

talk
to
me!

LET'S TALK EMPOWERMENT. LET'S TALK ENGLISH

Moments

1.The Lost Child

by

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1. Summary

This is a short story about a child who went to a fair with his parents and, like any normal child, wanted to buy many of the goodies he saw there. His parents always refused. The child was so fascinated by everything he saw and heard at the fair, that he lagged behind his parents and got separated from them. Once he realised he was lost, the child panicked and started crying for his father and mother.

A kind person picked up the child and tried to console him by offering him all the things he had wanted earlier. But now the child did not want anything.

He kept crying and saying "I want my father; I want my mother." All his earlier desires disappeared, and his only desire was to be reunited with his parents.

2. Something Interesting

Have you ever seen a snake charmer? Click on the link below to see one.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jGRpwOb4s4E>

Snake charming was banned in India in 1972, as part of the Wildlife Protection Act. The law prohibits residents from keeping or using wild animals for making money.

Fun fact: Snakes don't have ears, and so the "charming" sounds of a snake charmer's instrument don't actually do anything to the animal. Instead, snakes respond to the movement of the snake charmer's instrument, called a "been".

Have you seen a mustard field in bloom? Click on the link below to see one.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6IHNvHBAD10>

The leaves of the mustard plant are eaten as 'sarson ka sag', especially during the winter months in North India. The seeds of the mustard plant are pressed to get mustard oil.

3. Vocabulary

1. **Fair** - mela
There are many food stalls at the **fair**.
2. **Excited** - very happy, enthusiastic and eager
We were very **excited** to see our friends.
3. **Displayed** - shown
The shopkeeper **displayed** the most beautiful dress in the shop window.
4. **Alleys** - pathway, lane
The child knew every **alley** in his village.
5. **Emerged** - appeared
A small cat **emerged** from the corner of the road.
6. **Gaily clad humanity** - Joyfully dressed people
On the festival of Diwali, **gaily clad humanity** throngs the markets.
7. **Brimming** - full
Her eyes were **brimming** with tears when the teacher scolded her.
8. **Lagged** - walking behind
When we were walking, our friend **lagged** behind and soon we lost him.
9. **Fascinated** - charmed
Children are often **fascinated** by shiny jewels.
10. **Hurried** - quickly, rushed
We **hurried** to the hospital when our friend fainted.
11. **Obedient** - dutiful, listens to parents
My sister is always **obedient** and respectful to our elders.
12. **Lingering** - lasting
The **lingering** fragrance of the flowers still filled the room.
13. **Receding** - fading, going back
He covered his **receding** hairline with a cap.

14. **Suppress** - crush
Mothers often **suppress** their own desires but give their children what they need.
15. **Desire** - strongly wish for or want something
My strongest **desire** is to do well in my exams.
16. **Tyrant** - dictator
The **tyrant's** cruelty and suppression led to rebellion by the people.
17. **Tender** - showing gentleness
He was so kind and **tender** with his sick brother when he was ill.
18. **Gaudy** – unpleasantly bright in colour or decoration
He did not expect to receive such a **gaudy** gift.
19. **Intercepting** – stopping someone or something before they are able to reach a particular place
The police have put up blockades and are **intercepting** all vehicles.
20. **Gaze** - watch, look
The children **gazed** at the firecrackers in astonishment.
21. **Still** - stop
The scared person stood **still** like a statue.
22. **Fluttering** - moving with a light irregular or trembling motion
She complained that her heart was **fluttering** constantly.
23. **Flapping** - move (wings) up and down when flying or preparing to fly
The bird in the cage started **flapping** its wings when the children teased it.
24. **Cautionary** - warning
Cigarette packets are supposed to carry a **cautionary** health message.
25. **Gaily** - happily
The boy hopped around **gaily**.
26. **Abreast** - alongside
The soldiers marching **abreast** at the Republic Day parade are very impressive.
27. **Teeming** - jam packed
The movie hall was **teeming** with teenagers.

28. **Grove** - an area covered with trees
A mango **grove** provides welcome shade in summers.
29. **Gather** - collect
The child tried to **gather** as many candies as he could.
30. **Dove** – a type of bird from the same family as pigeons
On our way to our hotel, we saw a flock of **doves** flying high.
31. **Caper** – something like singing or dancing, that is done to entertain others or as a joke
The young man was entertaining the audience with comic **capers**.
32. **Throngs** - crowd
A **throng** of police officers surrounded the criminal.
33. **Converging** - meeting
It was hard to enter the Ram Lila grounds because crowds were **converging** there.
34. **Whirlpool** - quickly rotating water in the river
The **whirlpool** is so strong that it can suck in a large boat.
35. **Repelled** - force away
Indian soldiers **repelled** all attempts by terrorists to enter India.
36. **Confusion** - uncertainty about what is happening, intended, or required
During the storm, there was a lot of **confusion** about the departure time of the trains.
37. **Sweetmeats** - sweets (candies, cakes, pastries, preserves) used to be called **sweetmeats**. Today this word is not so commonly used.
Indians love to eat **sweetmeats** after each meal.
38. **Murmured** - a low continuous background noise
The class fell silent, but as soon as the teacher turned away the **murmuring** resumed.
39. **Heeded** - paid attention to
He always **heeded** his father's advice.
40. **Irresistibly** - too attractive and tempting to be resisted
I am **irresistibly** drawn to a beautiful painting.

41. **Heaped** - put objects one over another
After the Management Committee meeting was over, all the chairs were **heaped** together in a corner.
42. **Overwhelming** - having a strong emotional effect
His **overwhelming** love for food has made him fat.
43. **Possess** - own
My brother **possesses** a motor cycle.
44. **Coiled** - arranged in a series of circles
The **coiled** wires on top of the wall prevent people jumping into the garden.
45. **Invisible** - cannot be seen
Many stars in the sky are **invisible** to the naked eye.
46. **Rippling** - moving in a way that looks like small waves
When I threw a stone in the lake, the water started **rippling**.
47. **Forbidden** - not allowed
He was **forbidden** from entering the school.
48. **Coarse** - rough
The **coarse** cloth did not find any buyers.
49. **Shrieked** - to make a high pitched noise
The women **shrieked** when the robber waved a pistol at them.
50. **Intently** - with attention
Students must listen to the teacher **intently**.
51. **Jerk** - a quick sharp movement
He **jerked** open the zip of the bag and all its contents spilled out.
52. **Fierce** - very aggressive or angry
The **fierce** look on the thief's face scared all of us.
53. **Flushed** - red and hot, typically as the result of illness or strong emotion
Her face **flushed** with excitement when she met her favourite actor.
54. **Convulsed** - uncontrolled contraction of muscle
A bad cough **convulsed** her whole body.

55. **Panic-stricken** – very scared
He was **panic-stricken** when the dog chased him.
56. **Hither thither** - in various disorganized directions
The crowd start running **hither** and **thither** when the police started firing at them.
57. **Wailed** - cried in grief
He **wailed** loudly when his father died.
58. **Rage** - very angry
My father was in a **rage** when he found that his wallet had been stolen.
59. **Defeated** - lost a battle or argument or game
India was **defeated** in the final of the World Cup.
60. **Suppressed** - forcibly put an end to something
The police **suppressed** the rising protests.
61. **Sobs** - noisy cry, taking in deep breaths
He **sobbed** bitterly after his dog got lost.
62. **Patch** - a small area that is different in some way from the area that surrounds it
There were **patches** of green among the drying grass.
63. **Shrine** - holy place
The Golden Temple is a famous **shrine** in Amritsar.
64. **Congested** - crowded
The metro was very **congested** yesterday since there was a taxi strike.
65. **Jostled** - pushed by elbows
The fans **jostled** around the cricketers to get their autographs.
66. **Hefty** - heavy
The bank guard was a tall and **hefty** man.
67. **Struggled** – tried very hard to do something difficult
Mohan **struggled** to solve the difficult maths problem.
68. **Trampled** - crushed
The dog **trampled** all the flowers as he ran around the garden.

69. **Surging** - rising
During the tsunami, the waves were **surging** up to ten feet.
70. **Steered** - to control the direction of a vehicle or situation
He **steered** his motorbike away from the potholes in the road.
71. **Bitterly** - severely
He was **bitterly** hurt by his friend's betrayal.
72. **Soothe** - calm
The mother held her baby tight to **soothe** her during the thunderstorm.
73. **Shrill** – a shrill sound is very high, loud, and often unpleasant
The two women were fighting in front of their house in **shrill** voices.
74. **Pleaded** - requested
He **pleaded** with the audience to turn off their cell phones.
75. **Double-pitched strain** – loud screams
Rohan's **double-pitched strain** demanding an ice-cream could be heard outside the house.
76. **Distract** - prevent from concentrating on something
Nothing can **distract** her once she decides to do something.
77. **Persuasively** - convincingly
He won the debate because he argued **persuasively**, and with great confidence.
78. **Bore** - carry
He **bore** the weight of the box on his shoulder.
79. **Reiterated** - repeated
The teacher **reiterated** his arguments to convince his students that they must stop smoking.
80. **Humour** – to do what someone wants so that they do not become upset or annoyed
I tried to **humour** the child by pretending to be an elephant with a long trunk.
81. **Disconsolate** - very unhappy
He was **disconsolate** when he saw he had failed his exams.

4. Questions

1. What are the things the child sees on his way to the fair? Why does he lag behind?
2. In the fair he wants many things. What are they? Why does he move on without waiting for an answer?
3. When does he realise that he has lost his way? How have his anxiety and insecurity been described?
4. Why does the lost child lose interest in the things that he had wanted earlier?
5. *What* do you think happens in the end? Does the child find his parents?

5. Talk About It

How to ensure not to get lost

6. Suggested Reading

- *The Coolie* by Mulk Raj Anand
- 'Kabuliwallah' by Rabindranath Tagore