

FRIENDSHIP



0673CH02

THE UNLIKELY BEST FRIENDS

Let us do these activities before we read.

1. Friends are an important part of our lives. Why do you think so? Share your ideas with your friend. What do you do when you are with your friends and how do you feel?

Now, complete the following sentences by writing in the shapes given below. Share your completed sentences with your classmates and teacher. One has been done for you.

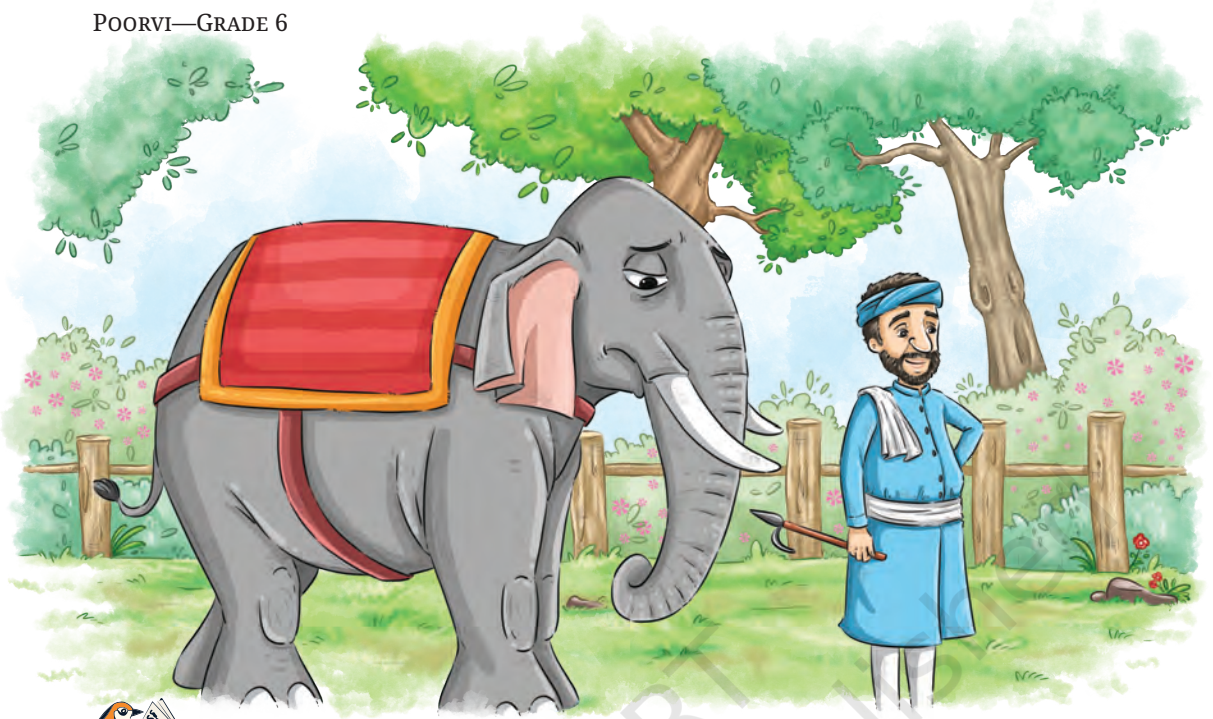
play

With my friend
I _____

happy

With my friend
I feel _____

2. The title of the chapter is 'The Unlikely Best Friends'.
 - (a) What can be the meaning of 'unlikely'? Discuss in groups, and then discuss with your teacher.
 - (b) Can you think of some unlikely friends? Share your answer with your teacher.



Let us read

I

Gajaraj, the elephant, lived in the best **booth** of the royal **stables**. The king was fond of Gajaraj, and he had ordered that the elephant should be well looked after.

In spite of royal comforts, Gajaraj was sad because he had no friends. The mahout, or elephant trainer, was the only one he ever **interacted with**. The mahout was a kind man who served Gajaraj food, and gave him a bath in the elephant pond daily. He was a good caretaker, but not a friend.

“I wish I had a friend I can play with,” thought Gajaraj. One late evening, a dog **strayed** into the stable. Gajaraj could see that the visitor was tired and hungry. He pushed

booth:

rectangular space

stables: living spaces for animals

interacted with:

communicated with

strayed: came by mistake

some of the food he was **munching** towards the dog. The visitor **wagged** his tail, looked up at the elephant to **convey** his thanks, and then turned his full attention to the food in front of him. As soon as he finished eating, he fell asleep.

The next morning, the mahout found the stray dog in the stable. He did not mind the dog. He also noticed that Gajaraj seemed to like the company. So, he threw some **crumbs** to the dog, which the animal accepted wagging his tail.

When the elephant went out for a bath, the dog **accompanied** his friend. **Plunging** into the water, the elephant gave himself a shower using his long **trunk**, as the dog watched. The elephant took a trunkful of water and playfully **splashed** the water on his friend. The dog **yelped** for he hated taking showers. The mahout laughed.

munching:

chewing

wagged: moved from side to side

convey: communicate

crumbs: small pieces of food

accompanied: went with someone

plunging: jumping in

trunk: long nose

splashed: threw

yelped: cried



On their way home, the elephant picked up the dog with his trunk and placed him on his back. The dog was **delighted** to get a ride.

A farmer passing by saw the dog. “Buntree,” he yelled. The dog ran to him. The farmer **hugged** the dog and told the mahout that he was looking for his dog ever since he **disappeared** from his house. He was glad he found him now. The mahout had no objection to the farmer taking the dog home. The farmer tossed a rope round the neck of the dog, saying, “Come Buntree, let’s go home.”

delighted:
happy

hugged: held
closely

disappeared:
was not seen

Let us discuss

1. Talk about the things that Gajaraj and Buntree did together. Now, write in the shapes given below. One has been done for you.

Buntree and Gajaraj

played

2. Why did the farmer hug Buntree?
3. Do you think Buntree will leave Gajaraj and go home with the farmer?



II

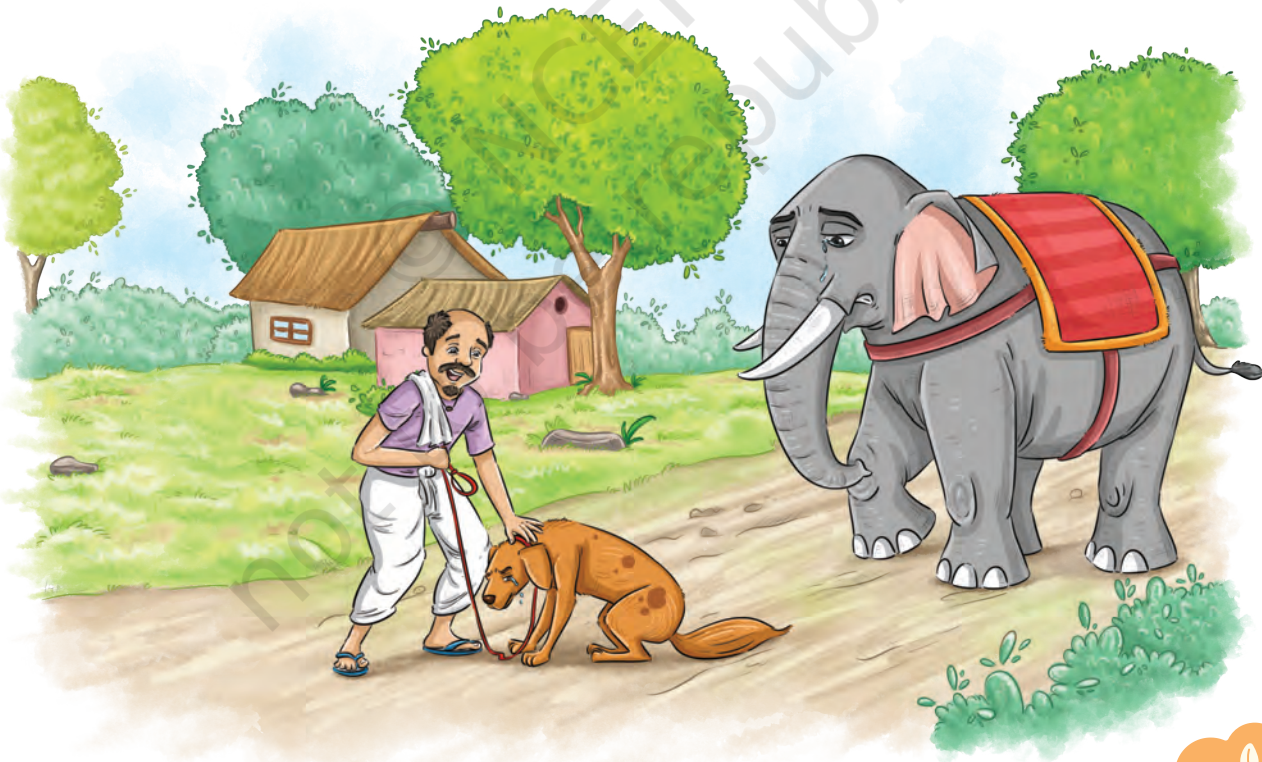
Only when the farmer pulled the rope did the dog **realise** that he was being taken away from his friend. He yelped, the elephant **wincing**, but neither the farmer nor the mahout noticed that the two friends were in tears.

The next day at lunch time the mahout served Gajaraj his favourite food. When the mahout came back after finishing his other **chores**, he was surprised to see that the food had remained untouched.

realise:
understand

wincing: shrunk
back in pain or
distress

chores: daily
duties



“Why Gajaraj, aren’t you hungry?” he asked concerned. The elephant did not react. “He may have **slight indigestion**. Let me not force him to eat,” thought the mahout.

That night too, Gajaraj did not touch his food—nor the next day. Now, the mahout was worried. He ran his hand on Gajaraj’s **tummy** and felt there was nothing wrong. “Why was he not eating then? Is he missing his friend, that dog?” the mahout wondered.

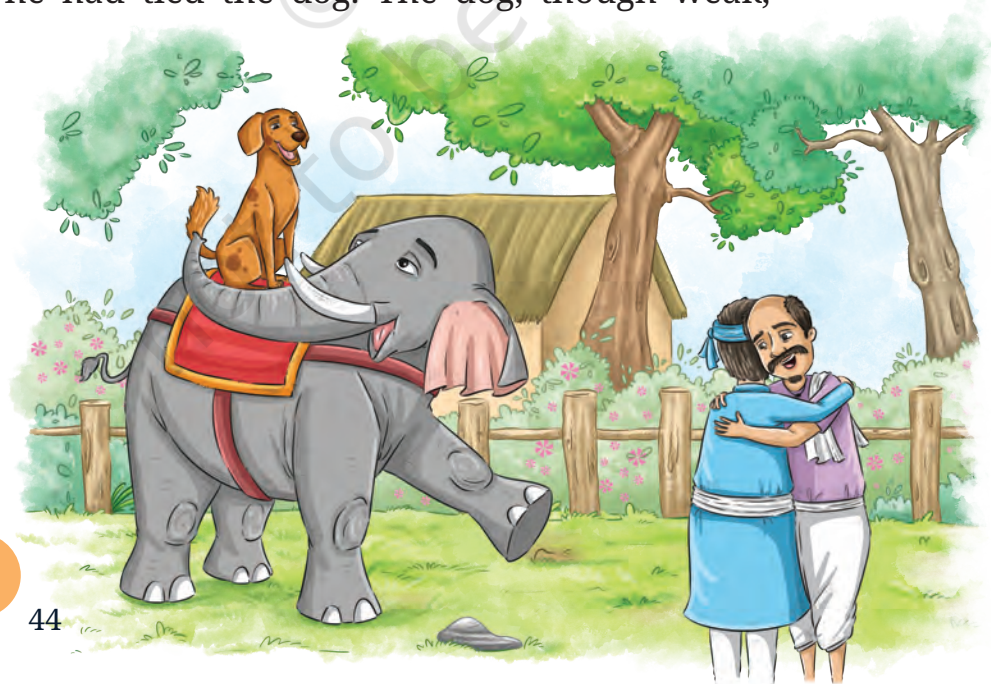
Meanwhile at the farmer’s house, the dog had also not touched his food ever since he was brought home.

“Are you missing your friend?” asked the farmer remembering the happy look on Buntree’s face while sitting on the elephant’s back. “I cannot see you go hungry,” said the farmer, “If you miss your friend so much, go to him.”

The farmer removed the rope with which he had tied the dog. The dog, though weak,

slight: a little
indigestion:
upset stomach

tummy:
stomach



sprang to his feet. He licked the farmer's hand once and then ran. He stopped only when he arrived at the stable.

The elephant picked up the dog with his trunk and gave him a **joyous** swing. The mahout was **relieved**. He quickly brought the food. "Both of you eat first," he said.

By then the farmer who had followed the dog, joined him. The two of them watched with **satisfaction** the two friends eating food. "It's not only Gajaraj who has found a friend," said the mahout hugging the farmer, "I've also found one."

sprang:
jumped

joyous: happy
swing: move side to side or back and forth

relieved:
thankful

satisfaction:
happiness

SUBBA RAO

KATHAKIDS.COM

Let us discuss

1. Why did Gajaraj not eat his food?
2. Who were friends at the end of the story?



Let us think and reflect

1. Read the following lines and answer the questions that follow.
 - (a) *In spite of royal comforts, Gajaraj was sad because he had no friends. The mahout, or elephant trainer, was the only one he ever interacted with. The mahout was a kind man who served Gajaraj food, and gave him a bath in the elephant pond daily. He was a good caretaker, but not a friend.*
 - (i) Complete with one word:
mahout : kind : : Gajaraj : _____



- (ii) The mahout was a good caretaker because he gave _____ to Gajaraj and a _____ in the pond.
- (iii) What do you think is the difference between a friend and a caretaker?
- (b) *“Are you missing your friend?” asked the farmer remembering the happy look on Buntree’s face while sitting on the elephant’s back. “I cannot see you go hungry,” said the farmer; “If you miss your friend so much, go to him.” The farmer removed the rope with which he had tied the dog.*
- (i) The farmer uses the word _____ to refer to the elephant.
- (ii) How did the farmer know that Buntree was hungry?
- (iii) Why did the farmer remove the rope with which he had tied Buntree?
- (iv) Complete with one word:
- Gajaraj : Buntree :: _____ : farmer
2. Give two examples to show that Gajaraj was very happy to have a friend.
3. How did the mahout come to know that Gajaraj was sad?
4. Why do you think Buntree licked the farmer’s hand?
5. What was ‘unlikely’ about the friendship of Gajaraj and Buntree?



Let us learn

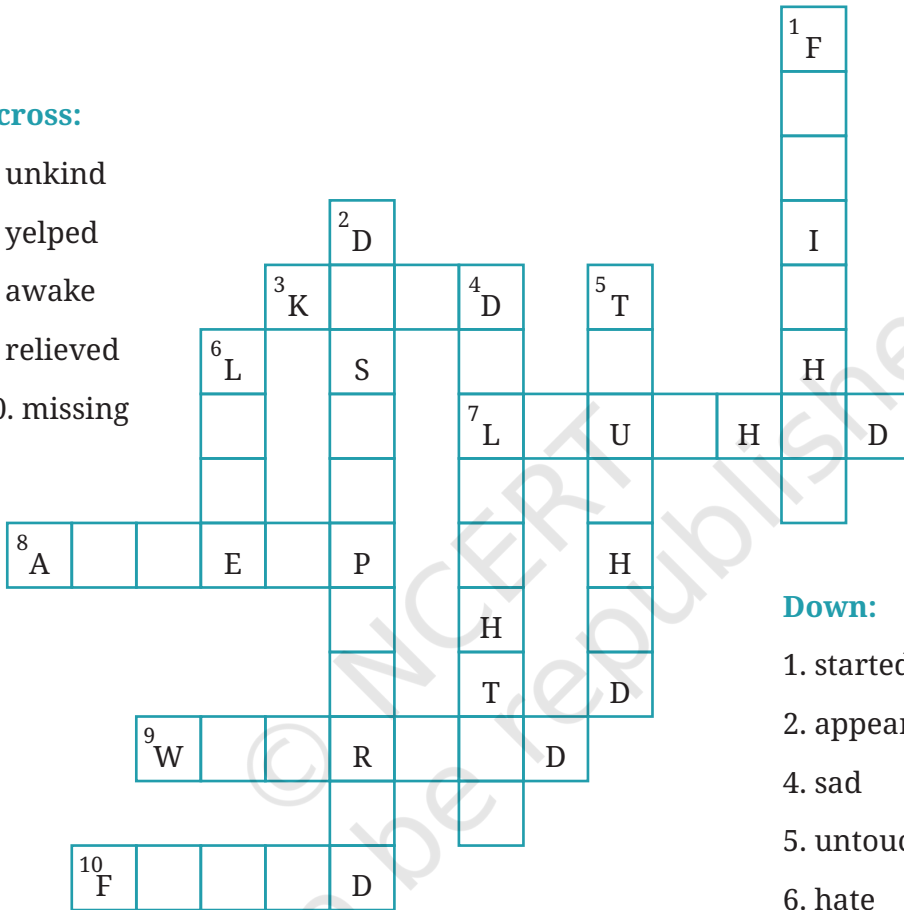
1. Gajaraj was **sad** without a friend and when he met Buntree, he was filled with **joy**. ‘Sad’ and ‘filled with joy’ are opposites. Opposites can also be formed by adding some letters before a word. For example, un- unhappy, in- incorrect, dis- disconnect, mis- misuse.

Now, take help from the words given as hints and fill up their opposites in the puzzle. (Note: All the words are from the story you have just read.)

We are opposites!

Across:

- 3. unkind
- 7. yelped
- 8. awake
- 9. relieved
- 10. missing



Down:

- 1. started
- 2. appeared
- 4. sad
- 5. untouched
- 6. hate

2. Now, complete the paragraph with some of the words you have used in the puzzle.

My pencil was _____. I was very _____ as it was a gift from my friend. I woke up my elder brother who was _____ on the bed. I told him that my pencil seemed to have _____. He _____ and told me to look under my pillow. I was _____ when I _____ the pencil there.



3. The words that tell us about an action are called verbs. In the story, the author tells us what happened before. To do that, the past form of the action word (verb) is used. Let us learn about the three forms of past tense.

Simple Past Tense	Past Progressive Tense	Past Perfect Tense
Used to show that the action had happened earlier. second form of the verb + add -d or -ed to the verb	Used to show that the action did not finish and was going on. - I/He/She/It + was + verb + ing - We/You/They + were + verb + ing	Used to show that the action was completed. had + third form of the verb

Given below are some verbs from the story. Put the verbs in their correct column in the table given above.

- was looking
- looked
- gave
- had ordered
- was missing
- hated
- had followed
- noticed
- was munching
- went
- had remained
- served
- told
- asked
- felt
- touched
- had tied
- joined
- arrived
- threw



Select the correct form of the verb to complete the passage. Check your answers with the teacher.

The farmer came back and _____ (noticed/was noticing/had noticed) that Buntree was sad. He _____ (tied/ was tying/had tied) Buntree with a rope the day before. He _____ (asked/was asking/had asked) Buntree why he was sad. Farmer _____ (felt/was feeling/had felt) that Buntree _____ (missed/was missing/had missed) Gajaraj and set him free.

4. '...neither the farmer nor the mahout noticed that the two friends were in tears.'

The words 'neither', 'nor' are used to state that the farmer and the mahout did not notice the same thing. 'Neither, nor' connect two negative choices. For example: Neither Rohit nor I want to play football.

When you need to choose between two things that you want, you may use 'either, or'. For example: Rohit wants to play either cricket or kho-kho. It means Rohit wants to play cricket or Rohit wants to play kho-kho. Discuss the given sentences with your teacher to practice.

- Neither Shikha nor Anuj like to tell stories.
- Either Bhavesh or Abha made this painting.



Let us listen

1. You will listen to a story about 'Unlikely Friends'. Use exact words from the story to fill up the missing details in the paragraph. (refer to page 71 for transcript)

The leopard is a _____ animal but it became a friend of a cow. When the leopard grew up, it left the village. It came in the _____ to meet the cow. The leopard would sit _____ the cow. They also played together. _____ were surprised at their friendship.



Unlikely friends

2. Now, listen to the story again and number the sentences in correct order. The first one has been done for you.

	The leopard stopped coming regularly.
1	The cow took care of the leopard cub as a mother.
	The leopard came to meet the cow at night.
	The leopard left the village after growing up.



Let us speak

Gajaraj and Buntree had a wonderful time with each other even if they were 'unlikely' friends. Talk to your friend and find out your common likes and dislikes. Share your answers with the class.

I am _____ I like: • _____ • _____	Both of us like: • _____ • _____	My friend is _____ My friend likes: • _____ • _____
---	--	--

Now, tell your classmates about your friend. You may take help of the cues given below.

- My friend and I like to play. Both of us want _____.
- I like to _____ but my friend likes to _____.
- We are different as she/he is _____ and I am _____.





Let us write

Write six sentences about your friend with the help of the facts collected in the above task. Mention how you are not only similar but also different. You may take help of the words given below.

same	different	and	but
both	still	like	unlike
neither	nor	either	or



Let us explore

1. The story, 'The Elephant and the Dog' is found in the **Jataka tales**. These stories are ancient Buddhist stories of life values and wisdom. These stories have been told from one generation to the next for over two thousand years. Find and read another Jataka story.
2. Elephants have historically held significant roles in Indian culture, spanning history, warfare, religion, festivals and more. However, contemporary ecological challenges have strained the relationship between humans and elephants. Have a discussion in the class.
3. Given below is a news report from an Elephant Sanctuary in the United States about a real-life friendship between an elephant and a dog.

The elephant's name is Tarra and the dog's name is Bella. Bella came inside a forest for elephants and became Tarra's friend. Tarra spent most of her time with Bella. One day, Bella had an injury so she could not walk. She was kept inside a building for three weeks. Tarra stood outside for three weeks. Finally, they met and were very happy.

