

6

ON AN EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY



Mathanmi is reading in class V. He, his class friends and the class teacher are going on an educational journey around Manipur. After a kilometre or two's drive from the school, the bus comes to the Nupi Lal Memorial Complex, near the Head Post Office of Imphal. Mathanmi is excited by the sight of black woman-like figures struggling with soldier-like figures. The soldiers have rifles in their hands. Mathanmi wants to know more about what he sees.

Mathanmi – Miss, what's that?

Teacher – It is the **Nupi Lal Memorial**.

Mathanmi – Miss, what does it tell about?

Teacher – It reminds us of the struggle launched by the women of Manipur against the then Government.

Mathanmi – When was it, Miss?

Teacher – It happened in 1939.

Mathanmi – Did they fight with guns?

Teacher – No, they did not use guns, they used sticks.

The other students turn their faces towards their teacher. She knows now that they want to hear the story behind the memorial. She gets up and goes to stand against the partition board that separates the driver from the passengers. She then continues.

Teacher – These women who were brave enough to fight against the powerful government used sticks. Interesting, isn't it? They did not need men to stand by their side. They fought with bravery and strength. Once united they were not afraid of any opposition.

Nana – Miss, tell us the story.

Teacher – Okay. It happened on the 12th of Dec. 1939. There was not enough food for the people of Manipur, as the yield of crop was not good. But the government allowed the businessmen to sell it to other places outside Manipur. In other words, rice was exported. This caused scarcity of food in Manipur. The women were very angry. They were worried that there would not be enough food for the people. Moreover, some of them were doing the business of buying and selling of rice. They marched from different directions and began to hit the mills with sticks. Here, you should remember that the women of that period used to pound and grind with their own hands. Bobo, does your mother grind rice with her own hands?



Bobo – No, Miss.

Teacher – In those days even the rice sellers pounded and ground the rice themselves.

- Mathanmi** – Miss, the story please.
- Teacher** – Yes, then they went to meet the king of Manipur. He was not in Manipur then. So they moved to meet the members of the Durbar, which was like the Legislative Assembly of the present day. They were stopped by the guards. At this spot, where the Memorial stands, a terrible struggle took place, between the women and the guards. The women were hurt. They were charged with bayonets. Kim, do you know what a bayonet is?
- Kim** – Miss, it is a sharp knife stuck to the tip of a rifle.
- Teacher** – Correct. The women suffered pains for the sake of Manipur. They will always be remembered for it. A. Rajani, S. Sanatombi, Sabi Devi and many other woman fighters will be remembered. They could rise up and say ‘No’ to the government for what they thought was harmful to the state. To remember this revolt we observe 12th December as Nupi Lal Day.
- Bobo** – Miss, we observe Hunger Marchers’ Day also on every 27th August.
- Teacher** – Yes, to remember those who died in their struggle for food on August 27, 1965. Our elders say there was another uprising of the women in 1904. It took place as the Bungalow of Chhoto Sahib was burnt down for the second time. The British ordered the Manipuris to rebuild it. The Manipuris were against this order. Some Manipuris were arrested. Then the Manipuri women rose against the British. This was the first Nupi Lal. They also say that the women of 1939 did not like to pay money as tax to the government for putting *chandan*¹ on their faces. Well, it shall be getting late. We’ll talk about these some other day. We have many more places to see. Driver, please move on.



The bus starts moving. Yet the Memorial still stands to remind other passers-by of what the women of Manipur could do for Manipur. They struggled no less than men.

New Words :

<i>Journey</i>	:	<i>trip or travel</i>
<i>partition</i>	:	<i>division into parts</i>
<i>scarcity</i>	:	<i>hard to get</i>
<i>struggle</i>	:	<i>fight</i>
<i>revolt</i>	:	<i>rebellion</i>
<i>tax</i>	:	<i>money paid by the citizens to the government</i>

EXERCISES

1.(a) Answer the following questions :

- (i) Who is Mathanmi?
- (ii) Where are the students of Class V going?
- (iii) What does Mathanmi see near the Head Post Office?
- (iv) Why is the Nupi Lal Memorial Complex put up?
- (v) Do you want to praise the woman fighters?
- (vi) Why do you want to praise them?
- (vii) What did the woman fighters want to tell the king?
- (viii) Why was there a struggle between the woman fighters and the guards.
- (ix) In which year did the first uprising of women take place ?

(b) Suppose you are one of the woman fighters. Work in a group and give your reasons why you should rise against the government. Use the given words/phrases:

less rain	bad crops
not enough food	rice sold outside
harms the stock of food	government should stop it

- (c) ***Look at the word uprising which means that a group of women rose against the Government.***

uprising = up + rising

But its meaning is different from 'up' and 'rising'.

Now check up for the meaning of the following words in a dictionary:

upward upset upright uproot

2. ***Project Work:***

You have visited a historical place. Complete the following to make a report :

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| (i) Name of the plac | ----- |
| (ii) District | ----- |
| (iii) State | ----- |
| (iv) Purpose of visit | ----- |
| (v) Organisation | ----- |
| (vi) Transport | ----- |
| (vii) Things of interest | ----- |
| | ----- |
| | ----- |
| (viii) Date of visit | ----- |

3. ***Look at the different uses of the underlined words in the given sentences:***

I have ground the rice.

I put the book on the ground.

He winds the watch.

The wind blows.

The teacher leads the students.

A Pencil is made of lead.

- Note: (1) 'i' in the first 'wind' is pronounced as the 'i' in 'fine'.
(2) the 'ea' in the second 'lead' is pronounced as 'e' in 'pen'.

Now, frame sentences giving the two different uses of:

water plant look hand.

4. ***Look at the question forms:***

It is interesting, isn't it?

They are not coming, are they?

You notice that if there is a negative word 'not' in the statement, there is no negative word in the question. But if there is no negative word in the statement there is a negative word in the question 'n't' (not). Now add question forms to the statements:

- (1) They are going, _____
- (2) They are working, _____
- (3) They are not good, _____
- (4) He is coming, _____
- (5) You are not alone, _____

(Note the punctuation mark at the end of the sentence.)

5. Look at the list of Irregular Verbs given below and put the correct forms in the blanks :

Present	Past	Past Participle
arise	arose	_____
awake	_____	awoke
bear (to carry)	bore	_____
become	became	_____
_____	began	begun
blow	blew	_____
buy	bought	_____
can	could	_____
cast	_____	cast
_____	chose	chosen
cling	_____	clung
come	came	_____
cost	_____	cost
cut	_____	cut
dig	dug	_____
do	did	_____
drive	_____	driven
eat	_____	eaten

_____	fell	fallen
feed	_____	fed
fight	fought	_____
_____	found	found
flee	fled	_____
forget	forgot	_____
freeze	_____	frozen
get	_____	got, gotten
_____	gave	given
grow	grew	_____
hit	_____	hit
hold	held	_____
hurt	_____	hurt
ride	_____	ridden
rise	_____	risen
_____	rang	rung
see	saw	_____
sell	sold	_____
take	_____	taken
_____	tore	torn
throw	threw	_____
win	won	_____
write	wrote	_____