

15

The Girl With Crutches

A.1.Warmer

Do you know any person who is deaf, dumb, blind or lame ? Is it proper to think that such persons are worthless or burden on the society ? Can you name some famous persons who are physically challenged ?

It was a Monday morning. I was busy in my office preparing a report on out of school children. The classes were running properly.

“May I come in, sir ?” A silky voice came into my ears. I raised my head and saw a girl with crutches standing at the door. An elderly lady clad in a sari was standing just behind her.

“Please come in,” I said. They came in.

I offered the lady a chair to sit on. I also asked the girl to sit but she politely refused.

“Thank you, sir, but I would better keep standing.”

“What can I do for you?” I asked the lady.

“Master Sahib, she is my daughter. She wants to get admission in your school,” she said.

Now I looked at the girl again. She was about ten years old and had an innocent lovely face. She was standing with the help

of the crutches under her armpit. Her right leg was thin and short.

“What is your name, Beta?” I asked her.

“Sir, my name is Sabra, Sabra Tarannum. May I get admission in the school, sir ?” she asked me.



Before I could reply, her mother interrupted, “Tarannum is a very unfortunate girl. She suffered from polio when she was only three years old. We went to many doctors but in vain. She is unable to use her right leg. She is a handicapped, a burden on the family. Now she insists on going to school. Is it possible, sir ? How can she keep pace with others in the class ? After all, she is not like other girls.”

“Please, don’t say so. She is neither unfortunate nor handicapped. She is a child with special needs. There are thousands of people like her” I said.

“You mean you can admit her in the school?” she was still not sure.

“Of course ! And we shall provide special facilities for her.” I said in a firm voice.

I saw the girl sigh in relief. I called Manju Madam and asked her to interview the girl to decide about the class. After half an hour she came back with the girl.

“Sir, Tarannum is an outstanding girl. She can easily be admitted in class six.” Manju madam said.

Tarannum proved herself an ideal student. She became very popular in the school in no time. She was a good singer and painter as well. However, she seemed to pity herself when she saw other students playing Kabaddi or Kith-Kith during lunch hour. On such occasions, I used to narrate to her the success stories of Helen Keller, Louis Braille, Milton, Homer, Stephen Hawking, Surdas, Ravindra Jain and Sudha Chandran. It gave her inspiration and rays of hope peeped through her eyes.

Time rolled on. I retired from my job. One day a three-wheeler dashed me. I fell down and became unconscious.

When I opened my eyes, I found myself in a hospital. My leg was bandaged. A doctor came to me. Her face looked familiar.

“Where am I, Madam ? What has happened to me?” I asked anxiously.

“You are in the hospital. You had met with an accident but now you are out of danger. Raj Sir, please don’t call me ‘madam.’”



“What ? How did you know my name ?” I enquired.

“Oh sir, you didn’t recognise me ? I am Sabra, Sabra Tarannum, your ex-student,” she said.

“You mean ‘the girl with crutches ?’ ”

“Yes, sir. Your inspiration worked. Now, I am a doctor. I joined this hospital only last week. And sir, I am using Jaipur Limbs and now I am not the girl with crutches now.” Her smile was so soothing !

Glossary and notes

properly (adv)	correctly, ठीक ढंग से
crutches (n)	support used under, बैसाखी

politely(adv)	with good manners, शिष्टतापूर्वक
interrupted (V)	broke in upon (a person's action, speech etc), दखलअंदाजी की
unfortunate (adj)	unlucky, बदनसीब
handicapped (adj)	disabled, विकलांग
burden (n)	load, बोझ
familiar (adj)	having good knowledge, परिचित
inspiration (n)	influence (s) arousing creative activity, प्रेरणा
Jaipur Limbs (n)	artificial organs for the handicapped, कृत्रिम अंग

B. Let's comprehend

B.1. Think and Tell

B.1.1. Answer the following questions orally:

1. Who is 'I' in the story ?
2. Who was the elderly lady ?
3. Why had the girl come to school ?
4. Which class was the girl admitted in ?
5. Who was the doctor ?

B.2. Think and Write

B.2.1. Answer in a word or sentence:

1. What was the teacher doing in his office ?
2. Which leg of the girl was affected by polio ?
3. What did the girl do when other students played ?
4. What did the girl become at last ?
5. Why did the girl say "Please, don't call me 'madam'?"

B.2.2. Answer the following questions:

1. Why did the teacher call the girl 'a child with special need'?
2. Why did the mother call the girl 'a burden' ? Was she really a burden on the family ?
3. How did the teacher encourage the girl ?
4. How did Tarannum prove that she was not inferior to other children?

C. Word study**C.1. Go through the text again and guess the meaning of the following words.**

crutches clad refused unfortunate outstanding

C.2. Write the words that are opposite in meaning to the words given below :

accepted fortunate ability failure forget

D. Grammar**D.1. Conjunction**

Read the following sentences carefully :

- (a) I raised my head and saw a girl with crutches standing at the door.
- (b) I also asked the girl to sit but she politely refused.

In sentence (a) 'and' combines 'I raised my head' with (b) saw a girl

Similarly, in sentence (b) 'but' combines 'I also asked the girl to sit' with 'she politely refused'. Linking words like 'and', 'but' etc. are called 'conjunctions'.

A conjunction is a word or a phrase which connects two words or two phrases or two clauses or two sentences.

Examples : and, either... or, but, also, neither... nor, only, after, because, if, so... that, that, as, when, while, till, yet, otherwise, as well as etc.

D.1.1. Fill in the blanks with the given conjunctions given below:

(so, yet, otherwise, as well as, because)

1. I am ill I cannot go to school.
2. We played well we could not win the match.
3. Work hard you will fail.
4. She cannot play she is injured.
5. Sonu Mina is playing.

E. Composition

E.1. Suppose you are Tarannum. Complete the application that Tarannum had written to the Civil Surgeon of her district to issue a certificate of Physically Challenged Person.

You may start like this :

Date:
To The Civil Surgeon, Supaul
<u>Subject : Issuing a Certificate of Physically Challenged Person.</u>
Sir,
I beg to say that
.....
Therefore, I request you to issue me a certificate stating that I am a physically challenged person.
I shall remain grateful.
Yours faithfully ,
Tarannum

F. Translation

F.1. Translate the following sentences into English :

1. मैं स्कूल जा रहा हूँ इसलिए नहीं खेलूँगा ।
2. हमलोग अच्छा खेले तो भी नहीं जीते ।
3. यहाँ आओ वरना मैं तुम्हें पीटूँगा ।

4. मैं नहीं आ सकता क्योंकि मैं बीमार हूँ ।
5. तुम, और वह मेरे दोस्त हैं ।

F.2. Translate the following sentences into your mother tongue:

I am reading, so I shall not go to market.

We tried, yet we failed.

Stop shouting, otherwise the teacher will punish you.

I shall help you because you are my friend.

He as well as she is happy.

G. Language Game

G.1. Ladder Game :

Divide the class into two groups. Ask a student to say a word. The word is written on the blackboard. The student of the opposite group has to make a new word beginning with the last letter of the word suggested by the previous student. The game continues. It's a never ending game. Here is an example.



Example :

Ant

Tap

Pen

Nose

Egg

Gas

Sand

Dog

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