makes up a year ?

Ans. All sorts of weather taken together make up a year.

9. What makes up the sphere ?

Ans. All sorts of weather taken together make up the sphere. [2017-18 (Sansthan)]

10. Does the squirrel feel inferior to be a tiny creature ? Which line tells this ?

Ans. No, the squirrel's being a tiny creature does not make him feel inferior. The lines, 'And I think it no disgraced to occupy my place', tell us about this.

20. Find the rhyming words in the poem ?

Ans. Squirrel – quarrel

Prig – big

Weather – together

Year – sphere

disgrace – place

I – spry

make – track

POST-READING

Comprehension Activities :

(a) Multiple Choice Questions : Complete the sentences choosing the correct options.

1. 'And I think it no disgrace to occupy my place' means _____.

- A. nothing in the world has any value.
- B. everything in the world has no value.
- C. one should not feel inferior to others.
- D. one should think himself to be superior to others.

2. The squirrel has the talent to _____.

- A. speak less
- B. crack a nut
- C. carry forests on its back
- D. Move a mountain

3. 'Disgrace' means _____.

- A. an insult
- B. admiring others
- C. saying good of others
- D. being good to others

Ans. 1. (C) one should not feel inferior to others.

2. (B) crack a nut

3. (A) an insult

(b) Match the words under 'A' with the words under 'B'.

Write (1) or (2) in brackets before the words under 'B'.

A

B

(1) Mountain () small

() big

() little prig

() not active

() cannot carry forests

(2) Squirrel () can crack a nut

() can carry forests

() cannot crack a nut

() cannot make a squirrel track

Ans.

A

B

(1) Mountain (2) small

(1) big

(2) little prig

(1) not active

(2) cannot carry forests

(2) Squirrel (2) can crack a nut

(1) can carry forests

(1) cannot crack a nut

(2) cannot make a squirrel track

Listening :

(a) Your teacher reads aloud the following text. You listen to him/her and fill in the gaps.

One day a _____ and a _____ had a _____. The mountain called the squirrel "_____."

In reply the squirrel said to him, "You are very _____ but I'm very _____. I'm _____ active but you are not. I can _____ a nut but you cannot. You can carry _____ on your back but I cannot."

Ans. One day a **mountain** and a **squirrel** had a **quarrel**. The mountain called the squirrel "**Little Prig**."

In reply the squirrel said to him, "You are very **big** but I'm very **small**. I'm **very** active but you are not. I can **crack** a nut but you cannot. You can carry **forests** on your back but I cannot."

(b) Your teacher dictates some words from the list given below. Listen to him/her and tick those words.

[Word List : squirrel, mountain, quarrel, proud, doubtless, weather, sphere, disgrace, occupy, spry, deny, track, talent]

Vocabulary :

There are eight words in this word-puzzle. Find them using the clues given.

					1					
					S					
			2	Q		A				L
3				U		T		I		
		4		I						
5					R	E				
6	D			G	R			E		
		7	T		L	E		S		
8	D			B		L				

Clues :

1. The small creature in this poem
2. An angry argument
(The squirrel and the mountain had it)
3. It can carry forests on its back
4. The opposite of 'small'
5. It means the earth
6. It means 'insult'
7. It means 'abilities'
8. Without doubt
5. SPHERE
6. DISGRACE
7. TALENTS
8. DOUBTLESS

Usage :

- Ans.** 1. SQUIRREL
2. QUARREL
3. MOUNTAIN
4. BIG

(a) The poet uses 'as as' with 'not' in the poem. They are used to compare the qualities of two objects or persons. Use the same expressions to combine sentences. One is done for you.
(i) The mountain is big.
The squirrel is not so big.
Ans. The squirrel is not as big as the mountain.

(ii) Ramesh is rich.

Hari is not so rich.

Ans. Hari is not as rich as Ramesh.

(iii) Malati is intelligent.

Surabhi is not so intelligent.

Ans. Surabhi is not as intelligent as Malati.

(iv) Pratik is hardworking.

Naresh is not so hardworking.

Ans. Naresh is not as hardworking as Pratik.

(v) Mani is beautiful.

Priyanka is not so beautiful.

Ans. Priyanka is not as beautiful as Mani.

(vi) Gopal is clever.

Krishna is not so clever.

Ans. Krishna is not as clever as Gopal.

(b) The poem makes it clear what the squirrel can do and what it cannot. It also tells us what the mountain can do and what it cannot.

For example :

The squirrel can crack a nut. It cannot carry forests on its back.

The mountain can carry forests on its back. It cannot crack a nut.

Using the expressions given below, write some sentences on your best friend using 'can or cannot'.

Expressions :

climb a mountain, catch a squirrel, sing a song, solve a word-puzzle, ride a bike, lift a heavy bag, compose a poem, play the guitar, play badminton

Some helps are given.

My best friend is _____. S/he can _____.

S/he cannot _____.

Ans. Bikram is my best friend. He can climb a mountain. He cannot catch a squirrel. He can sing a song. He cannot compose a poem. He can solve a word-puzzle. He cannot ride a bike. He can lift a heavy bag. He cannot lift a table. He can play badminton. He cannot play the guitar.

(c) Rewrite the pairs of sentences by connecting them with 'but'. One is done for you.

Q. My friend Amrita can sing a song. She cannot ride a bike.

Ans. My friend, Amrita can sing a song but cannot ride a bike.

Q. Nandita can do sums. She cannot speak English well.

Ans. Nandita can do sums but she cannot speak English well.

Q. Prabal can dance. He cannot box.

Ans. Prabal can dance but cannot box.

Q. Rabindra can drive a car. He cannot ride a cycle.

Ans. Rabindra can drive a car but cannot ride a cycle.

Q. Pratap can speak well. He cannot sing songs.

Ans. Pratap can speak well but cannot sing songs.