



976CH05

## LET'S BEGIN

You have read the story 'The Snake and the Mirror'. Now read the poems given in the textbook, *Beehive*, 'The Snake Trying' (page 125) and 'Green Snake' (page 126).

- Note the actions of these three snakes.
- Note the reactions of the story writer and the poets. What do they feel?
- Do you think any of the snakes wanted to do any harm?
- What is the human behaviour towards them?

Discuss all these points with your partner and together share with your other friends.

### READING COMPREHENSION

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.

#### **Text I**

##### **THE MIRACULOUS ESCAPE**

I had been very wealthy and prosperous and was leading a very comfortable life. I had all the worldly pleasures with me. But soon I became bored of my idle life. The urge to go on a voyage became stronger and stronger day by day. It haunted me like anything. So one day I boarded a ship and went trading from island to island with other merchants.

When we started, the weather was fine and the sea was calm. But on the fourth day of our voyage, our ship was caught in a terrific/terrible hurricane and we wandered from our set course. The tempest continued for several days and drove us near an island. The captain of the ship

was reluctant to cast anchor at the port as it was a much dreaded place.

The violent waves of the sea had exhausted us. We were all tired and hungry so we went in search of food and water. We were fortunate enough to find fruit trees and a stream of fresh and cool water which gave us strength and energy and relieved us from hunger.

*rustle:* make a soft, muffled crackling sound like that caused by the movement of dry leaves or paper

It had started getting dark. As we were tired we went to sleep but were soon startled by a rustling noise which came from a very long and huge python like serpent gliding swiftly towards us. We ran to save our lives but the serpent was quick enough to swallow one of my companions. We kept running till we had covered a good enough distance from the serpent. We felt a bit relieved but at the same time sad as we had lost a friend of ours. We took shelter on the top of a tree and thought ourselves to be safe.

*alarm:* a warning of danger

But we were mistaken for we had hardly slept a little time when we heard a hissing sound which alarmed and frightened us. Coiling itself round the tree, the serpent reached my other companion who was positioned somewhat lower than me on the tree. It swallowed him and went away. Terror stricken I clung to the branch of the tree tightly and I did not know when I fell asleep. It was daylight when I awoke. I climbed down. It seemed to me that I had no courage left. It took me no time to realise that if I would not think of a way to escape soon, I would be a dead man. It was just a matter of time when I would also be swallowed like my two other companions. The instinct to prevent one's life is greater than any fear or frustration.

*penetrate:* force a way into or through

I thought I should spare no means to save myself. I collected a lot of dry wood and bushes and tied them into a bundle with reeds. I arranged them in a circular structure round the tree and tied some of them with the branches of the tree. In this way I made a tent like structure in which I sat after dusk and securely tied from within. I had the satisfaction that whatever I could do I did it to prevent myself. This time when the serpent arrived he crept round the tree but he could not penetrate the defensive structure I had made around me. It just sat and waited the whole night like a cat that waits for the mouse to emerge out of its hole.



At dawn the serpent crept back but I dared not come out of my fortress. I lay there half dead and almost suffocated.

When the Sun began to shine, I came out of my wooden fortress. I was so desperate that I ran towards the seashore. When I was about to jump into the sea, I saw a ship sailing at some distance. I shouted wildly, I took off my shirt and waved it too, which attracted the sailors on the ship and a rescue boat was immediately sent for me. This was my miraculous escape from the deadly serpent.

(Source: Anonymous)

Discuss what effect did the story have on you? What would you have done, if you were in the narrator's place? Does it teach you how to save yourself from danger? Now based on your reading of the story, answer the questions that follow. You may read the story again.

1. What made the narrator go on a voyage?
  - (a) He was rich and satisfied with his life.
  - (b) He felt bored of his life.
  - (c) He had urge to go on a voyage.
  - (d) He was adventurous.
2. How did the narrator and his friends feed themselves?
  - (a) They ate fish.
  - (b) They could not find anything to eat.
  - (c) They ate fruits to survive.
  - (d) They ate the food they had brought with themselves.
3. The narrator and his companions were on the tree. The serpent swallowed his companion but not the narrator. Why?

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*wildly*: uncontrolled; unrestrained; very enthusiastic or excited



### Fun fact

#### Common Suffixes that make nouns

##### -ation

inform — information  
transform — transformation

##### -ness

ill — illness  
kind — kindness



4. How did the narrator save himself from the serpent?

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5. Find the words in the story which mean the nearest to the words given below.

(a) rich (First para) \_\_\_\_\_

(b) moved (Second para) \_\_\_\_\_

(c) tired (Third para) \_\_\_\_\_

(d) scared (Fifth para) \_\_\_\_\_

(e) urge (Fifth para) \_\_\_\_\_

6. Now find words in the story which mean the opposite of the given words.

(a) poor (First para) \_\_\_\_\_

(b) weak (Third para) \_\_\_\_\_

(c) enforce (Third para) \_\_\_\_\_

(d) insecurely (Sixth para) \_\_\_\_\_

(e) offensive (Sixth para) \_\_\_\_\_

**Fun fact**

**Common Error**

**Incorrect:**

Arti is living far away with India.

**Correct:**

Arti is living far away from India.

**VOCABULARY**

1. The story of Miraculous Escape has a number of words which describe the narrator's feeling of fear and getting tired of the journey. List the words of the two feelings and experiences.

Fear	Getting tired
Terrific, _____,	Exhausted, _____,
_____, _____,	_____, _____,
_____, _____,	_____, _____,
_____, _____,	_____, _____,



2. Can you now add suffix which can mean or relate to the word 'fear'? First one has been done for you.

Fear	
(a) fearsome	(e) fear _____
(b) fear _____	(f) fear _____
(c) fear _____	(g) fear _____
(d) fear _____	(h) fear _____

**GRAMMAR**

**Reported Speech:** Reporting questions

1. You have learnt how to report questions from direct to indirect speech. Here is a paragraph with direct speech questions. Read them carefully and report into indirect speech. Rewrite the paragraph in the space given below.

Once an old man asked a young boy, "Who do you think are the most intelligent people?" The young man said in return, "Who do you think so?" The old man said, "How can sons and daughters be intelligent without learning from their parents?" The young man said, "How did you as a parent learn?" The old man said, "Why are you hijacking my question by asking me back?" The young man said, "Didn't you know that you as a parent, now have learnt all the things on your own?" The old man said, "How do you say that we all learnt from others?" The young man said, "Why do you ask me about how to operate electronic gadget all the time?" The old man said, "Why can't I ask you because I have paid for the gadget you use?"

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**Fun fact**

**It's / Its**

**Incorrect:**

I do believe its her hard work.

**Correct:**

I do believe it's her hard work.

**Incorrect:**

The dog is waving it's tail.

**Correct:**

The dog is waving its tail.



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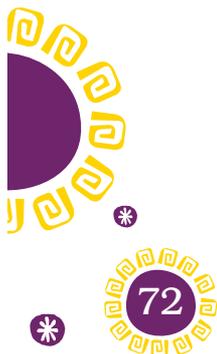
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2. Now here is a set of sentences given in indirect speech. Change them into direct speech.

Indirect Speech	Direct Speech
(a) Romesh asked Lata whether she could go with him for a picnic the next day.	(a) Romesh
(b) Lata replied why had he asked her to join.	(b) Lata
(c) Romesh asked Lata why she was questioning him.	(c) Romesh
(d) Lata replied there was no use visiting the place she had seen before.	(d) Lata
(e) Romesh asked Lata what was wrong in visiting the same place again for the place was not the same.	(e) Romesh

 **EDITING**

1. Some of the prepositions are incorrectly used in the following story. Correct them and read the story aloud. Then rewrite the story in the space given below.





2. Rearrange each set of words to make sentences. Use appropriate punctuation marks.

(a) when I gave her, the bad news, she turned pale

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(b) become rotten, as it has, the apple, don't eat

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(c) great friends, last quarrel, after their, they became

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(d) first and only novel, after her, got a prize, she became famous

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### Fun fact

#### Accept / Except

Accept is a verb which means "to receive".

Except is used as a preposition and means "not including".

#### Incorrect:

Sandhya excepted her student's offer to drive her home.

#### Correct:

Sandhya accepted her student's offer to drive her home.

#### Incorrect:

The paper submissions can be done on weekdays, accept Mondays.

#### Correct:

The paper submissions can be done on weekdays, except Mondays.

### \* LISTENING

How brave are you? Take a minute to think over this question. There are people who risk their lives to save someone's life from danger. Here is a child who dared and saved lives. Let us listen to the story of a braveheart.

#### The Brave Hearts

On October 26, 2009, Jhalaram's hut in the village Sarneshwar in Rajasthan, suddenly caught fire. His two daughters, aged two-and-a-half years and one year, as well as ten goats were in the hut at that time.

Shrawan Kumar, a six-year old boy, was playing in his house at a distance of about 200 feet. Seeing smoke coming out from Jhalaram's house, he ran towards it. He saw the children sitting on a cot and screaming for help, and the goats caught in the flames.

Shrawan entered the house, lifted the younger child in one arm and pulling the older one by the hand, brought them out safely. He took them to his house, then ran to inform his father and the children's father.

The elders rushed to the site. But by that time, the goats had died and the household belongings had been destroyed in the fire. It was Shrawan Kumar's daring act that saved the lives of the two children.

(Shrawan Kumar, 6 years old, Sarneshwar, Rajasthan)  
(Source: *Children's World*, May 2012)

Your teacher will read out the story. Listen to the story carefully and answer the questions below. You may ask the teacher to read out the story more than once.

1. Where is the village of Sarneshwar?

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2. Whose hut had caught fire?

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3. Who all were there in the hut when it caught fire?

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4. Why did Shrawan run towards Jhalaram's house?

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 **Fun fact**

**Spellings**

British	American
Colour	Color
Honour	Honor
Programme	Program
Travelling	Traveling
Fulfil	Fulfill
Centre	Center
Dialogue	Dialog
Grey	Gray



5. How did Shrawan save the two children?

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6. What happened to the goats?

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### Fun fact

#### Superfluous commas

Many times, commas are used liberally even when they are not necessary.

#### Incorrect:

Hari never went into the city, because he did not feel comfortable driving in traffic.

#### Correct:

Hari never went into the city because he did not feel comfortable driving in traffic.

#### Incorrect:

Roma wants to get a degree in Fine Arts, or Music.

#### Correct:

Roma wants to get a degree in Fine Arts or Music.

#### Incorrect:

The book on the table, belongs to Sara.

#### Correct:

The book on the table belongs to Sara.

### \* SPEAKING

Imagine yourself as the narrator in the story 'The Miraculous Escape' and describe your experience during your voyage. Jot down the points you want to speak on. Then narrate your experience to your partner. You may begin like this:

I have been thinking of going on a voyage. And here came the opportunity to sail on a ship! I enjoyed the blue sea, the silence all around, amazing sunrise for a week. Then suddenly one day.....

#### Your points:

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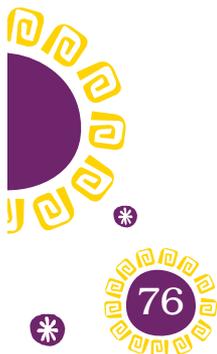
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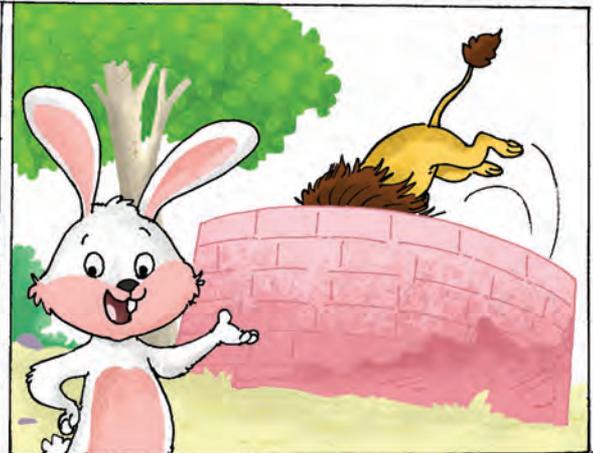
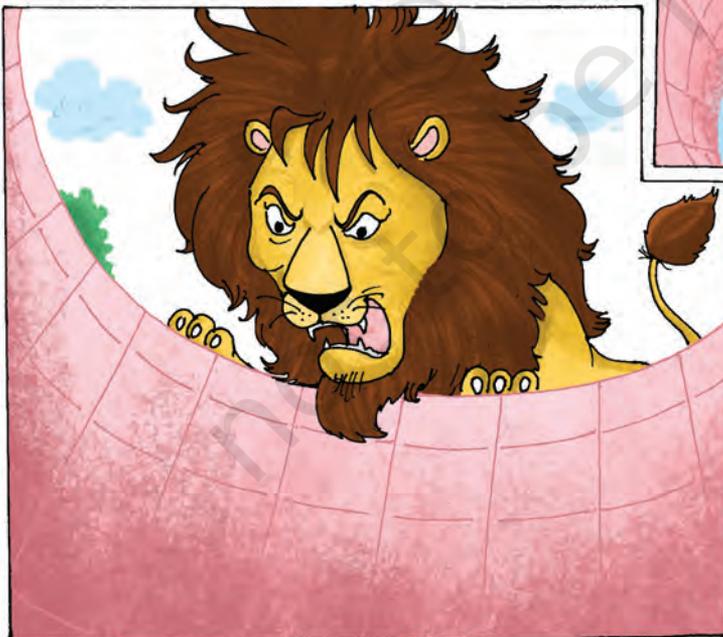
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### \* WRITING

1. A group of pictures are given here. They make a story. This story is from the *Tales of Panchatantra*.









(Source: <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/national-bravery-awards-2018-meet-the-18-bravehearts-of-india-1802479>)

## PROJECT

1. The stories of 'The Snake and the Mirror' and 'The Miraculous Escape' show how people face danger and are scared of animals. As children, many of us fear stray dogs. Both adults and children are scared of snakes. Fear exists in most of us. Some fears have bases and others do not. Let us conduct a survey of what people fear about. You may follow the guidelines given below.

- Form groups of four, and select an area for your survey. It may be your classmates, teachers or people in your neighbourhood.
- Develop a questionnaire to collect information about the fears people have. You may have at least eight to ten questions.
- Decide how many people you will ask the questions for the survey.
- Ask people the questions.
- Write their opinions in tabular form.
- Now write the first draft of the report.
- You may add graphic representations of the information and the data collected.
- Edit and write the report to make it final.
- Present it in a report form to the class.
- You can also make a PowerPoint presentation.