

May 2026

AKRAM Express

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Holidays... Are... fun...

Editorial

Friends,

Summer holidays are here! Long, sunny days, delicious mangoes, fun games...and plenty of time for wonderful stories. When do stories feel the most enjoyable? When someone tells them to us.

This summer vacation, Theo and Friends narrated amazing stories to all the animals of Didima Jungle. These were stories of ordinary children who did extraordinary things - and became Little Heroes!

Come on, let's get ready to hear those stories. Who knows, while reading them you might just find your own way to becoming a Little Hero!

- Dimple Mehta

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Story Safari



Summer holidays had begun in Didima Jungle. The sun was burning bright, mangoes had ripened, and the whole jungle felt restless.

Theo, Rizo, Giffy, and Zoey were sitting under a big banyan tree, chatting.

Theo groaned, “It’s so hot! I’m melting like cheese on a pizza!”

Closing her book, Zoey said, “Now I’ve finished this book too. It was so much fun... but now what?”

Just then, tears started rolling down Giffy’s eyes.





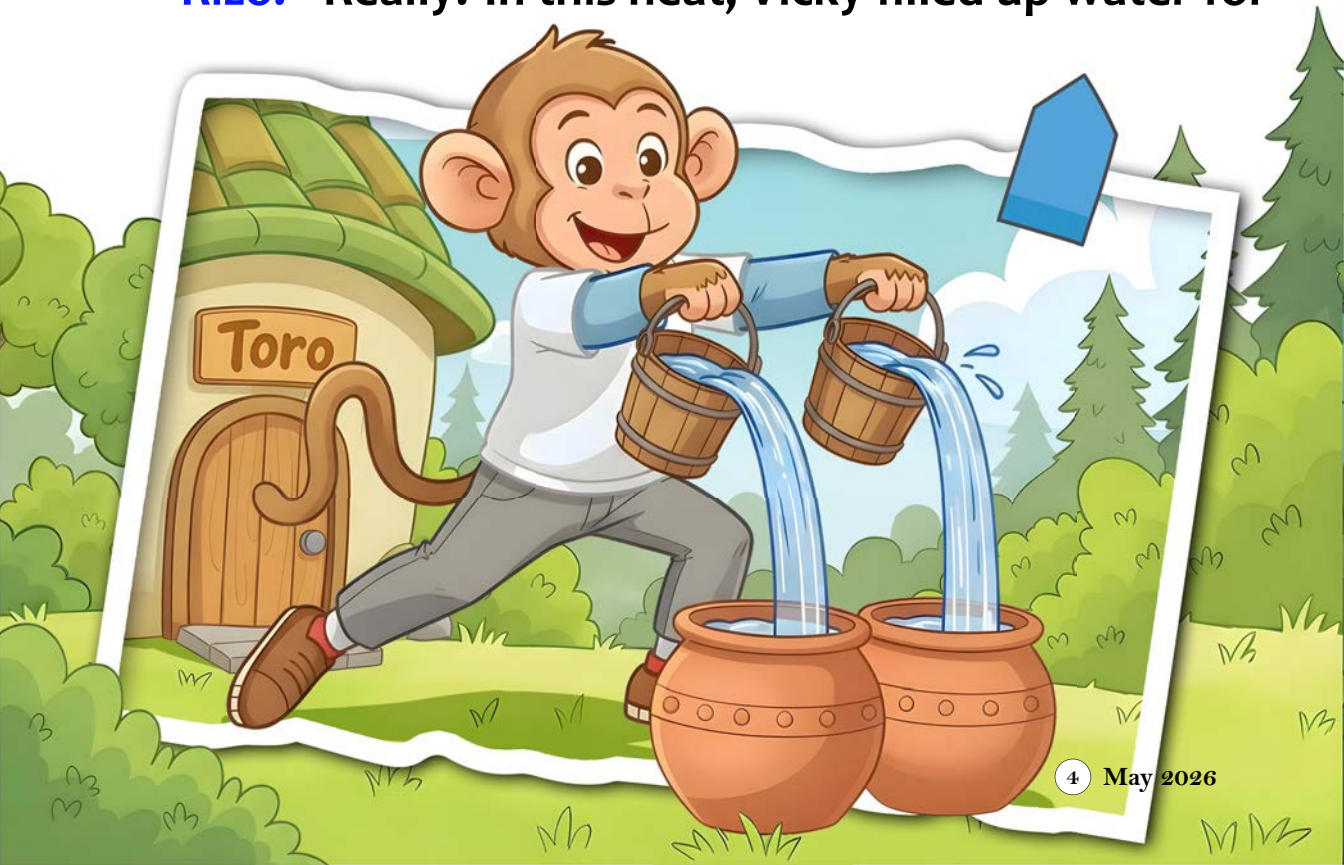
Rizo was also about to complain about something, but he didn't get the chance. After hearing Giffy, he went quiet.


Giffy: "Do you know what I just saw?"

Rizo: "How would we know? You live on the top floor and we're on the ground floor. You see things we don't! What did you see?"

Giffy: "Vicky the Monkey came carrying two buckets of water. Outside Toro the Tortoise's house, there were two clay pots. He poured the water into them and walked off humming happily. When Toro came out of his house, he was surprised to find his pots full. He was overjoyed!"

Rizo: "Really? In this heat, Vicky filled up water for





Toro without even being asked? How kind of him!”

“Idea!” Zoey exclaimed. “This is just like the story I read in my book! What if we hold a storytelling session in Didima Jungle? We’ll tell stories of real superheroes.”

“What do you mean?” Theo asked. Zoey explained her idea, and together Theo and Friends organised a ‘Story Safari’ in the jungle. Within a few days, preparations were complete and invitations were sent.

That night, almost all the animals of Didima Jungle gathered under the open sky, lying comfortably on a soft bed of grass, ready to listen to the stories.



ROLLS ROYCE

Theo started the first story:

“Imagine you have something very special—something no one else in school has. What would you do? Would you show it off or not? Let me tell you a story about a boy who had something no one else had... and what he did with it.

“His name was Ratan. Ratan had taken admission in a famous school in Mumbai. The school wasn’t far from home, but his grandmother insisted he should go and return every day in a Rolls Royce.

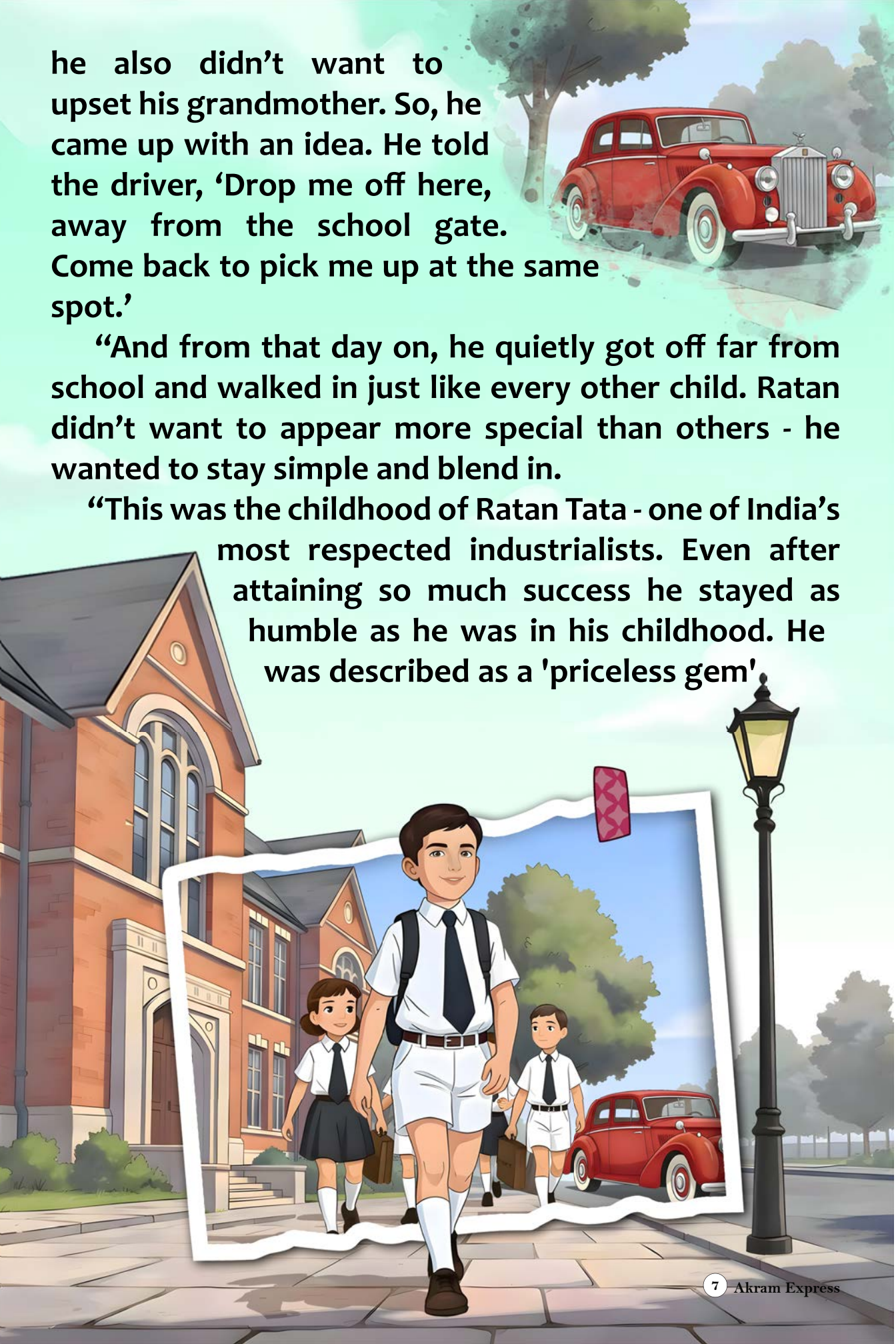
“Young Ratan didn’t like this. He didn’t enjoy stepping out of such a big car and drawing everyone’s attention. He felt embarrassed to show off in front of the other students. But



he also didn't want to upset his grandmother. So, he came up with an idea. He told the driver, 'Drop me off here, away from the school gate. Come back to pick me up at the same spot.'

"And from that day on, he quietly got off far from school and walked in just like every other child. Ratan didn't want to appear more special than others - he wanted to stay simple and blend in.

"This was the childhood of Ratan Tata - one of India's most respected industrialists. Even after attaining so much success he stayed as humble as he was in his childhood. He was described as a 'priceless gem'.





of the Tata Group and of India. He became a hero to thousands of youth."

After finishing the story, Theo said, "This story taught me that great people don't become great by showing off, but by staying humble."

Everyone clapped and cheered. Theo blushed and stepped off the stage.

Gnanis Say...



Even if we own a few cars, we shouldn't have excessive pride or arrogance for owning them. When we express excessive pride [for material possessions], [the material possessions] start getting ready to leave you. When we have special worldly possessions [such as cars, houses, the latest gadgets, etc.] — we must stay humble.

IF YOU Ever Fail an EXAM...

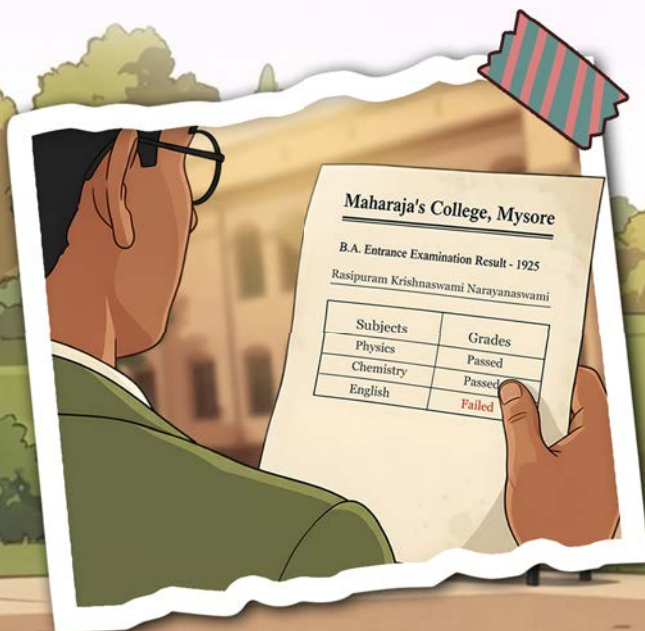


Rizo came on stage to tell the next story. Holding the mic, he asked “Have you ever failed in any subject in school? I have. I once failed in Hindi. After failing, I felt I was really weak in the subject. But after reading this story, my thinking completely changed.

“This is the story of India’s great writer - R.K. Narayan.

“Many years ago, a show called *Malgudi Days* used to air on TV. It was every child’s favourite. The show was based on a novel written by R.K. Narayan. Since he wrote in English, you’d think he always scored well in English, right? No!

“Actually, he failed English in his university entrance exam. His family



Maharaja's College, Mysore
Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)

was shocked because English was his favourite subject. His marks were so low that people felt he didn't know the language at all!

“Instead of feeling sad or angry, Narayan did something different. He decided to spend the whole year learning English properly. He did not give up. He borrowed English books from the library and started reading. As he read stories, he started getting ideas about many different subjects on which he could write his own stories.

“He never felt that his year was wasted due to failing, nor did English become a subject he disliked. During that year, he read so much, thought so much, and wrote so much, that it prepared him to become a great writer.

“The following year he passed,

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Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)





and later obtained a degree upon finishing college.”

Rizo concluded in Hindi:

“To kabhi agar parīkṣā mē fail ho jāo, to haar mat maanaa... kabhi kabhi achchī kahāniyō kī shuruaat aise bhī hotī hai.”

“So, if ever you fail an exam, don’t accept defeat. Sometimes that is the beginning to a great story.”

Everyone clapped. Now it was Giffy’s turn.

Gnanis Say...

If you get low marks, then work harder and you will get higher marks. Do not get disturbed. Bring about improvement with the right understanding. Then gradually your power will increase. If you get disturbed, then your strength slips away.



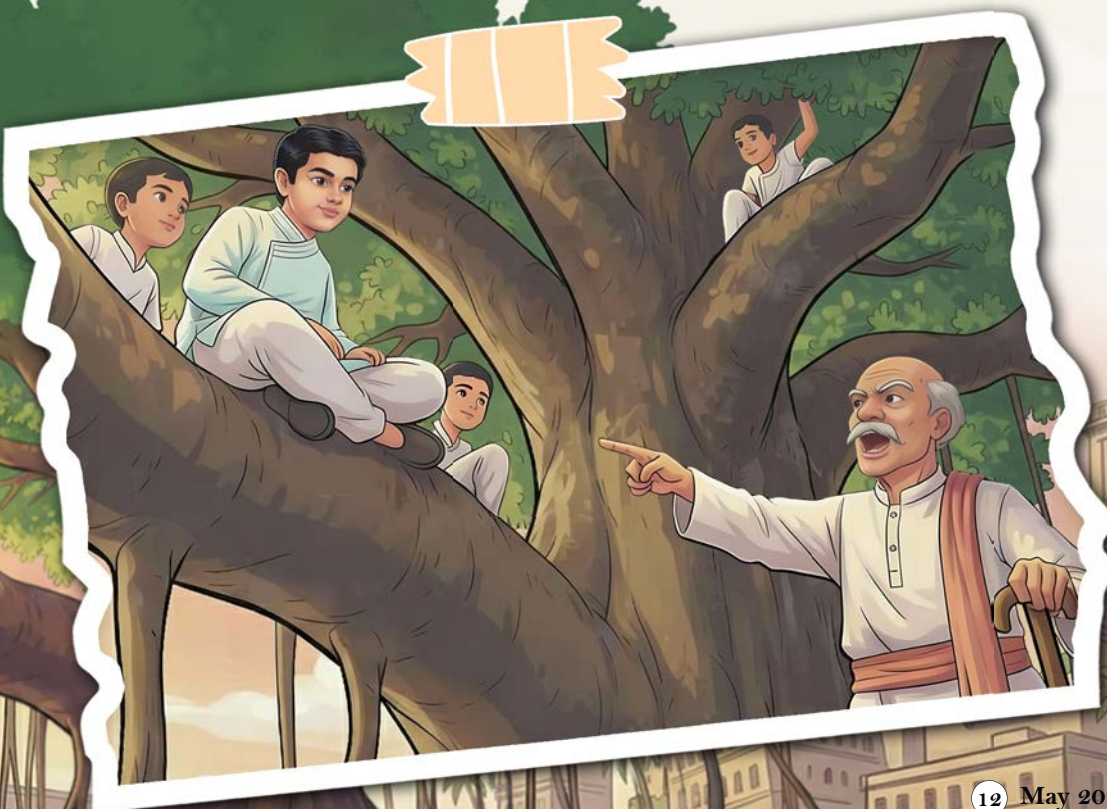
If Someone Tries to Scare You...



Giffy went up on the stage and began telling the story:

“This is the story of an eight-year-old boy named Narendra who lived in Kolkata. Near his house stood a grand old banyan tree with widely spread branches. Children loved climbing it. For Narendra and his friends, it was their favourite hangout place. Every day after school, they would gather there. They would climb the tree, swing on the hanging roots and imagine themselves wandering into a magical jungle.

“One day, as the children were climbing the tree, an old man shouted, ‘Get down immediately!’





A ghost lives in this tree. It will punish you, and cause harm to you.'

"Their fun turned into fear. One by one, the children climbed down from the tree, pale and trembling... except Narendra.

"The next day, the tree stood silent. No children came except for Narendra. He climbed up the tree, just like always."

Giffy wasn't at all scared while telling the story, almost as if he had absorbed Narendra's courage! He carried on with the story...

"Narendra's friends saw him from afar. Nervously inching closer, they called out, 'What if the ghost catches you? Aren't you scared?'

"Narendra jumped down and calmly replied, 'Think about it - we've climbed this tree so many times. Has a ghost ever troubled us? If someone tries to scare you, why get scared without thinking it through?'



“His friends looked at each other. Narendra was right. They understood that fear shouldn’t be accepted blindly - you should use your own understanding.

“Years later, this courageous child became known as Swami Vivekananda, who inspired millions of people to walk on the true path.”

Giffy smiled boldly and said, “From today, I also won’t get scared just because someone tries to scare me!”



me!”

Everyone applauded loudly — both for the story and for Giffy’s brave smile.



Gnanis Say...

When an old fear arises, ‘What if this happens?’ - then just say, ‘Let me just see what really happens.’ Then did anything actually happen? No, nothing happened. These sparrows, when a firecracker goes bang, the first time they all fly away. Then the second time it goes bang, only a few fly off. At the third bang, none of them even look up, they continue pecking away calmly. Shouldn’t we be considered braver than sparrows? Ask for strength from Dada Bhagwan: ‘Give me strength to come out of this fear and carry out my duties normally. Dada and Niruma stay with me’ then nothing will happen.

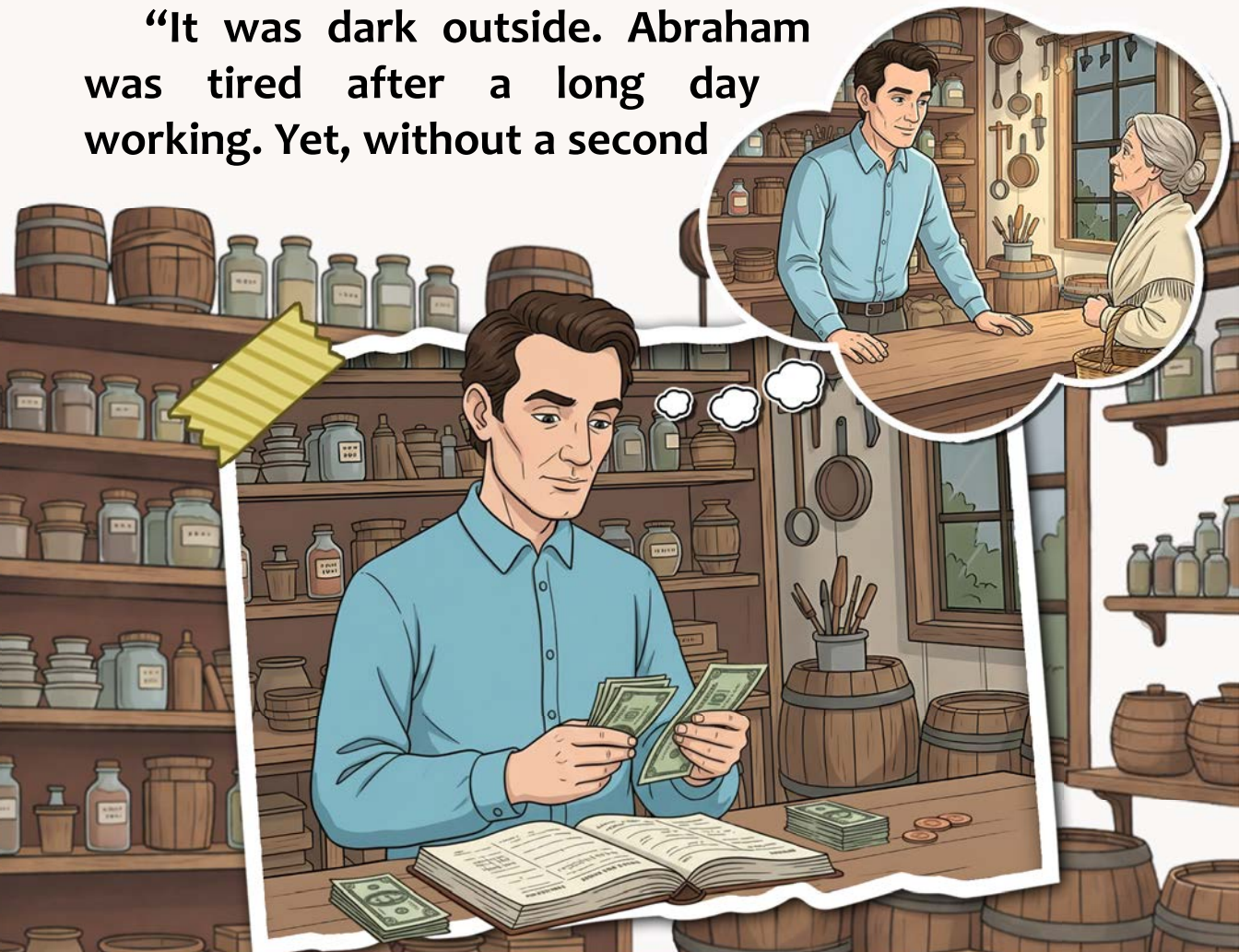


Zoey came on the stage next. She knew her story by heart - no papers needed.


“In a small American town named New Salem lived a young man named Abraham. He worked at a small grocery shop.

“One evening, after closing the shop, Abraham was calculating the day’s earnings. While counting the money, he paused suddenly. He rechecked his notebook carefully. ‘Oh no... I made a mistake! I took six cents* extra from a lady,’ he realised.

“It was dark outside. Abraham was tired after a long day working. Yet, without a second



Word Meaning: Six Cents - Just as 'Paisa' and 'Rupee' are the currency in India, 'Cent' and 'Dollar' are the currency in America. Six cents means approximately twelve paisa at that time.



thought, he locked the shop, put on his hat, and walked several miles to the lady's house.

“Seeing Abraham at her door so late, the lady was surprised. Abraham held out the coins and said, ‘I made a mistake while returning your change. These six cents belong to you.’”

“She couldn't believe someone would walk so far just to return six cents! She thanked him and Abraham walked back home.

“The mistake was small and if he hadn't returned the money, no one would have known about it. But Abraham knew! He didn't want to carry the burden of dishonesty. Whether the mistake was small or big,





honesty was more important to Abraham.

“That honest young man grew up to become Abraham Lincoln, who later became the President of the United States.”

Zoey finished the story and made her own declaration, “Now I too will always stay honest—even when no one is watching me!”

Gnanis Say...

Honesty means not allowing anything that rightfully belongs to someone else to wrongfully enter our own home (i.e. not keeping and taking home something that rightfully belongs to someone else).





Giffy went on the stage again, but this time with a tearful face.


“This is the story of a young man from Gujarat. His name was Vallabhbhai Patel. He was a skilled lawyer by profession. But he had one big dream—to go to England and become a barrister. He saved up money little by little over some years.

“Finally, he had collected enough money. Vallabhbhai applied for the ticket to England. All preparations were done. The ticket arrived in the mail. It had the name ‘V.J. Patel’ - short for Vallabhbhai Jhaverbhai Patel. But then something happened that Vallabhbhai had never imagined...”

Giffy’s throat got choked up. He took a sip of water, and continued:

“Vallabhbhai’s elder brother, Vitthalbhai, saw the envelope. For many years, he too had dreamed of going to



An illustration of a hand holding a yellow ticket with the text 'Mr. Gopal & Sons, Ltd.' and 'PAID' visible. The hand is wearing a white sleeve with buttons.

England to study further. But he had not made any efforts to fulfil that dream. Seeing the ticket with the name 'V.J. Patel,' he thought, 'My name is also V.J. Patel! What if I go instead of Vallabh?'

"He asked Vallabhbhai, 'Brother, will you let me go with this ticket? I'm older than you - if I finish my studies first, it will be better for all of us.'

"Vallabhbhai had worked incredibly hard to fulfil his dream. But he didn't think twice. For him, protecting his elder brother's feelings mattered more than fulfilling his own dream. He happily gave the ticket to Vitthalbhai."

At this point, Giffy broke down into tears. Through the sobs he said: "Vallabhbhai Patel is known as the 'Iron Man'. But being strong doesn't mean lifting heavy logs or winning every race. True strength is what Vallabhbhai showed. He didn't give up on his dream. After Vitthalbhai returned from his studies, Vallabhbhai went to





England and became a top barrister. He returned to India and worked tirelessly for the country's freedom. He became known as '*Sardar*' (leader)."

Zoey came up to the stage and gave Giffy a tissue to wipe his tears. Taking the mic she added, "We've all seen the Statue of Unity, right? That statue is of our Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel!"

Giffy stepped down from the stage and Zoey started the next story.

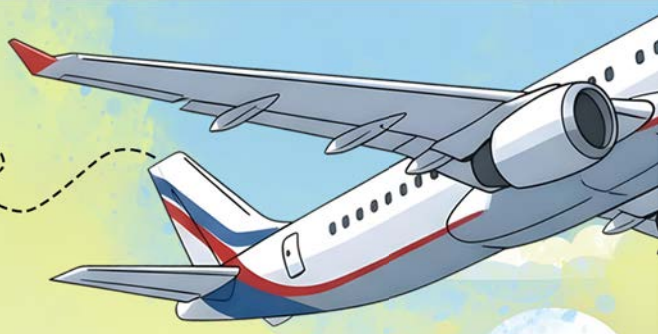
Gnanis Say...

Dada's Huge Heart

Dada spent his whole life giving his happiness to others. Dada used to say, "It does not matter if I do not get happiness - you all should get it. I have never even thought about my own happiness. And I have never felt any suffering. How can a person who lives for others have any suffering?"



Flying High



“This is the story of a bright girl from the small town of Karnal, in the state of Haryana. Everyone lovingly called her ‘Montu.’ She loved looking at the sky. Whenever a plane flew above her house, her eyes sparkled and she wondered, ‘How does it fly? Where is it going? Will I get to fly one day?’ She drew pictures of planes, stars, and rockets.

“By the time it was school admission day, everyone still called her ‘Montu’. The principal allowed her to choose her own name. She chose the name ‘Kalpana’. This was just the beginning. Kalpana lived her entire life according to her own choices - not by copying others.

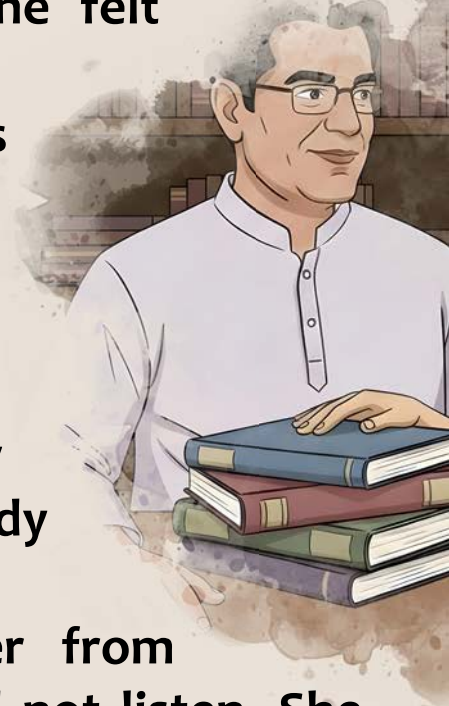
“While most girls braided their hair, Kalpana kept her hair short. There were no hair salons nearby, so



she cut her own hair! While others wore salwar-kameez (traditional Indian dress), Kalpana wore pants and shirts because she felt more comfortable.

“From childhood, Kalpana was fascinated by flying machines. When it came time to go to college, her father wished she would become a doctor or a teacher. However, Kalpana wanted to study aeronautical engineering - the study of designing planes and rockets.

“Many people discouraged her from entering this field, but Kalpana did not listen. She was determined to study this subject only, and she succeeded in gaining admission for it. She became the first female student in her class. After graduating from Punjab Engineering College, she





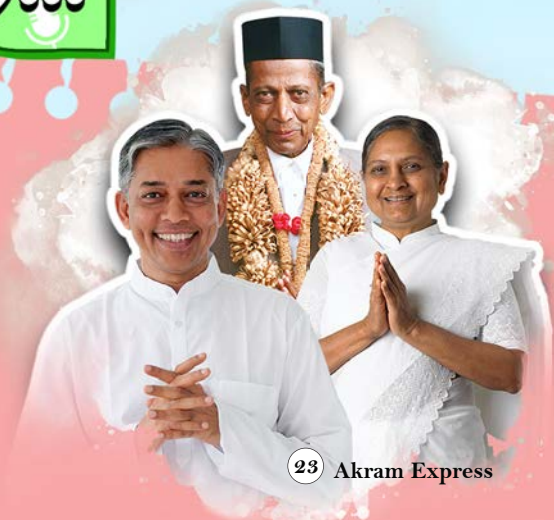
went to the USA and earned her Master's and PhD in Aerospace Engineering.

“Kalpana Chawla dared to dream big, and worked hard to make that dream into reality. Years later, she took the highest flight, not just in the sky, but up in space! She became India's first woman astronaut.”

Zoey ended the story saying, “Everyone tends to copy one another, but Kalpana did not copy anyone. She only listened to her own heart.” At that very moment they heard the sound of a plane overhead. Everyone looked up and remembered the little girl who dared to dream big.

Gnanis Say...

Copying someone makes you fake, and walking your own path with your own understanding is what makes you original.





Session Ends

The last story came to an end. A gentle calmness filled the air. Fireflies were glowing. A cool breeze was blowing, even on a summer night.

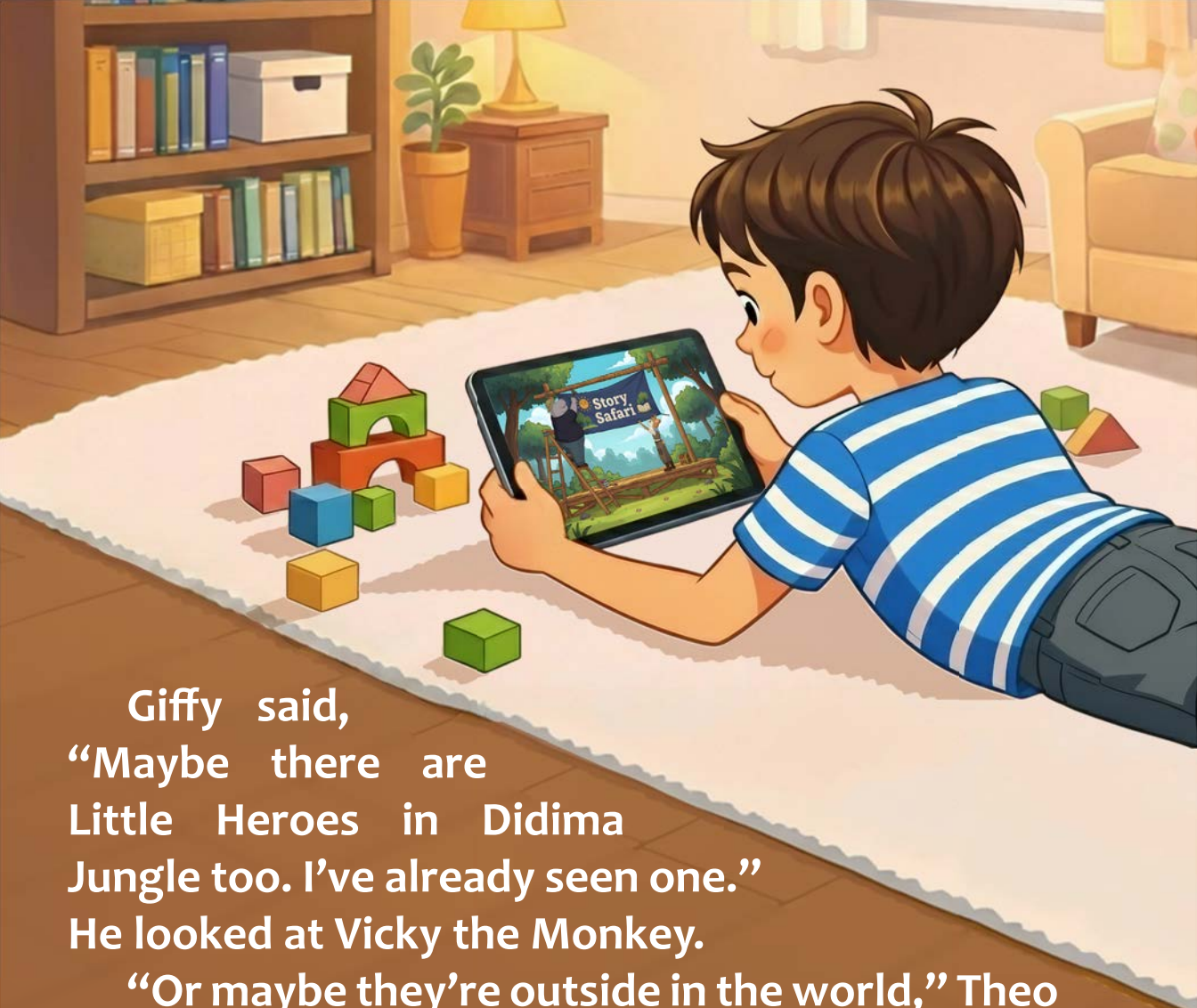
Everyone was feeling a little sleepy. Theo, Rizo, and Giffy joined Zoey on stage.

Theo yawned loudly and said, “Wow! Who knew that real-life kids could be even more amazing than the superheroes in films!”

Rizo nodded, “They didn’t have flying capes like superheroes, but they had real courage.”

“And most importantly,” Zoey added, “they were just like us... ordinary kids who did something extraordinary!”





Giffy said,
“Maybe there are
Little Heroes in Didima
Jungle too. I’ve already seen one.”
He looked at Vicky the Monkey.

“Or maybe they’re outside in the world,” Theo added. “Or it is possible that these Little Heroes are reading these stories right now in Akram Express! Little Heroes are everywhere. A child who helps without being asked, shares things, shows courage, and chooses the right path even when it is hard - is indeed a Little Hero!”

Zoey concluded, “If you look around, you’ll surely find a Little Hero somewhere. And who knows... maybe you are a Little Hero yourself, or you are slowly becoming one!”

And with that, the Story Safari session came to an end.



To read the Aaloo-Chilly stories all together...
Click Here : <https://dbf.adalaj.org/cnyyYHKc>

Aaloo was telling Chilly the story of Taco the Horse, whose dream was to participate in the racecourse. He practiced very hard for the race, met Brownie, and they became best friends. However, something happened during the race that caused Taco to lose both the race and Brownie. Let's hear from Aaloo what happened in the race.

Whenever Taco and Brownie practiced, Taco would playfully tell Brownie, "Brownie, if you win, I will take you to my jungle and throw you a big party there. And if I win?"

To which Brownie would reply, "If anyone wins, it will be me!" Every time he heard this, Taco liked Brownie's confidence. But he realised too late that it wasn't confidence, but something else entirely.

On the day of the race, when Taco and Brownie stood side by side, Taco said, "Brownie, I feel a little scared."

As if he hadn't heard him at all, Brownie replied, "Today the trophy will be mine; if anyone wins, it will be me!" Taco was looking at him, and before he could say anything further, the track gates opened, and the sound of people from outside began to drift in.



Upon hearing the crowd, Taco's fear was replaced by excitement. He started running; the blue sky above, the wet soil below, and the cheers and excitement of the people sitting on the side. He had seen this on TV so many times. This was what he had come here for. Along with his excitement, his speed also increased, and ultimately, he moved ahead of all the other horses.



Taco was happily running, only focused on himself and his own joy, when he heard Brownie's voice from behind:

"If anyone wins, it will be me!"

Taco slowed down slightly and saw Brownie coming towards him, running with intense passion; there was malice in his eyes. It was as if Brownie couldn't even see Taco.

Brownie spoke again, **"If anyone wins, it will be me!"**

Taco slowed down even more. Brownie reached his side. As soon as he came close, Taco felt as if he had touched a hot fire.

"Brownie, slow down, you are extremely out of breath," Taco said upon seeing him panting.

"If anyone wins, it will be me!" Brownie replied.

Brownie increased his speed. His breathing looked so heavy that Taco forgot about the race and began to worry about him. He shouted, **"Brownie! Slow down... you'll hurt yourself."**



Hearing this, Brownie turned back, looked at Taco with that same malice, and said, "I won't let you win, if anyone wins, it will be me!" He increased his speed even further.

Seeing Brownie's hateful look, Taco stopped right in the middle of the racecourse and watched Brownie speed into the distance. It was as if not just Brownie, but also their whole friendship was going away.

Taco started running at full speed again. He reached



the finish line and saw that Brownie had already crossed it. Brownie turned and, panting heavily, said, "Taco, I defeated you. What did you think, that I would lose to a small jungle horse?" And then, with a thud, he fell to the ground. Taco ran to him. Brownie had collapsed, unconscious.

He was immediately taken to the hospital. The

doctor said that due to running at such high speed, both his legs were fractured. Not only that, but there was bleeding in his lungs. If he had run like that for even two more minutes, he might have lost his life .

Hearing this, tears came to Taco's eyes. One thought began to haunt him: 'Is winning more important than living?' He felt, 'Thank goodness, my best friend Brownie survived.' He did not know that while his 'best friend' had survived, he was no longer a 'best friend'.



Is winning really so necessary? Should we become ready to lose friendship, health, and peace for it? What will happen next? Why did Brownie and Taco's friendship break down?



During the holidays, with help from your parents, use your free time to make creative crafts!

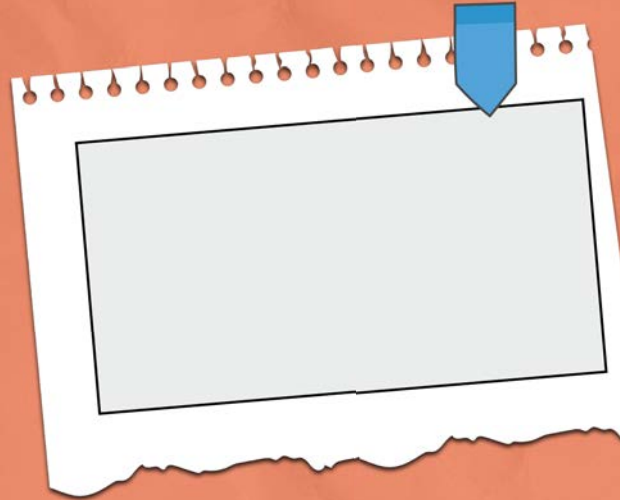


Materials



Make a picture from different coloured wools.

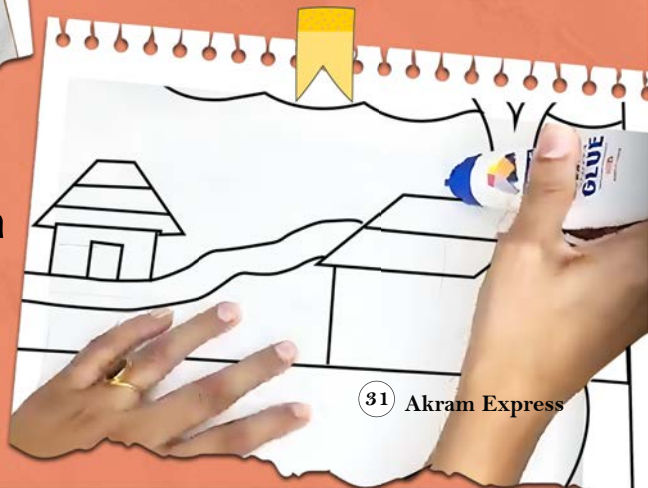
Take a sheet of a stiff A4 sized white paper or cardboard.

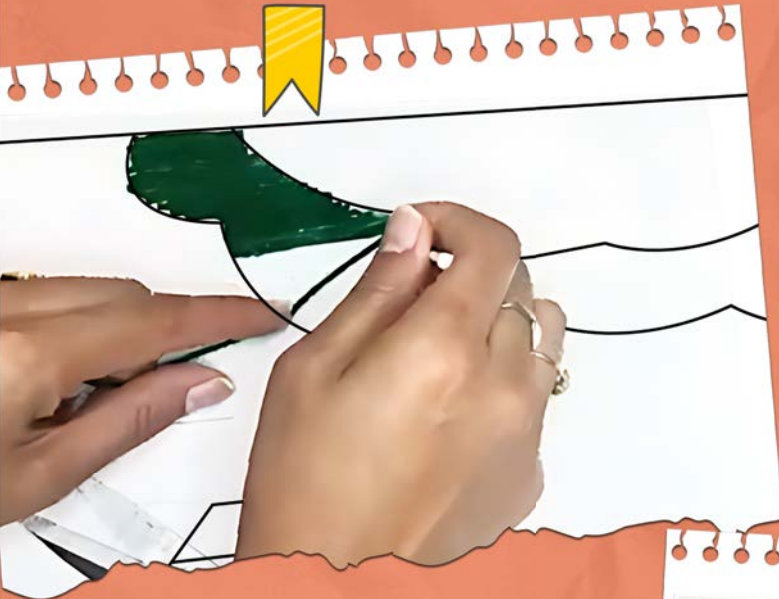


Draw a picture of your choice or copy the design given here.



Take one section at a time and spread the glue.

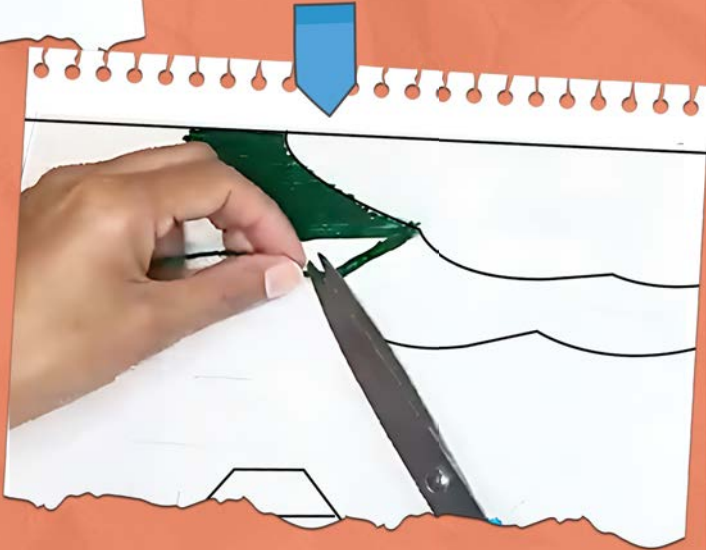




According to your design, stick the appropriate coloured wool over the section that has glue.



Stick the wool line by line, cutting each line to follow the shape of the section.



Once you have filled out the section, lightly press down the wool. Then repeat the above process for each section of your design.



Your coloured wool painting is ready!

