

FABLES AND FOLK TALES



0673CH01



A BOTTLE OF DEW

Let us do these activities before we read.

1. Circle the picture that matches with each word. Check your answers by sharing them with your classmates and teacher.

(a) worried



(b) plantation



(c) sage



(d) surprise



2. Answer these questions and discuss them with your classmates and teacher.
 - (a) Think of a time when you worked hard. What did you do then?
 - (b) How did it help you?
 - (c) How did it make you feel?



Let us read

I

Rama Natha was the son of a rich landlord. His father left him **large tracts of land** when he died. But Rama Natha did not spend even one day looking after his land. This was because he had a funny idea—he believed there was a magic **potion** that could turn any object into gold. He spent all his time to learn more about this potion. People cheated him often, promising to tell him about it, but he did not **give up**. His wife, Madhumati, was tired of this and also worried because she saw how much money Rama Natha was spending. She was sure that soon they would be without money.

One day, a famous sage called Mahipati came to their town. Rama Natha became his follower and asked him about the potion. To his surprise the sage answered, “Yes, in my travels in the Himalayas, I heard how you could make such a potion. But it is difficult.”

“Tell me!” requested Rama Natha, not believing his luck.

“You have to plant a banana plant and water it regularly with your hands. In winter, the morning **dew** is on the leaves. You have to collect the dew and store it in a bottle. When you have five litres of dew, bring it to me. I will **chant** some magic words, which will turn it into the magic potion. A drop of the potion will change any object into gold.”

large tracts of land: large areas of land

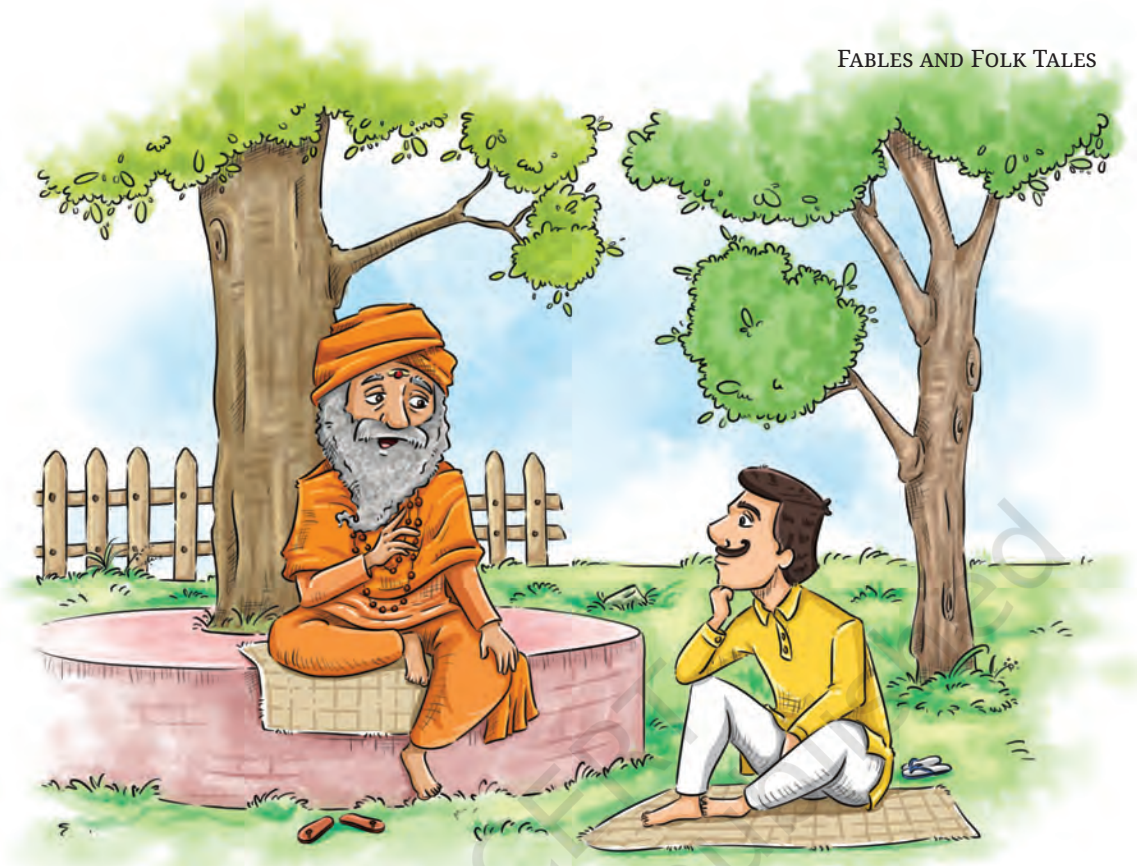
potion: a liquid with magical properties

give up: stop trying

dew: small drops of water on leaves that form during night



chant: to repeat or sing a word or phrase



Rama Natha was worried. “But winter is only for a few months. It will take me years to collect five litres of dew.”

“You can plant as many banana plants as you want. But remember, you must look after them yourself and collect the dew with your own hands.”

Let us discuss

1. What did Rama Natha believe?
2. How did the sage help Rama Natha?
3. Do you think Rama Natha will be able to collect the dew? Give a reason.



II

Rama Natha went home, and after talking to his wife started cleaning his large fields, which had been lying empty all these years. There he planted rows and rows of banana plants. He **tended** them carefully and during the winter months collected the dew that formed on them with great care. His wife helped him too. Madhumati gathered the banana crop, took it to the market and got a good price for it. Over the years, Rama Natha planted more and more plants and they had a huge banana plantation. At the end of six years, he finally had his five litres of dew.

tended:
looked after



Carefully, he took the bottle to the sage. The sage smiled and **muttered** something over the water. Then he returned the bottle and said, “Try it out.” Rama Natha sprinkled a few drops on a copper vessel and waited for it to turn to gold. To his surprise nothing happened!

“This is cheating,” he told the sage. “I have wasted six **precious** years of my life.”

But sage Mahipati only smiled and called Madhumati to come forward. She came with a big box. When she opened it, inside shined stacks of gold coins!

Now the sage turned to the very surprised Rama Natha and said, “There is no magic potion that can turn things into gold. You worked hard on your land and created this plantation. While you looked after the trees, your wife sold the fruits in the market. That’s how you got this money. It was your hard work that created this wealth, not magic. If I had told you about this earlier, you would have not listened to me, so I have played a trick on you.”

Rama Natha understood the **wisdom** behind these words and worked even harder on his plantation from that day on.

SUDHA MURTY

muttered:
spoke in a low
voice

precious:
valuable

wisdom: deep
understanding

Let us discuss

1. Why was Rama Natha angry?
2. How did Rama Natha and Madhumati create wealth?





Let us think and reflect

1. Read the following lines and answer the questions that follow.

(a) *He spent all his time to learn about the magic potion. People cheated him often, promising to tell him about it, but he did not give up. His wife, Madhumati, was tired of this and also worried because she saw how much money Rama Natha was spending. She was sure that soon they would be without money.*

(i) Complete the sentence with a suitable reason.

Rama Natha did not 'give up' because _____.

(ii) Read the column which shows 'what happened' and write the correct outcome in the next column.

What Happened	Outcome
a. People promised to tell Rama Natha about the magic potion.	
b. Rama Natha was spending a lot of money.	

(iii) Write whether the following statements are True or False.

a. Madhumati was troubled about what her husband did.

☐

b. Rama Natha was very happy digging his fields.

☐

c. The sage wanted to show the right path to Rama Natha.

☐

(b) *Carefully, he took the bottle to the sage. The sage smiled and muttered something over the water. Then he returned the bottle and said, "Try it out." Rama Natha sprinkled a few drops on a copper vessel and waited for it to turn to gold. To his surprise nothing happened!*

(i) Choose the option that lists the events given below in the correct order.

a. The sage smiled.



- b. Rama Natha gave the bottle to the sage.
- c. Rama Natha dropped a few drops of water on a copper vessel.
- d. He said something in a low voice over the water.
- e. Rama Natha waited to see if the magic worked.

1. a, e, d, b, c

2. b, a, d, c, e

3. c, d, a, b, e

4. a, d, b, e, c

- (ii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the lines given above.

Seeing that the plant had dried up, the gardener _____ some water on it.

- (iii) How might Rama Natha have felt when nothing happened to the copper vessel?

2. Answer the following questions.

- (a) What did the sage ask Rama Natha to do to make the magic potion?
- (b) Why did the sage ask Rama Natha to do everything himself?
- (c) How could Rama Natha have a big banana plantation after six years?
- (d) How did the sage make Rama Natha believe that there is no magic potion?
- (e) Fill in the 'before' and 'after' table about Rama Natha.

What he did before meeting the sage	What he did after meeting the sage
1.	1.
2.	2.





Let us learn

1. Read the following words from the story.

promised	spending	cheated	luck
remember	huge	difficult	market

Use the words correctly to complete the paragraph given below. There are two extra words in the box that you do not need.

There was a farmer who had a _____ coconut plantation. He worked hard and did not depend on _____. Every day was _____ but he did not give up. One day, a man bought a bag of coconuts from him, and _____ to pay him the money the next day. Days passed and the man did not pay him anything. The farmer felt _____. About two months later, he met the same man and asked him about his money. The man said, “Oh! I had forgotten. Now, I _____ buying coconuts from you.” And he paid the money.

2. Read the words from the story in Column A. Read the new words in Column B. Complete the meanings of the words given in Column B. Meanings of some words are given.

Column A	Column B	Meaning of words in Column B
I	eye	
your	you're	short form of 'you are'
dew	due	happening at some time in the future
son	sun	
one	won	past tense of win
ate	eight	
see	sea	

The words given in each row of the table above have the same sounds but different spellings and meanings. Such words are called **homophones**.

3. Choose four pairs of homophones from the table above, and for each pair write a sentence that uses both homophones in the same sentence. Check your answers by sharing them with your teacher and classmates. An example has been given below:

I ate eight bananas for breakfast today.

4. Match the phrases in Column A with the phrases in Column B. Use the connecting words given in the middle column to make meaningful sentences.

Column A	Connecting Words	Column B
The children submitted their work (When?)	because	the bell rang.
He did not want to try rock climbing (Why?)	before	there was a traffic jam.
The children ran towards the gate (When?)	as soon as	the deadline.
Nitin was late to school today (Why?)	as	of his fear of heights.

Now, write the new sentences in your notebook.

5. Here are two sentences with letter 'b'.

Read them slowly the first time. As you read them a few more times, read them faster each time.

Bunty bhaiya bought a big bunch of bananas.

A big bunch of bananas was bought by Bunty bhaiya.

Now, try to create a tongue twister on your own and share it with your peers.





Let us listen

You will listen to what Madhumati does with the bananas in her plantation. As you listen, number the events in the correct order in which they happen. Write the number in the box beside each event. (refer to page 36 for transcript)

- (a) Gives two bananas to a boy who is hungry
- (b) Meets her friend Kalawati in the market
- (c) Visits her mother and gives her two dozen bananas
- (d) Chooses to go home as only some bananas were left
- (e) Visits her neighbour and gifts them a bunch of bananas
- (f) Gives twelve bananas to her friend
- (g) Goes to the market to sell the bananas



Let us speak

1. Read aloud the following words from the story.

sage promising wisdom trees surprise

All these words have the letter 's' in them. But the sound of letter 's' is not always the same.

- in sage and promising – the letter 's' has a /s/ sound
- in wisdom – the letter 's' has a /z/ sound
- in trees – the letter 's' has a /z/ sound
- in surprise – the first letter 's' has a /s/ sound and the second has a /z/ sound

Now, speak each word clearly along with your teacher and classmates. Your teacher will now say some words. Listen carefully to the sound of 's'. Write the sound next to the word.

beds sand clothes sea was keys bags nose

2. Discuss the following questions with a partner. You may use the hints given in brackets while speaking.

(a) What does hard work mean to you?

(It means ... / It is something ... / Well, you see ... /What I mean is ...)

(b) Give three reasons why you think hard work is important.

(Firstly, I feel ... because ... / Secondly, I think ... since ... /Lastly, I believe ... as ...)

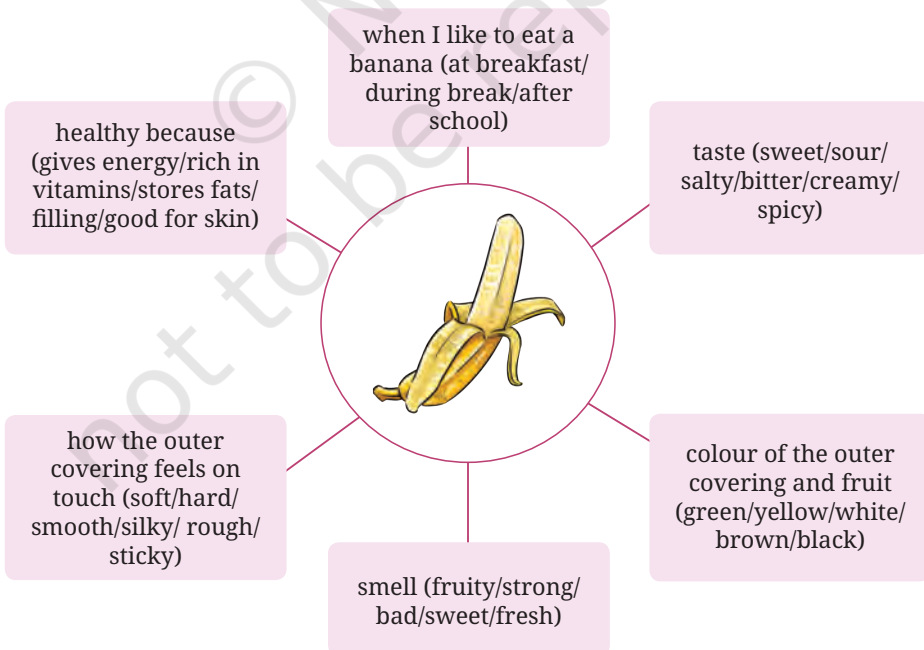
(c) Share three ideas you would give to someone who needs to work hard.

(To begin with, it is important that ... /Next, you could ... / Finally, I think you should ...)



Let us write

1. Work in pairs to complete the description of a banana. You may take the help of the words given in brackets. Share your answers with your classmates and teacher.



Now, use the information given in the picture to write eight sentences about a banana. Share your responses with your classmates and teacher.

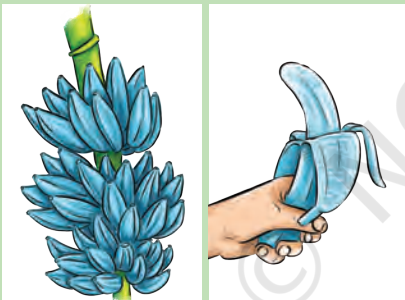
2. On the basis of the story 'A Bottle of Dew' develop a script with dialogues and enact it with expressions. Present it in the assembly or your classroom.



Let us explore

Find out the varieties of bananas which are grown, cultivated and eaten in different parts of India. You can find information about them from websites such as:

<https://nhb.gov.in/pdf/fruits/banana/ban013>



There is a special kind of banana called the Blue Java banana. This banana has got its name from its blue skin. It is also known as Ice Cream banana as it is so creamy and tastes like ice cream. It is grown in South East Asia and Hawaii. These banana plants grow to a height of fifteen to twenty feet.

