

11- A COURAGEOUS ACT



It was Sunday and the school was closed. Gayatri was very excited. She was going fishing in the sea with her father. Gayatri's father was a fisherman. Everyday he went out fishing to the sea. He had promised Gayatri that he would teach her fishing. She wanted to take up her father's profession when she will grow up.

As Gayatri was tying her shoelaces, she heard a news flashed on radio. A cyclonic storm was expected to hit the village within the next twenty four hours. She knew that the cyclone would bring strong wind, heavy rains and high tides in the sea. It would topple trees and damage houses. There would be heavy rain which could cause flood. She rushed outside to warn her father. Both of them heard the loud clap of thunder. Big drops of rain started falling. They could see the waves of the sea rising higher and higher.

It was late in the evening. The cyclone had hit the area! It had been raining continuously. Flood water had already entered Gayatri's house. She had placed all the small household items like food,

articles, utensils, candles and matchboxes on beds, tables and chairs. By the morning a lot of water had entered the house.



After an uncomfortable night, Gayatri went to her terrace and looked around. The entire area was submerged in water. Only a few houses could be seen. The little huts near her house could not be seen due to floods. The homeless people were sitting on tree stumps and at other places which were not submerged. Gayatri thought that she should do something. She swam towards the boat lying outside her house. She rowed powerfully towards the marooned people. She helped them board the boat and rowed to the town hall. There they were received by the district authorities. Then she returned home and requested her mother to give her some clothes, food, matchboxes and candles. She packed them in a waterproof bag and returned to the town hall. She handed over the materials to the supervisor of the temporary shelter who distributed them to the people. They felt warm and happy. Gayatri was happy too that she could do a little to help them. She had helped her neighbours in their hour of need.

In the hour of crisis most people ask for help

but courageous people render help to others

New Words/Phrases

Word Pronunciation Meaning

| | | | |
|-------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|
| expected | - /ɪk'spektɪd/ | इसपेक्षित | - अपेक्षित |
| high tide | - /haɪ 'taɪd/ | उच्च जल | - उच्च |
| flood | - /flʌd/ | जल | - बाढ़ |
| topple | - /'tɒpl/ | टोपल | - गिर पड़ना |
| rowed | - /rəʊd/ | रोया | - बचपन से माता |
| marooned | - /mə'ruːnd/ | मरुत | - बचपन से |
| authorities | - /ɔ:'θɒrətɪz/ | अधिकारिता | - अधिकारी |
| temporary | - /'tempərɪ/ | तेमपरी | - अस्थायी |

Comprehension Questions

1. Answer the following questions:

- What was the profession of Gayatri's father and what did he promise her?
- Why was Gayatri excited?
- What was the news flashed on the radio?
- How did Gayatri save her household items from floods?
- How did Gayatri help the people trapped in the floods?

Word Power

1. Fill in the blanks with the words given in the box:

toppled rowed submerged shelter utensils

- The town was ___ by the flood water.

- b. Anu ___ the boat to shore.
- c. The earthquake ___ the building.
- d. The maid washed all the ___ of the kitchen.
- e. Human beings need food, clothing and ___ .

Language Practice

1. Synonyms are the words that are similar in meaning.

Example - kind - generous

boy - lad

Now write synonyms of the following words:

a. profession- b. request-

c. sea- d. damage-

2. (i) We use 'a lot of' to indicate a large amount or number of people, animals or things:

Example - A lot of people in Uttar Pradesh speak Hindi.

We waste a lot of food in parties.

Now make sentences using the table below :

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------|---|
| There is There are | a lot of | animals in the zoo. water in that jug. books in our library. sugar in the box. |
|-----------------------|----------|---|

(ii) We use 'a little' to mean a small amount or quantity. (It is used with uncountable nouns.)

Example - It rained a little.

She slept a little.

(iii) We use 'a few' to mean a small number. (It is used with countable nouns.)

Example - I have a few friends in Delhi.

She will come in a few minutes.

Now fill in the blanks with 'a few' or 'a little':

- a. Aditya has ___ story books.
- b. There is ___ milk left in the glass.
- c. They had ___ time.
- d. ___ people like cooking.
- e. I have to revise ___ lessons.
- f. ___ members are coming today.
- g. My house is ___ away from here.

Activity

» Draw a picture of a flood scene and write a few lines about the causes and effects of floods.