

10 SARAT'S FAMILY



Sarat is a pupil of class V. He is honest and clever. But his family is poor. He has two brothers and two younger sisters. His father is a farmer. His mother is a housewife. Both of them are illiterate. But they are hard-working.

Sarat's parents did not have enough money to maintain the family. They could not send their first two sons to school. So, the two brothers are uneducated. They help their father in growing crops.



Sarat is the youngest of the sons. His parents wanted him to be educated by any means. But his going to school became a burden to his family.

One day, his mother said, "Sarat, my child, you have to stop going to school." Sarat was surprised at his mother's words.

"Why, mother?" asked he.

"Because, my child, we have very little money. We don't even have enough to eat. I fear we are going to starve soon," said Sarat's mother sadly. She was heart-broken.

Sarat saw the sadness on his mother's face and asked calmly, "What shall I do if I give up my studies, mother?"

"You must have to go to the field as your father and brothers do," replied his mother.

“Am I not too young for that, mother?” Sarat asked again.

“You are right. But we don’t have any work other than this,” answered Sarat’s mother.

“Oh, I am sorry, mother, I will obey you. And if we become rich some time after, I will go to school again,” said Sarat seriously and sincerely.

“Surely, my son. May God help you!” wished his mother.

Really, Sarat’s parents could not bring up their children well. The future of his two younger sisters does not seem bright. Even now they do not have good food and good clothes. In fact, they have no hope for a comfortable life.

Sarat’s parents face the problems of having many children. They believed that their children would help them. But now they are more of a hindrance than a help.



Sarat’s mother remembers her past. She got married at an early age. That was the cause of having a large family. She now blames the religious and social attitudes. She remembers what her mother had said: “A girl should marry before the age of fifteen. We have arranged a man for you.” These things are responsible for the present suffering.

Again, Sarat’s parents wonder what will happen if one of their children gets seriously ill. Medicines are available, but they do not have money to buy them. The idea of calling in a doctor is impossible.

The disappointment of Sarat’s family is very great. Their past beliefs are without value. They now think how happy they would be had they only one or two children.

New Words:

maintain (verb) : to keep something in good condition

burden (Noun) : load carried

heart-broken (Adj) : feeling great sadness

hindrance (Noun) : obstruction

responsible (Adj) : answerable, accountable

disappointment (Noun) : fail to fulfil a desire

value (Noun) : worth, utility

EXERCISES

1. Answer the following questions:

- (i) How many children does Sarat's family have?
- (ii) Are Sarat's parents educated or uneducated?
- (iii) What are Sarat's two brothers doing?
- (iv) What did Sarat's parents want him to be?
- (v) What did Sarat's mother say one day?
- (vi) What were the reasons for saying so?
- (vii) What did Sarat's parents think in the past? Was the idea right or wrong?
- (viii) What was the main cause for having many children in Sarat's family?
- (ix) What will happen if any one of the members of Sarat's family gets ill?
- (x) What do they finally think?

3. (i) *Make new words by adding 'dis' to following words:*

<i>advantage like agree contented</i>

- (ii) *Now, use the newly formed words in the blanks below :*

- (a) Mani likes dogs but he cats.
(b) In the race Sanathoi has a because he is not well.
(c) Ibobi has everything in the world but he is still.....
(d) I think Mumbai is a fine city but my brotherImphal

- (iii) *Match and make phrases.*

A	B
a brood of	fish
a shoal of	wolves
a pack of	ships
a fleet of	chickens

(iv) *Pick the odd word out.*

jump	walk	hop	sleep
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milk	meat	water	tear
------	------	-------	------

cub	puppy	tiger	kitten
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chill	hot	cold	numb
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3. *Some sentences said by Robin about his mother and his sisters are given below. The sentences are jumbled up. Rewrite them as shown in the example :*

Example :

My Mother/My sisters/cooks our breakfast/make sweets.

My mother cooks our breakfast.

My sisters make sweets.

**I. My mother/My sisters/drink lemon
water/drinks milk.**

.....
.....
.....

II. My mother/My sisters/eat bread and
butter/eats rice.

.....

.....

.....

III. My mother/My sisters/go to the pictures/goes to the temple.

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IV. My mother/My sisters/buy face
powder and scent/buys rice.

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V. My mother/My sisters/look after the dog/looks after the cow.

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5. Complete this telephone conversation :

Shanti rings his father, Rohen working in an office. The manager picks up the phone.

Manager : Hello, manager speaking.

Shanti : I am Shanti. Could to my father, Mr. Rohen ?

Manager : Hold, please.

Rohen : Hello,

Shanti : Father, when will you come home ?

Rohen : At



Shanti : Please bring me box colour
.....

Rohen : Ok. I'll bring a
.....

Shanti : And, father, please comics
too.

Rohen : Sorry, Shanti, I won't. You lots
good story Why don't
..... ?

6. Use the correct forms of the Verbs given in the brackets and read this piece of conversation :

Anju : Did you go to the cinema yesterday ?

Kumar : Well, it's a long story. I got on the bus but I
(forget) my bus fare.

Anju : So what did you do ?

Kumar : I got off the bus and ran home, but everybody
..... (go out). I couldn't get in because
I (not take) my key. So I went to Amit's
house to borrow some money.

Anju : Wait, let me guess. He (spend) all his
pocket-money that morning.

Kumar : No. He (*go*) to a friend's house.
I had to wait for about half an hour. When he
came home he lent me some money. I
(*catch*) the next bus. But when I reached the
cinema, the show almost (*finish*).