

The English Connection

Literature Reader
5

An Integrated Skills Course

Renu Anand
Punita Nehru

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Literature Reader 5

Renu Anand
Punita Nehru

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The English Connection

The English Connection is an integrated skills course, based on insightful experiences of practising teachers and ELT experts, as well as the transformation taking place in the classroom methodology keeping in view the changing linguistic and communicative needs of the learners.

Components

The series consists of:

- Primers A & B; Coursebooks 1 to 8
- Primer Activity Books A & B; Workbooks 1 to 8
- Literature Readers 1 to 8
- A Teacher's Resource Kit for each level



The twin goals of a second language curriculum as enunciated by NCF 2005 and the New Education Policy are attainment of basic proficiency and development of language into an instrument for abstract thought and knowledge acquisition. *The English Connection* fulfils these aims by harmonizing linguistic competence with Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS). The communicative approach for language teaching as followed by the CBSE textbooks at the secondary level has been adopted in this course, thus facilitating a smooth transition for both the learners and the teachers after class 8. Hence, when the course components of this series are effectively adopted in classrooms, there is no doubt that they will provide a rich interactive environment that is a prerequisite for language learning.



Literature Reader Design

About the passage

A. Read the following lines from the text and answer the questions that follow.

1. 'Only "Humph!" said the Ox. 'He won't plough.'

(a) Who is 'he'?

(b) Whom is Ox complaining?

(c) What is the Ox not doing?

(d) What does the Ox say to the Three, and behave yourself?

(e) To whom?

(f) What did the listener told to 'behave' properly?

B. Answer the following questions briefly.

1. Where did the Camel live? What did he do all day?
2. What tasks did Man give the Dog and the Ox?
3. How do you think the Ox and Dog felt when they had a meeting with the Camel? Why do you think did the Camel laugh at the Three?
4. How did the Horse describe the Camel to the Djinn?
5. When the Djinn went to the Camel, he was looking at his own reflection in the pool. What does this suggest to you about the camel?
6. What did the Djinn give the Camel? What use would it be to him?
7. Was the Camel happy with the hump? How can you tell?
8. What does the writer think of the Camel when he says "and he has never yet learned how to behave"?



Words to know is a list of difficult words to help learners understand the text.

About the passage/poem includes factual, inferential and extrapolative comprehension questions.

eyes. In the corner of the garden was a tree covered with lovely white blossoms. Its branches were all golden, and there was silver fruit on them. Under the tree stood the little boy he had loved. The Giant was very happy and he ran out into the garden. He came near the Giant's door, and the Giant became very angry and said, 'Who hurt you?' There were marks of two feet on the path. 'Who hurt you?' cried the Giant. 'No!' answered the child. 'Who are you?' said the Giant. 'I am the little child. And the child said, 'Let me play in your garden, today you will come with me to my garden, to Paradise.' And when the children came that afternoon, they found the Giant lying dead under the tree, all covered with white blossoms.

About the author/poet provides information about the poet/author's life and work.

Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) Oscar Wilde was an Anglo-Irish playwright, novelist, poet, and critic. He is regarded as one of the greatest playwrights of the late Victorian Era. In his lifetime, he wrote nine plays, one novel, and numerous poems, short stories, and essays.



For more of his works, log on to <http://www.wilde-online.info/short-stories.htm>

Words to know

- giant a person of huge size and great strength
- blossoms flowers
- gruff voice rough sounding voice
- trespasser a person who enters another person's property without permission



About the passage

A. Read the following lines from the text and answer the questions that follow.

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(a) Who is 'he'?

(b) Whom is Ox complaining?

(c) What is the Ox not doing?

(d) What does the Ox say to the Three, and behave yourself?

(e) To whom?

(f) What is the Ox not doing?

(g) What did the listener told to 'behave' properly?

(h) Answer the following questions briefly.

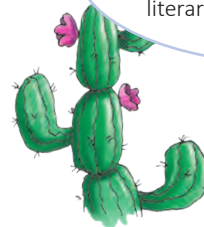
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Think and answer

- A. What kind of an animal was the Camel? (You could talk of his habits, behaviour etc.)
- B. What do you learn about Man from this passage?
- C. Do you think there are traits of a good person in the passage?

Think and answer builds analytical skills of the learners as well as exposes them to the usage of literary devices and idiomatic expressions.



Contents



1.	STORY	The Monkey and the Crocodile—PANCHATANTRA	7
2.	STORY	How the Camel Got his Hump—RUDYARD KIPLING	14
	POEM	<i>The Sparrow</i> — PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR	23
3.	STORY	Hold on, Ruby!—SIGRUN SRIVASTAV	26
4.	DRAMA	The King who Limped—MONICA THORNE	33
	POEM	<i>The Beggar Maid</i> —ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON	47
5.	STORY	Daedalus and Icarus	50
6.	STORY	The Selfish Giant—OSCAR WILDE	55
	POEM	<i>The Hero</i> —RABINDRANATH TAGORE	64
7.	STORY	Treasure Hunt—MARGO FALLIS	71





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‘Hold on, Ruby!’ by Sigrun Srivastav

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‘Treasure Hunt’ by Margo Fallis



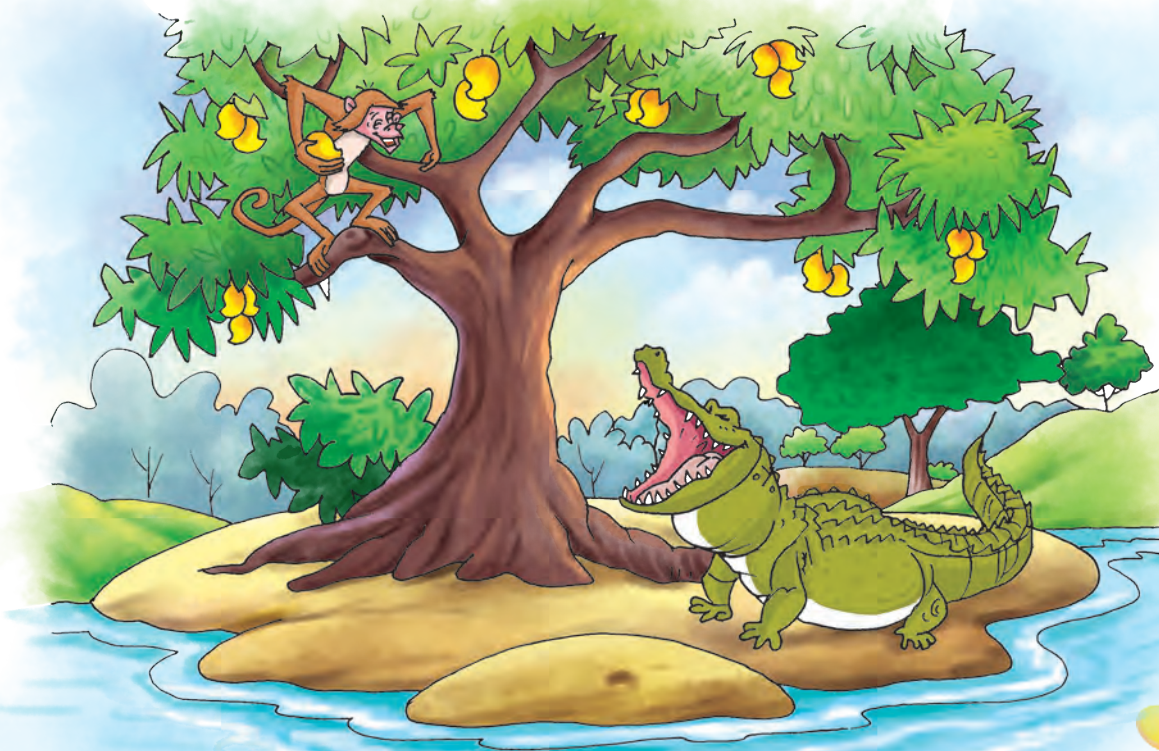


The Monkey and the Crocodile

What are the qualities of a friend? Do you feel loyalty is an essential quality in a friend? Read the following story about two friends and decide whether their friendship was true.

Once there lived a monkey in a mango tree by the side of a river. The monkey was happy and content as the mango tree gave him plenty of sweet fruit to eat, and saved him from the sun and the rain.

One day, a crocodile swam up the river and climbed on to the bank to rest under the monkey's tree.



'Hello,' called the friendly monkey. 'Who are you?'

'Hello,' replied the crocodile, 'I am a crocodile from far away. Do you know where I can get some food? I haven't had anything to eat all day. There just don't seem to be any fish left in the river.'

'Well,' said the monkey, 'I don't have any fish but I do have plenty of ripe golden mangoes in my tree. Would you like to try some?' He plucked some mangoes and threw them down to the crocodile.

The crocodile was so hungry that he ate up all the mangoes. He loved the sweet fruit and shyly asked for some more. The **generous** monkey threw down more fruit. 'Come back whenever you feel like eating more fruit,' he added.

After that, the crocodile visited the monkey every day. Each day, the monkey gave the crocodile mangoes from his tree and the two animals soon became friends.

One day, the crocodile told his friend about his wife who stayed at home. 'Will you give me some mangoes for my wife?' he asked.

'Why didn't you tell me earlier that you had a wife?' asked the monkey.

'Take some mangoes for her as well when you go back today.'

The crocodile thanked him and took some of the fruit for his wife. The crocodile's wife had never eaten anything so sweet before. She wanted more and so the monkey gave the crocodile mangoes for her every day.

But the crocodile's wife was really greedy. She thought to herself, 'If the fruit is so delicious, how delicious would be the flesh of the creature who only eats these sweet mangoes daily!'

With each passing day, her longing for the monkey's flesh increased. One day, she said to her husband, 'Crocodiles eat animals, not fruits. Let us eat the monkey.'

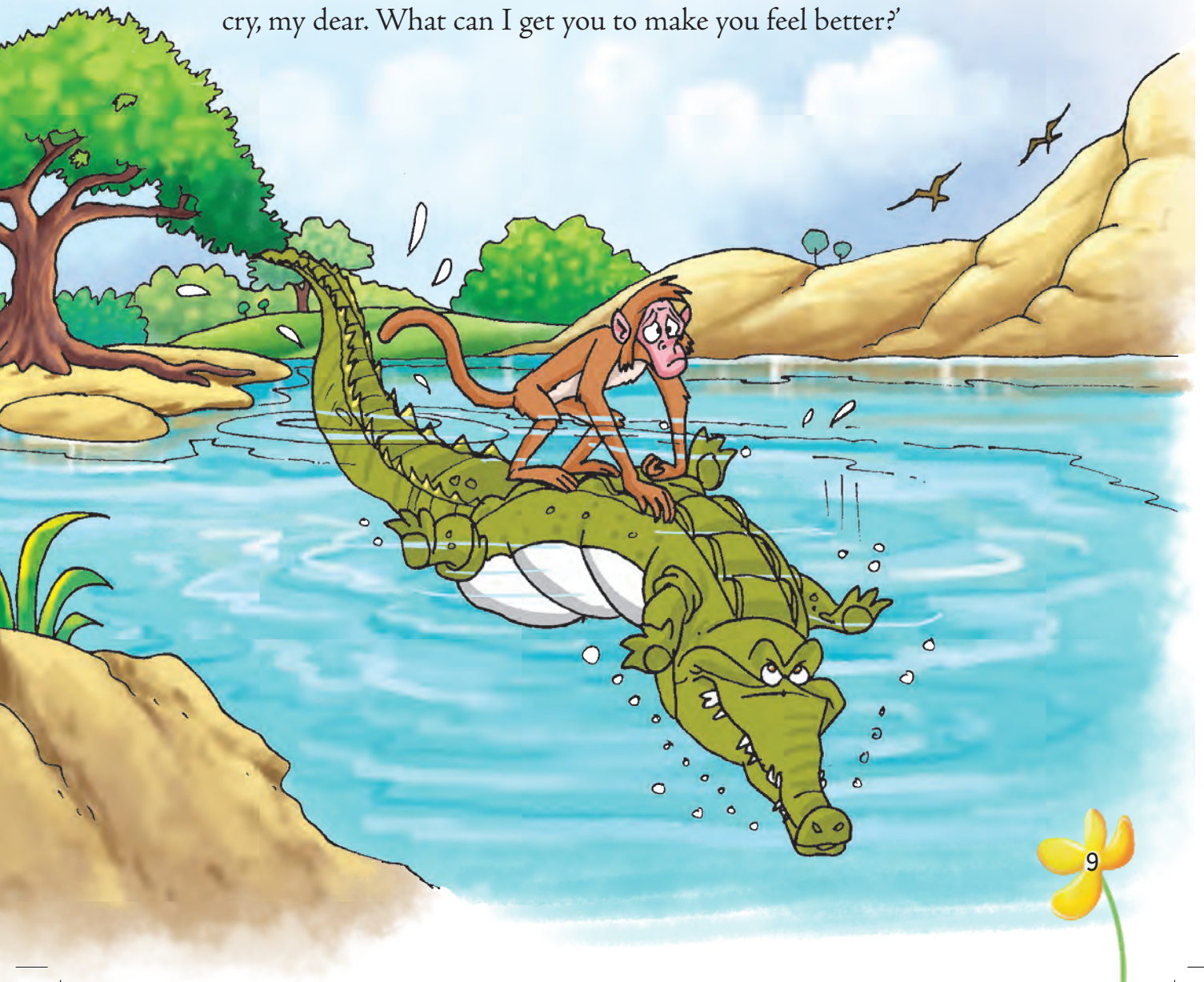


The crocodile was shocked. He tried to explain to his wife that he could not possibly eat the monkey. 'He is my only true friend,' he said.

The crocodile's wife, however, was determined to eat the monkey. She thought of a plan of getting the monkey's flesh. She would **pretend** to be very ill. So that day, when the crocodile came home, he saw his wife lying in bed. She shed tears as though she was in great pain. The puzzled crocodile went closer and asked, 'What has happened, my dear? Why are you crying?'

The crocodile's wife wept even more **bitterly**. 'O dear! I am not well and I think I am going to die.'

The crocodile, who loved his wife dearly, sat down by her side and said, 'Don't cry, my dear. What can I get you to make you feel better?'



'I am very ill,' said the crocodile's wife. 'I asked the doctor, and he said I will get well only if I eat a monkey's heart. Otherwise I will die.'

The crocodile said, 'No, no, I don't think I can get you my friend's heart.'

'Then you will have to see your wife die,' said his wife.

The crocodile was very sad. He neither wanted to eat his friend nor did he want his wife to die.

'You don't love me,' said his wife. 'You only love your friend. You don't care if I were dead.'

With a **heavy heart**, the crocodile agreed to bring the monkey to his wife. He once again went to the mango tree.

'Dear friend,' he called as soon as reached the mango tree. 'My wife is grateful for all the fruit that you have sent her. She asks that I bring you home with me for a meal.' The monkey said, 'I would love to meet your wife but you live in the water. I will drown if I tried to go to your place,' he said.

'Don't worry about that. We live on the **riverbank**,' said the crocodile. 'I'll carry you on my back.'

The monkey agreed and jumped onto the crocodile's back.

The crocodile swam with him out into the deep wide river. When they were far away from the bank and the mango tree, the crocodile started going into the water. The monkey was frightened. 'Hey,' he cried, 'What are you doing? I will drown.'

'I have to kill you,' said the crocodile. 'My wife is very ill. The only thing that will cure her is a monkey's heart. So, dear friend, I value our friendship, but I love my wife and cannot let her die.'

The monkey realized his life was in danger. He was scared and upset. What could he do to save himself? He thought quickly and said, 'Dear friend, I am very sorry to hear of your wife's illness. I am glad that I will be able to help her. But why didn't you tell me this before? I have left my heart behind on the mango tree. Do you think we could go back so that I can fetch it for your wife?'





The crocodile believed the monkey. He turned and swam quickly to the mango tree. The monkey leaped off his back and into the safety of his tree. 'False and foolish friend,' he called. 'Go back and tell your wicked wife what a fool you are! Don't you know that we carry our hearts within us? I will never trust you again or give you fruit from my tree. Go away and don't come back again.'



The crocodile felt really foolish—he had lost a friend and a **supply** of good, sweet fruit. The monkey, on the other hand, could save himself because he thought quickly.

PANCHATANTRA
(*adapted and abridged*)

To read more stories from the *Panchatantra*

log on to <http://www.talesofpanchatantra.com/short-stories-for-kids>

Words to know

generous	willing to give or share
pretend	adopted in order to deceive
bitterly	in a way that shows strong negative emotion such as anger or disappointment
a heavy heart	a feeling of great sadness
riverbank	shore of a river
supply	(here) an amount of something available for use

About the passage



A. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.

1. *Take some mangoes for her as well when you go back today.*
 - (a) Who are the speaker and the listener here?
 - (b) Who is 'her' in the above mentioned line?
 - (c) Why did the monkey offer the crocodile mangoes to be taken home?
2. *The monkey said, 'I would love to meet your wife, but you live in the water.'*
 - (a) Why did the monkey want to meet the crocodile's wife?



- (b) What was the real intention behind the invitation?
- (c) What solution did the crocodile come up with to take the monkey home?

B. Answer the following questions briefly.

1. Where did the monkey live?
2. How did the monkey and crocodile become friends?
3. Why did the crocodile's wife wish to eat the monkey after eating the mangoes?
4. How did the crocodile get the monkey to agree to accompany him?
5. Can you say the crocodile was foolish? Why?

Think and answer



- A. What plan did the crocodile's wife make for getting the monkey? Was she successful?
- B. How did the monkey save himself?
- C. The monkey was generous and wise. Do you agree? Why/why not?
- D. Do you think the crocodile was a true friend? Justify.
- E. Wit and intelligence can help us escape any dangerous situation. Elaborate with reference to the story.





How the Camel Got his Hump

Did you know a camel can go for days without food or water? This is because his hump helps him do so. How did he get his hump? Read this story and find out.

In the beginning of years, when the world was very new and the animals were first working for Man, there was a camel that lived in the middle of the **Howling** Desert. He did not want to work. He was a Howler himself. He did nothing but eat sticks and thorns and **tamarisks** and **milkweed** and **prickles**. Whenever anybody spoke to him he just said 'Humph!' Just 'Humph!' and nothing else.

Soon the Horse came to him on a bright Monday morning. The Horse, who had a **saddle** on his back and a bit in his mouth, said to the Camel, 'Camel, dear Camel, come out and **trot** like the rest of us.'

'Humph!' said the Camel. The Horse went away and told the Man.

Soon the Dog came up to the Camel. The Dog, who had a stick in his mouth, said to the Camel, 'Camel, dear Camel, come and fetch and carry like the rest of us.'

'Humph!' said the Camel. The Dog went away and told the Man.

Then the Ox with a **yoke** on his neck, came around to



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