

WAITING FOR THE RAIN

Let us do these activities before we read.

- I Have you ever waited for the rains? Why?
- II How do you feel when it rains after a long time?
- III Why do you think the farmers wait for the rains?
- IV Discuss in groups what happens when you wait for something or someone for a long period of time.
 - 1. How do you spend the waiting period?
 - 2. What do you think about?
 - 3. How do you feel?

Share your answers with your classmates and teacher.





Let us read

I

“I hope it rains at least today,” Velu thought, as he opened his eyes.

Velu was a farmer. The sun was beginning to rise, glowing **crimson** like fire. Velu scanned the sky. There was not a cloud.

“It doesn’t look encouraging,” he muttered to himself and got up.

Rain or no rain, a farmer wakes up early. Velu worked hard. His piece of land never failed him. Season after season he cultivated it, harvesting jowar one season and dhal the next. Throughout the year he worked, never thinking of rest or taking a holiday. For nearly six years it had been so, ever since he had got his own piece of land.

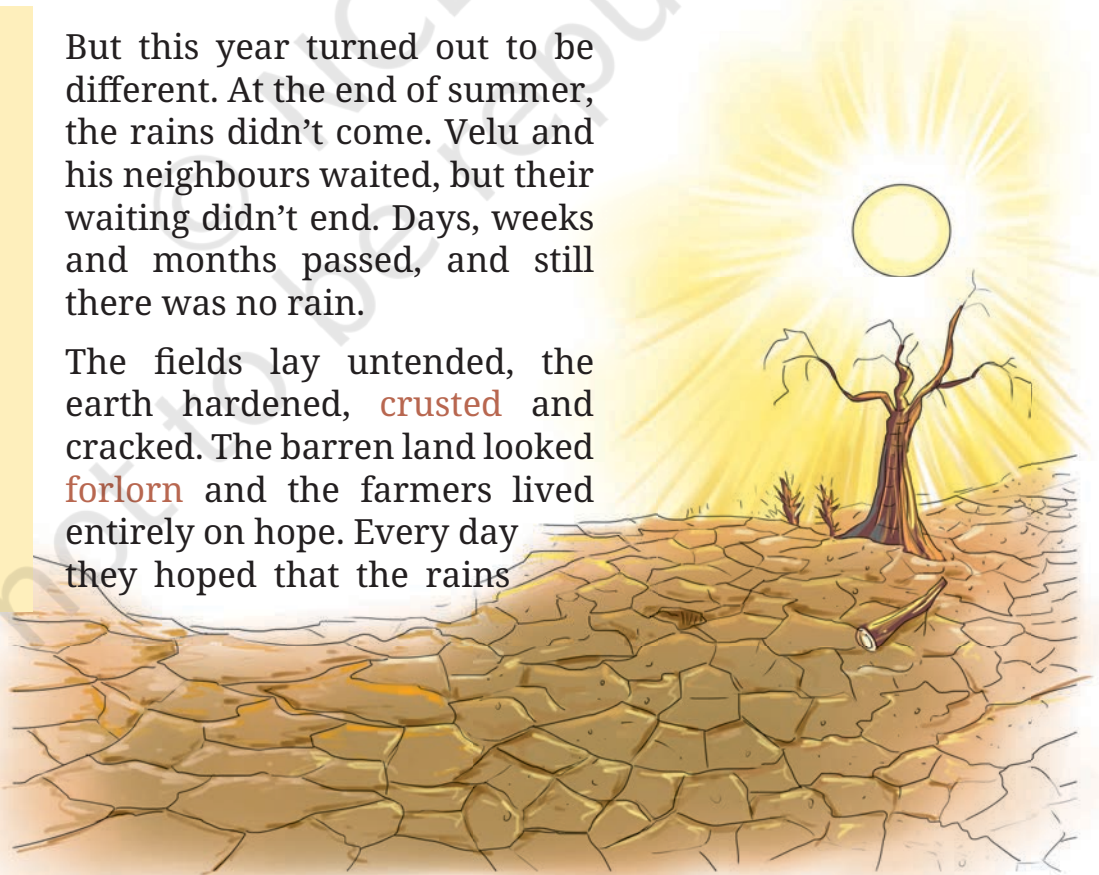
crimson: deep red colour

crusted: formed a hard outer layer

forlorn: sad and neglected

But this year turned out to be different. At the end of summer, the rains didn’t come. Velu and his neighbours waited, but their waiting didn’t end. Days, weeks and months passed, and still there was no rain.

The fields lay untended, the earth hardened, **crusted** and cracked. The barren land looked **forlorn** and the farmers lived entirely on hope. Every day they hoped that the rains

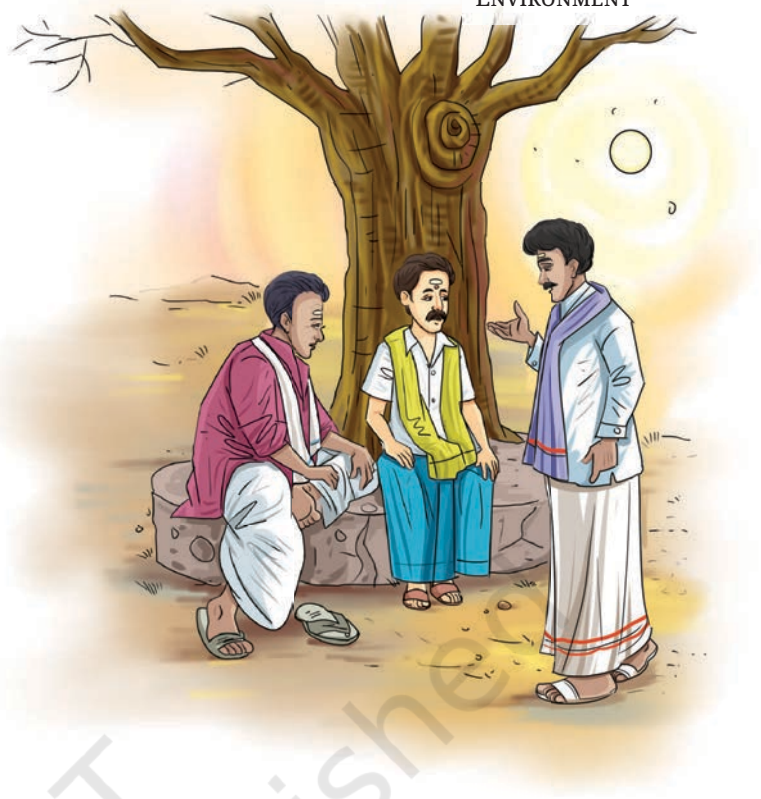


would come.

Someone said, "We ought to talk to some astrologers. They can tell us what will please the heavens and the heavens will send down rain."

Velu didn't agree. He said, "The rains came all these years without any such **consultations**; I can't see how talking to astrologers will bring rain."

He decided to go to the weather office in the city and talk to someone. But the people at the weather office said they couldn't really tell him when the sky would gather clouds and bring rain. "We are at a loss ourselves!" they exclaimed. "So many favourable conditions but still no rain. Very odd!"

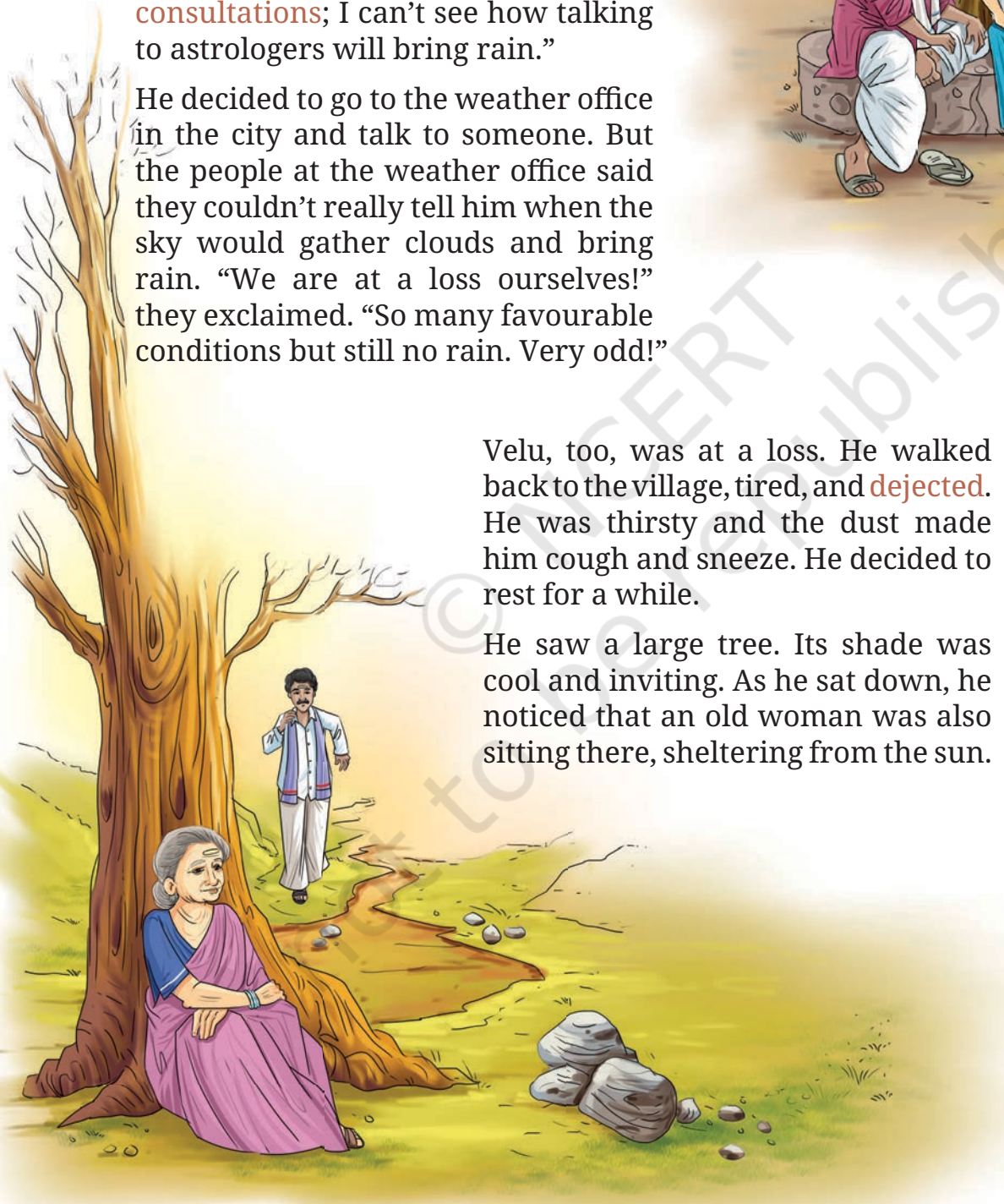


Velu, too, was at a loss. He walked back to the village, tired, and **dejected**. He was thirsty and the dust made him cough and sneeze. He decided to rest for a while.

He saw a large tree. Its shade was cool and inviting. As he sat down, he noticed that an old woman was also sitting there, sheltering from the sun.

consultations:
discussions

dejected:
sad and
disappointed



Let us discuss

I Complete the table given below. One example has been done for you. Share your answers with your classmates and teacher.

What was Said	Who Said	What was Said	Who Said
1. It doesn't look encouraging.	Velu	to himself	He looked up at the sky.
2. The rains came all these years without any such consultations...	Velu		
3. So many favourable conditions but still no rain.			

II Do you think the old woman would help Velu? If yes, why? If no, why not?

III Will Velu's wait continue or will it rain?

II

Her skin was wrinkled, but her eyes sparkled when she smiled. She looked at Velu and her smile grew wider, her wrinkles deeper.

"What are you smiling at, Amma?" Velu asked. "Without the rains, there's nothing to smile about."

"Yes, yes, you're right," the old woman said, the smile leaving her lips.

"I wonder what I have done to deserve this," Velu began. "I have worked hard and honestly. Yet I am being punished. Without the rains I can't till the land. If I don't till the land no crop will grow."

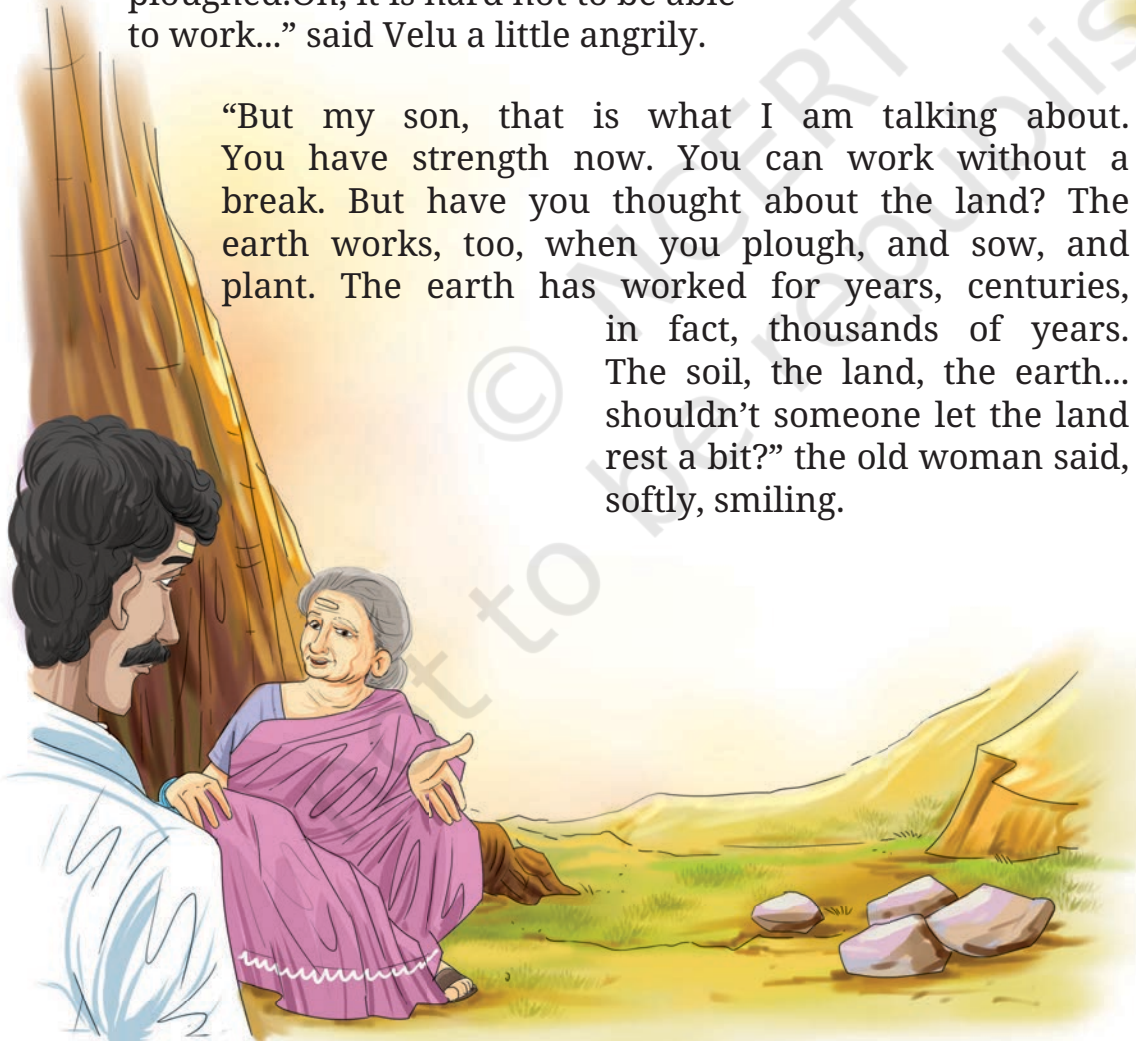
What will happen to me? How shall I feed my family?" he asked, somewhat **bitterly**. He wasn't speaking to anyone in particular, but the old lady thought that he was opening his heart to her.

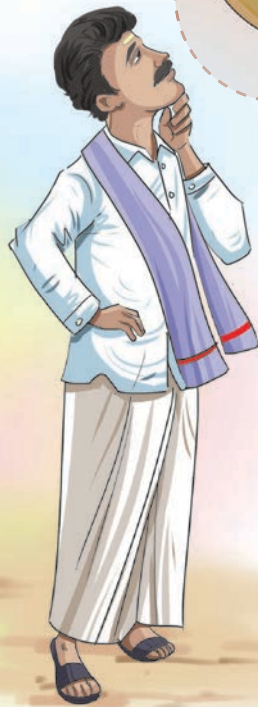
"Perhaps you have worked too hard," she said.

"What do you mean? Can anyone work too hard? I have only done what any hard-working farmer would do. I shall work and never rest until I am too old. This is the first season in five, no, six years that I have not sown, nor ploughed. Oh, it is hard not to be able to work..." said Velu a little angrily.

"But my son, that is what I am talking about. You have strength now. You can work without a break. But have you thought about the land? The earth works, too, when you plough, and sow, and plant. The earth has worked for years, centuries, in fact, thousands of years. The soil, the land, the earth... shouldn't someone let the land rest a bit?" the old woman said, softly, smiling.

bitterly:
hurtfully





“Rest? Let the land rest? I don’t understand,” Velu looked at her, a little puzzled.

“Yes, my son, that is the difficulty. You don’t realise that the earth is old... But Nature is a mother to all of us. To you and to me. And to the trees, the water and the soil. She takes care to give her children the rest they need...”

Velu began to understand.

“When the rains don’t come, you are dejected. But in that way the land is left alone. The land lies undisturbed, staring at the sky, resting... And when the

rains come, it will spring back into activity, fresh and ready for your crop. Go home, my son, Nature knows a thing or two... go home,” she said, and got up.

She walked away. After a while Velu, too, got up and walked home-ward. He thought about the land, his beloved piece of land, which, if he were to believe the old woman, was perhaps breathing peacefully, taking a break from the constant, **ceaseless** year-round cultivation.

ceaseless:
continuous



“Perhaps she is right,” he thought, as he approached the village. It was already evening. The sun was low in the sky. And... what was that? Velu felt a cool breeze on his back.

Then he felt a tiny drop on his shoulder. He looked up. Yes... the clouds were gathering in the distance. It was growing dark. Soon there would be lightning. And thunder. And sweet, fragrant rain.

Velu ran home, laughing and happy.

KAMAKSHI BALASUBRAMANIAN



Let us discuss

I Complete the following statements given below with suitable reasons.

1. Velu asked the old woman to stop smiling because _____.
2. Velu said that it was hard not being able to work since _____.
3. Velu was confused when the old lady said that the land needed rest because _____.
4. The old lady said that it was good for the land when it didn't rain as _____.
5. Velu ran home laughing and happy because _____.



Let us think and reflect

I Read the given extracts and answer the questions that follow.

1. “...I can't see how talking to astrologers will bring rain.”

He decided to go to the weather office in the city and talk to someone. But the people at the weather office said they couldn't really tell him when the sky would gather clouds and bring rain. “We are at a loss ourselves!” they exclaimed. “So many favourable conditions but still no rain. Very odd!”





- (i) What does the first line of the extract tell us about Velu's beliefs?
- (ii) Complete the following sentence with a suitable reason.
Velu is determined to seek information about the rain because _____. (he was at a loss of words/he wants to find a practical solution to the drought affecting his farm)
- (iii) Complete the table with reference to Velu's weather office visit.

Expectation (What I think will happen)	Outcome (What actually happened)

- (iv) Complete the following sentence with a suitable option.
The absence of rain despite favourable conditions, shows _____.
 A. lack of astrological knowledge
 B. ineffectiveness of farmers like Velu
 C. delay in understanding the weather
 D. unpredictability of nature

2. *"The soil, the land, the earth... shouldn't someone let the land rest a bit?" the old woman said, softly, smiling.*

"Rest? Let the land rest? I don't understand," Velu looked at her, a little puzzled.

"Yes, my son, that is the difficulty. You don't realise that the earth is old..."

- (i) The old woman's advice was accompanied with a soft tone and a smile. What does that tell us about her?
- (ii) Fill in the blank with the correct option from those given below.
The old woman's advice _____ Velu, at that moment.
 A. failed to impress B. confused
 C. scared D. made sense to
- (iii) State one thing about the old woman when she referred to Velu as 'my son', while offering advice.
- (iv) Complete the following sentence with a suitable explanation.
The 'difficulty' that the old woman mentions is due to the fact that _____.



II Answer the following questions.


1. How does the old woman convey Nature's wisdom to Velu?
2. The writer says, 'The fields lay untended...' Why couldn't the farmers tend to their fields in the absence of rain?
3. Support the old woman's perspective that the land needs rest just like people do.
4. What can be inferred about Velu's character based on his reaction to the drought?
5. What does the story suggest about the life of farmers and their relationship with nature?
6. How might the rest and care of land contribute to a balanced and sustainable ecosystem?




Let us learn

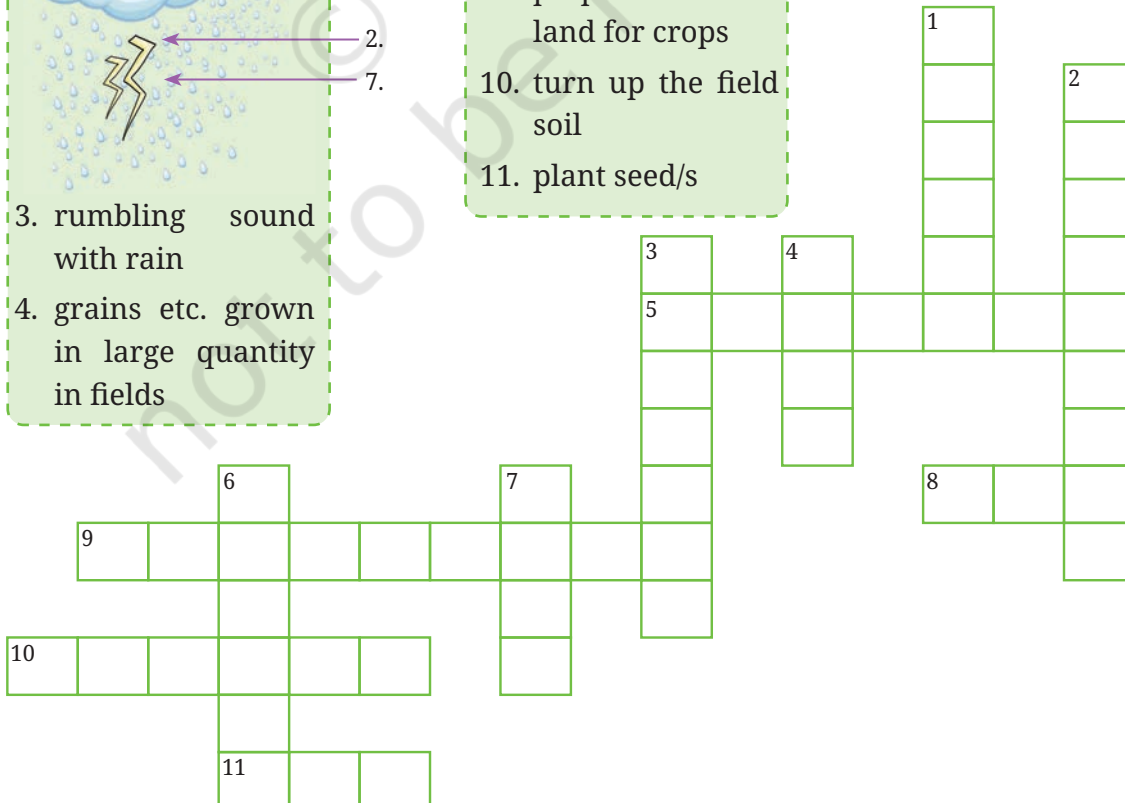
I Solve a crossword using picture and word clues. All clues are related to the words from the text that are connected to weather or agriculture.

Down

- gentle wind
-  6.
- rumbling sound with rain
- grains etc. grown in large quantity in fields

Across

- collected crops
-  8.
- prepare and use land for crops
- turn up the field soil
- plant seed/s





- II The text uses words like 'piece,' 'weather,' 'son,' and 'rain'. These words are the same as other words that are spelt differently—peace, whether, sun, and reign.

Words that are pronounced the same as other words but differ in meaning or in spelling are called **homophones**.

Now, complete the paragraph by filling in the correct option of homophones given in the brackets.



The farmer looked at the sky and wondered
 1. _____ (weather/whether) the clouds
 would finally bring rain. He sat down on the
 ground, breaking a small 2. _____
 (piece/peace) of roti for his meal. The
 3. _____ (plain/plane) fields stretched
 endlessly before him, completely dry. He thought
 about how he could 4. _____ (sell/cell)
 his last sack of grain to buy some essentials for his
 family. Without the rains, it didn't 5. _____
 (seam/seem) possible to grow another crop this
 season. Despite his worries, he smiled, knowing that
 every farmer hopes for the next 6. _____
 (rain/reign) by nature to bring life back to the land.

- III Choose the correct meanings from the given options for the underlined words or phrases in the following sentences.

- Being annoyed, she muttered something which nobody heard.
 (i) spoke in a low voice (ii) spoke slowly (iii) spoke angrily
- At the new work place, Riya felt forlorn for a week.
 (i) upset and irritated (ii) angry and bitter (iii) sad and neglected
- When all his friends had gone, he was at a loss because he did not know what to do.
 (i) confused (ii) shocked (iii) lonely
- When the little child saw her father, her eyes sparkled.
 (i) glowed dimly (ii) showed joy (iii) opened wide

IV Match each word (adjective) in Column 1 with a word (noun) that collocates in Column 2. Write the adjective-noun collocation in Column 3. One example has been done for you.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
1. favourable	(i) country	favourable weather
2. wrinkled	(ii) activity	
3. dejected	(iii) weather	
4. fragrant	(iv) skin	
5. ceaseless	(v) garden	
6. beloved	(vi) expression	

V Underline the verbs and identify the forms of tenses for the following sentences from the text.

1. Oh, it is hard not to be able to work...
2. ...I am too old.
3. What are you smiling at, Amma?
4. But my son, that is what I am talking about.
5. The earth has worked for years, centuries...
6. I have worked hard and honestly.

The forms of tenses in the given statements are Simple Present Tense (1 and 2), Present Progressive Tense (3 and 4) Present Perfect Tense (5 and 6).

Now, fill in the blanks with the correct form of Simple Present, Present Progressive or Present Perfect tenses of the verbs given in brackets.

Ravi (i) _____ (be) a farmer who (ii) _____ (practise) crop rotation on his land. Each season, he (iii) _____ (plant) different crops to maintain the soil's health. This year, he (iv) _____ (grow) legumes, which help restore the nutrients in the soil. Over the years, Ravi (v) _____ (learn) that planting the same crop repeatedly (vi) _____ (deplete) the soil, making it less fertile. By rotating crops, he (vii) _____ (keep) the land productive and fertile. He (viii) _____ (see) a noticeable improvement in his yields since adopting this method. Now, Ravi (ix) _____ (share) his knowledge with other farmers, explaining how crop rotation(x) _____ (benefit) both the soil and their harvests.



VI Study the highlighted words in the following sentences from the text.

- **The** rains came **all** these years without **any** such consultations.
- So **many** favourable conditions, but still no rain.
- **Every** day they hoped that **the** rains would come.
- But **this** year turned out to be different.
- This is **the** first season in **five**, no, **six** years that I have not sown, nor ploughed.
- We ought to talk to **some** astrologers.
- I have only done what **any** hard-working farmer would do.
- Velu looked at her, **a little** puzzled.
- She takes care to give **her** children **the** rest they need...
- Velu felt **a** cool breeze on **his** back.

The highlighted words or phrases that come before a noun but do not describe them are called **determiners**.

Let us learn the use of some common determiners.

- Articles: a, an, the
These are used to introduce nouns.
- Demonstrative Determiners: this, that, these, those
These are used to point out specific items.
- Possessive Determiners: my, our, your, his, her, its, their, one's
These indicate ownership or relationship.
- Definite Numeral Determiners: one, two, three, etc.
These specify exact quantities.
- Indefinite Numeral Determiners: some, any, no, all, much, many, few, less, several, little and few
 - ✓ 'Some' is used in affirmative sentences, while 'any' and 'no' are used in negative and interrogative sentences.
 - ✓ 'All' refers to the entirety of a group.
 - ✓ 'Much' and 'many' denote large quantities of uncountable and countable nouns, respectively.
 - ✓ 'Few' indicates a small number, 'less' refers to a smaller quantity, and 'several' means more than two but not many.
 - ✓ 'Little' means not much, 'few' means not many. Use 'a little' and 'a few' to convey a positive sense.

- Distributive Determiners: each, every, either, neither
 - ✓ 'Each' refers to individual items or people, 'every' refers to all items or people collectively.
 - ✓ 'Either' means one of two options and 'neither' means not one of the two options.

Now, fill in the blanks by choosing the correct determiner from those given in the brackets.

It was 1. _____ (a/an) rainy afternoon, and
 2. _____ (a/the) sky was thick with dark clouds.
 Mala noticed a large puddle quickly forming in
 front of 3. _____ (her/their) house. Excited, she
 called for her brother to join her, knowing that
 both of them always loved playing in 4. _____
 (a/the) rain. While jumping from 5. _____
 (some/one) puddle to another, Mala spotted 6.
 _____ (few/a few) snails slowly creeping along the
 wet sidewalk and pointed them out to her brother.
 With 7. _____ (each/every) jump, the sound of
 both 8. _____ (her/their) squeals and laughter was
 heard through the soft patter of raindrops. Though
 they were fully drenched 9. _____ (either/neither)
 siblings minded it. It had been a perfect rainy day.



Let us listen

I Listen to the weather forecast. As you listen, fill in the blanks with the exact word you listen to. (Transcript for teacher on page 204)

1. Delhi will mostly have a _____ sky with light rain.
2. Moderate rain is likely to happen in _____.
3. Kolkata is likely to have a maximum temperature of around _____ °C.
4. There is a chance of a _____ in Chennai.
5. Bengaluru will have a _____ temperature of 29 °C.
6. Taking an _____ is advisable because of the weather conditions.





Let us speak

I Here is a tongue twister about 'weather'. Practice saying it as fast as you can.

Whether the weather be fine, or whether the weather be not, whether the weather be cold, or whether the weather be hot, we'll weather the weather, whatever the weather, whether we like it or not.

II Rain has arrived after a long dry spell on the Earth. Imagine the Rain and the Earth have a conversation. Work in pairs and present the role-play. You may use the hints in the table given below.

You may start the conversation in the following way.

Rain: Greetings, Earth! It's been a while since we've met. How have you been?

Earth: Hello Rain! I am so glad to see you.

To continue the conversation, use the hints given below.

Rain

Ask about how the Earth has been.

Speak about your long journey from the Earth to the sky and back again to the Earth.

Ask about how the Earth can use the gift you brought—rain water.

Elaborate how much you enjoy being on the Earth.

Thank the Earth for the invite. Promise to return on time the next year.

Earth

Respond and express relief at the arrival of Rain.

Enquire why it took so long for Rain to arrive.

Express gratitude for the gift of water.

Speak about how important Rain is to you—for agriculture, for plants and animals to survive.

Enquire how Rain feels about being on Earth.

Invite Rain to join the celebration of the rivers, forests, and people of Earth.





Let us write

I You have observed the difficulties faced by the people in your neighbourhood due to scarcity of water especially during the summer months. Write a letter to the Councillor of your Municipal ward, requesting her/him to set up a rain water harvesting unit. Provide suggestions to address the issue.

Remember to

- use formal language
- keep sentences short and to the point
- state the purpose clearly and concisely
- give relevant details

Format and Layout:

Sender's address

Date

The Municipal Councillor (*Receiver's designation and address*)

Subject: Request to Install a Rainwater Harvesting Unit in Ward No. 44

Dear Madam,

Paragraph 1: Drawing attention to the problem

Paragraph 2: Causes and Consequences

Paragraph 3: Request and Suggestions

Paragraph 4: Conclusion

} Body of the letter

Yours sincerely,

Signature of the sender

(*Sender's full name in brackets*)



Let us explore

I Rest is very important for us to function in a proper manner. Even the Earth needs rest. This is known as **fallowing**.

Read the facts given below related to fallowing:

- A fallow year refers to leaving the land without sowing for one, or several vegetative cycles.





- This is done to allow the land to recover its nutrients and retain moisture. It also helps to avoid spreading of diseases and controlling pests.
- The sustainable land management method has been applied for centuries, wherein a field is divided into two halves—one is planted with crops while the other remains unplanted. Then, the process is reversed in the following year.

II Find out from your Vocational Education teacher about Agriculture as a vocation and other related vocations, such as horticulture, etc.

III India's rich tradition of meteorological knowledge includes indigenous forecasting systems, grounded in ancient wisdom. These provide sophisticated methods for predicting climate, calculating rainfall, and issuing early warnings.

References to rain and weather are found in numerous ancient texts, including the *Rigveda*, *Shrimad Bhagavad*, *Parashara Samhita*, *Panini's Ashtadhyayi*, and *Meghmala*. These texts offer insights into rainfall patterns and seasonal changes.

IV Meteorological Services for Agriculture in India

The primary objective of the Agricultural Meteorology Division, India Meteorological Department (IMD) is to minimise the impact of adverse weather on crops and to leverage crop-weather relationships to boost agricultural production.

In addition to forecasts and advisories, several other weather related services are also provided.

For detailed information, please visit: <https://mausam.imd.gov.in/responsive/servicesMetEnvironment.php>



TRANSCRIPTS

THE CHERRY TREE



Let us listen (refer to page 170)

I You will listen to a conversation between a son and his mother. As you listen, select four true statements from 1–7 given below.

SON : Amma, could you help me with this project?

MOTHER : Why not? What's the project about?

SON : It's about the Chipko Movement. I have to make a PowerPoint presentation and talk about it in class.

MOTHER : That's good! Chipko Movement was all about hugging trees to prevent them from being cut, isn't it? Such an inspiring movement it was!

SON : Yes, it was the first time that common people came together for the noble cause of saving trees. It showed how people can also make a difference. Have you heard or read about something similar?

MOTHER : Yes, of course. The success of the Chipko Movement led to the Appiko Movement.

SON : Really? Doesn't appiko mean 'hugging' in Kannada? So, did they also hug trees to protect them?

MOTHER : Yes they did. In this movement people not only hugged trees to protect them but also regenerated the forest areas in the Western Ghats.

SON : That's great! This reminds me of what my teacher shared about Saalumara Thimakka last week. She is a Padma Shri awardee.

MOTHER : What an amazing personality! I've heard about her and I'm interested to know what your teacher has shared with you.





SON : She is an Indian environmentalist who has been planting trees since 1948. She has planted over 8000 trees in the area around her village.

MOTHER : Wonderful!

SON : What I admire about her is the commitment she has towards conserving the environment.

MOTHER : Incredible! That is one superwoman! But do you know who the Forest Man of India is?

SON : Yes, I've read about him. It is Jadav Payeng, from Assam. He too is a Padma Shri awardee. Isn't he the one who single-handedly turned a barren land of around a thousand acres into a lush green forest? He did so by planting nearly forty million trees.

MOTHER : Yes, you're absolutely right. It was not something that happened overnight. It took him thirty years to achieve this. This forest has become a habitat for different kinds of animals including migratory birds.

SON : Fascinating, isn't it? I've read a book and watched a documentary in school about him which has really inspired me.

MOTHER : I'm glad that you have begun to care about the environment too.



HARVEST HYMN



Let us listen (refer to page 181)

- I Listen to this talk about paddy cultivation. As you listen, number the events in the correct order in which they happen.

Hello everyone!

Did you know that rice is actually a type of grass, and the part we eat is its seed? Let me tell you about the process of cultivating rice.

It all starts with preparing the land. First, the soil has to be ploughed. Rice is typically grown in fertile soil that holds a lot of water. The most important step in preparing the soil is to soak it with plenty of water. This step is called puddling. Once the nursery bed is prepared, the seeds can be planted. After that, we sow the seeds on the soil's surface.

Paddy farmers have to ensure that their fields stay flooded with water because irrigation is crucial. It takes around 4 to 5 weeks for the seeds to grow into seedlings. After this comes the most important step—transplanting. The seedlings that were prepared in the nursery bed are uprooted and then transplanted into the flooded field.

In around 120 days, the rice plants are fully grown. At this point, the crops are harvested by cutting them. Following this, the seeds are separated from the plant. This is called threshing. To reduce the moisture content even more, the separated grains are dried. This ensures that they can be stored or processed further. Through a process called milling, the rice is separated from the outer covering on it.

Finally, the rice reaches the market, and that's where we get it to make all kinds of delicious foods. Whether it's *Appam*, *Pulao*, *Khichdi*, or *Daal Bhaat*, rice is a big part of many meals.

- II Now listen to the talk again. As you listen, choose the correct option to answer the questions that follow.





WAITING FOR THE RAIN




Let us listen (refer to page 197)

I Listen to the weather forecast. As you listen, fill in the blanks with the exact word you listen to.

Hello and welcome to today's weather forecast.

Delhi is expected to have a generally cloudy sky with light rain. The temperature will range between a minimum of 25 °C and a maximum of 36 °C.




The sky will generally be cloudy with moderate rain in Mumbai. The minimum temperature is 24 °C and the maximum will be around 30 °C.

Moving eastwards, Kolkata will have a partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers. The minimum temperature will be 28 °C and the maximum will be around 34 °C.

Chennai is expected to have a partly cloudy sky with a possibility of thunderstorm. The minimum temperature will be 27 °C and the maximum will be around 36 °C.

Bengaluru will have a generally cloudy sky with light rain. The minimum temperature will be 21 °C and will rise to a maximum of around 29 °C.



Hyderabad is expected to have a generally cloudy sky with light rain or drizzle. Temperature will be between a minimum of 23 °C and a maximum of 33 °C.

That's all from me today. Have a beautiful day ahead. Don't forget to carry your umbrellas!

<https://www.newsonair.gov.in/weather-forecast-for-today/>