

## Unit – I

### Glimpses of Green



**Wangari Muta Maathai** was a Kenyan environmental, political activist and Nobel Prize winner. She was born on 01 April 1940 in Nyeri District, Kenya. She is well-known for the Green Belt Movement (GBM), an environmental non-governmental organization which she founded in 1977 focusing on planting of trees, environmental conservation, and women's rights.

She had her education in the United States at Mount St. Scholastica (Benedictine College) and the University of Pittsburgh, as well as the University of Nairobi in Kenya. She authored many books including 'Unbowed: A Memoir' (2006) and 'The Challenge for Africa' (2009). In 2004 she won the Nobel Prize for peace, and became the first African woman to win a Nobel Prize. She also won the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize in 2006.

At the age of 71, on 25 September 2011 Wangari Maathai passed away due to ovarian cancer.



**Jadav "Molai" Payeng (The forest man of India)** is an environmental activist from the Indian state of Assam. He was born in an indigenous tribe of Assam in the year 1963. As a result of his dedicated hard work extending into several years, planting and tending thousands of trees on a sandbar of the river Brahmaputra, he could turn it into a forest reserve. The forest is located near Kokilamukh of Jorhat, Assam, India and encompasses an area of about 1,360 acres.

The forest, which came to be known as Molai forest, now houses Bengal tigers, Indian rhinoceros, and over 100 deer and rabbits. Molai forest is also home to monkeys and several varieties of birds, including a large number of vultures. There are several varieties of trees, and bamboo alone covers 300 hectares.

Our nation honoured this village farmer with Padma Shri award in 2015 for his unique efforts.



**Yacouba Savadogo (The Man who stopped the Desert)** is a farmer from Burkina Faso, who has reintroduced the traditional farming technique called Zai or Tassa. The Zai is a farming technique to dig pits (20-30 cm long and deep and 90 cm apart) in the soil during the pre-season to catch water and concentrate compost. The technique is traditionally used in western Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali to restore degraded dry lands and increase soil fertility.

This technique helped restore soils damaged by desertification and droughts. Such techniques are also known as agro-forestry and farmer-managed natural regeneration. In 2010 a documentary feature film named "The Man Who Stopped the Desert" was produced and first screened in the UK. The documentary portrays Yacouba's life. In 2018, he was awarded the 'Right Livelihood Award'.

## Lesson 1

### Adventures in a Banyan Tree



**Ruskin Bond** is an Indian author of British descent. He was born to Edith Clarke and Aubrey Alexander Bond, in Kasauli, Punjab States Agency, British India on 19 May 1934. He was educated at the Bishop Cotton School, Shimla, from where he graduated in 1950. He played a major role in the growth of the children's literature in India. He was awarded the *Sahitya Academy Award* in 1992 for *Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra*, his novel in English. He was also awarded the *Padma Shri* in 1999 and the *Padma Bhushan* in 2014. His other major works include 'A Flight of Pigeons', 'The Blue Umbrella' and 'The Room on the Roof' which won the 'John Llewelyn Rhys Prize' in 1957. He lives now with his adopted family in Landour, Mussoorie, India.

#### Glossary:

1. **Harmony (n):** pleasant and peaceful agreement or friendship.
2. **Mesmerizing (adj):** very attractive
3. **Leisure (n):** free time
4. **Blended:** mixed
5. **Domain:** an area under one's control
6. **Magnificent (adj):** elegant, splendid, beautiful, deserving respect.
7. **Banyan tree:** a South Asian fruit tree with branches that produce roots that grow down into the ground to form extra trunks: ആൽമരം
8. **Tease (v):** make fun of
9. **A certain:** (phrase used to talk about indefiniteness) some.
10. **Countess of Desmond: (Katherine FitzGerald) 'Countess of Desmond'** is a nickname used by the English writers to denote her longevity.
11. **Curved:** bent
12. **Maze (n):** a complicated or confusing network of paths or passages.
13. **Nestling:** resting, being
14. **Nestling (n):** a young bird that has not yet learned to fly and still lives in the nest built by its parents.
15. **Familiar (n):** (here) a close friend or attendant in the form of an animal (especially of a witch).
16. **Sniffing:** taking air in quickly through the nose.
17. **Resent (v):** show dislike or be angry.
18. **Invasion (n):** attack or trespass; an entry to one's place or property without permission.
19. **To arm oneself with:** to carry weapons.
20. **Catapult (n):** a Y-shaped stick or piece of metal with a piece of elastic for shooting small stones.
21. **Delve (v):** search thoroughly to find something as if by digging.
22. **To help oneself:** to serve oneself as much food or drink as one wants.
23. **Helping himself:** (here) eating whatever he gets
24. **Headstrong (adj):** wilful; determined; without listening to others' advice or warning.
25. **Trusting:** believing
26. **Fig (n):** fruit
27. **Flock (v):** to assemble in large numbers; to come together.
28. **Bulbul:** a medium-sized song bird
29. **Rosy-pastor:** a sort of perching bird

30. **Greedy (adj):** having excessive desire or appetite for food
31. **Gossiping:** (here) chirping; chattering
32. **Squabbling:** quarrelling noisily
33. **Propping:** supporting; keeping in position
34. **Bole:** trunk of a tree
35. **Washing:** (here) clothes just washed or dried in the sun
36. **Vendor:** seller
37. **Grumble (v):** complain in a rumbling voice; murmur
38. **Hardy (adj):** strong
39. **Marigold (n):** a plant with bright yellow or orange flowers
40. **Insisted on:** persist in; demanded to do something forcefully.
41. **English garden:** a distinct style of landscaping or garden-making. The English garden usually includes a lake, lawns, groves of trees, beautiful architectural constructions, small bridges etc. to recreate an idyllic pastoral landscape.
42. **Last (v):** to continue or exist
43. **Breeze:** a gentle wind
44. **Drowsy (adj):** sleepy
45. **Pond:** pool; water reservoir natural or man-made
46. **Make for (Phrasal Verb):** move forward to a place
47. **Glide (v):** move smoothly without stopping or making any noise; to slither like a snake.
48. **Clump:** a small group of trees or plants growing together.
49. **Cactus:** any succulent plant with a thick fleshy stem with needle-like thorns but no leaves. കള്ളിമുൾച്ചെടി
50. **Emerged:** appeared
51. **Clearing:** open space
52. **Superb (adj):** very good; excellent
53. **Aggressive (adj):** vigorous; quarrelsome; angry and violent
54. **Sacs:** bags
55. **Fangs:** long and sharp teeth; the sharp teeth of a venomous snake, by which the poison is injected.
56. **Venom:** poison
57. **Hiss (v):** make a sibilant sound like 'sss...or shh...'
58. **Defiance:** bold resistance; opposition; a challenge to meet in a combat
59. **Forked (adj):** with one end divided into two parts; bifurcated
60. **Darting:** moving quickly
61. **Spectacled (adj):** wearing spectacles; having markings resembling spectacles.
62. **Bushed (v) (here)** spread out and made like a bush or clump
63. **Spine:** backbone; spinal column
64. **Fatal (adj):** deadly; causing death
65. **Combatant (n):** (here) fighters
66. **Spectator (n):** watcher; viewer; witness
67. **Wily (adj):** cunning, clever
68. **Urban (adj):** related to a town or city. (Opposite: **Rural:** connected to the countryside or village)
69. **Outcome:** result
70. **Content (adj):** happy or satisfied
71. **Had they been = If they had been**
72. **Defensive (adj):** protecting – not attacking. (Opposite: **Offensive:** attacking)
73. **Swaying:** moving
74. **Mesmerize:** capture the complete attention of; spellbind; hypnotize; (capture full attention and confuse)
75. **Glassy:** like glass

76. **Unwinking (adj):** steady; not winking; not closing and opening.
77. **Gaze (n):** steady look.
78. **Feint (n):** a deceptive or pretentious move.
79. **Out of the reach of :** away from (Opposite: (with)in the reach of = very near)
80. **Hurl (v):** throw something firmly; (here) rush towards swiftly
81. **Collide (v):** hit heavily
82. **Shrieking:** making a scream
83. **Glisten (v):** shine; glitter; (here) appear
84. **Bumped (v):** smashed; hit
85. **Take part:** participate
86. **Proceedings:** a series of actions, (here) the attacks or fights
87. **Perch:** a branch or an object on which a bird lands or alights
88. **Whipped:** beat with a whip, (here) hit or smashed forcefully
89. **Snout:** the nose and mouth part of an animal
90. **Thudding:** striking/hitting with a thud sound
91. **Flung** (fling, flung, flung): thrown
92. **Flutter (v):** make a series quick movements
93. **Remained on the fray:** not directly involved in the angry struggle or fight.
94. **Refrain from:** avoid doing something; be away from
95. **Snap (n):** an audible bite
96. **Writhe:** twist; wriggle; make painful twisting movements
97. **Lashed:** (here) moved (the tail) quickly and violently
98. **Avail (n):** help; use; benefit
99. **Ceased:** stopped
100. **Grimly** (adv): seriously
101. **Smelt:** smelled (the mongoose smelled along the snake's shivering body)
102. **Dropped:** came down
103. **Cautiously** (adv): carefully
104. **Hop (v)** (hopped, hopped): (a bird) move jumping on its both feet
105. **Peered:** looked carefully
106. **Descend (v):** move downward (Opposite: **ascend:** climb upward)
107. **Scraps:** (here) small pieces of food left over after the main use.
108. **Tame:** domesticate a wild animal etc.; keep at home; make friendly with human
109. **Patrol (v):** go watchfully around an area to see if there is any trouble or danger.
110. **Strange Case of the Grey Squirrel and the White Rat:** Maybe a humorous allusion to the famous gothic novel by R L Stevenson, "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde".
111. **Anna (n):** a former monetary unit of India, equal to one sixteenth of a rupee. Four annas is equal to 25 paise.
112. **Knitting:** (here) materials like thread, cotton, wool etc. for making clothes, blankets etc.
113. **Glint:** shine or glitter
114. **Crammed:** filled to the point of overflowing
115. **Offspring:** the young ones; children

## Answers to the scaffolding questions in the textbook

1. "...house and ground were of Grandfather's domain. But the magnificent old banyan tree was mine".  
Why did the boy say so?  
The grandfather, at the age of sixty-five, could no longer climb the banyan tree. But the boy had made a small platform halfway up the tree and would often spend his time on it reading books and enjoying different sights. The tree gave him endless pleasure.
2. How did the squirrel become a friend of the boy?  
In the beginning the squirrel was resentful. But when it found that the boy did not carry a catapult or air-gun, it realized that the boy was not harmful and became friendly.
3. What did the friends of the squirrel think about his friendship with a human? What might have made them think so?  
The friends of the squirrel probably thought that he might be headstrong and foolish to make friendship with a human. The reason why they thought so might be that humans would not be trustworthy and the friendship with them could be dangerous.
4. How was the banyan tree the noisiest place in the fig season?  
During the fig season, birds of all kinds would flock into the tree and squabble with each other all the time making it the noisiest place.
5. How did the boy make the spring season funny?  
Halfway up the tree, the boy had built a platform. Sitting there in the afternoon he would read his favourites books, and when he did not feel like reading, he would enjoy looking through the banyan leaves at the world below. Thus he made the spring season funny.
6. What was the incident that triggered a long lasting excitement for the boy in summer?  
Once while he was sitting on the banyan tree, he could see a cobra and a mongoose fight to death in the garden just below him. This incident had enough excitement to last him through the summer.
7. How did the cobra regard his opponent? Were they true warriors?  
The cobra regarded his opponent, the grey mongoose, to be a superb fighter, clever and aggressive. Both of them were champions in the fight with the qualities of a skilful and experienced warrior.
8. How did the mongoose manage to escape the from the snake's bite?  
The mongoose managed to escape from the snake's bite by bushing his tail. The hair on his spine also stood up, and the thickness of the hair saved him from the snake's bite.
9. The cobra was a good fighter. Pick out one of his fighting techniques.  
One of the cobra's fighting techniques was that it would sway slowly from side to side, trying to mesmerize the mongoose into making a false move.
10. The mongoose proved that he was clever. Can you cite any instance of his cleverness?  
The mongoose moved forward quickly until he was within the cobra's reach, and he made a feint to one side. This clever attempt made the cobra strike, but he jumped neatly to one side misleading it from the aim. He jumped on the snake and bit it on the back and darted away out of its reach as swiftly as he could.
11. What were the reactions of the spectators when the cobra struck?  
When the cobra struck, the spectators, the crow and the myna, hurled themselves at it. But they collided heavily in the mid-air and returned to the cactus plant shrieking at each other.
12. How did the crow push itself into trouble?  
Both the crow and the myna dived at the cobra, but missed their aim. The myna flew on and reached its perch. The crow tried to pull up in mid-air and turn back. In the same second, the cobra whipped his head back and struck with great force, his snout thudding against the crow's body.
13. Why is the myna said to be wise?  
The myna was wise because it remained on the fray and did not interfere again in the fight between the cobra and the mongoose.

14. Who won the battle? What made the myna peer into the bushes?

The mongoose won the battle. The myna peered into the bushes because the mongoose had dragged the dying cobra into the bushes gripping it round the hood.

15. What prevented Grandfather from taming the mongoose?

The grandfather knew that a wild mongoose was better than a domesticated one to keep snakes away from the garden. So, he never tried to tame the mongoose.

16. Why would grandmother forgive the mongoose for stealing the eggs?

The grandmother would forgive the mongoose for stealing the eggs because it had not harmed the hens, and it would keep snakes away from the house.

17. Who was the new friend of the squirrel? How did they enjoy their friendship?

The new friend of the squirrel was a white rat, which the grandfather had bought from the bazaar. They enjoyed their friendship by going on little excursions among the branches of the banyan tree.

18. How did the boy come to know that the squirrel was building a nest?

At first the squirrel started building the nest in the boy's pockets. He found straw and grass falling out of his pockets when he changed his dress.

19. What was the wonder that nature had kept for them in the nest?

In the nest there were three white baby squirrels! Rats and squirrels are related to each other, and nature made it possible for them to have offspring.

#### Additional questions and answers based on the passages of the story

20. Identify the word from the first passage, which means 'an area under one's control'.

Answer: 'domain'.

21. If she hadn't fallen while climbing an apple tree,----- . (live longer)

Complete the sentence using the bracketed words appropriately.

Answer: If she hadn't fallen while climbing an apple tree, **she would have lived longer**.

22. Identify the word from the first passage, which means 'a confusing network of paths and passages'.

Answer: 'maze'.

23. 'In the spring, when the banyan tree was full of small red figs, birds of all kinds would flock into its branches'.

Identify the Noun Phrase in the subject position, the Head Noun that acts as the subject, and the subordinate clause in the sentence.

Answer: NP in the subject position: birds of all kinds

Head Noun as the subject: birds

The subordinate clause: when the banyan tree was full of small red figs.

24. What were some of the books that made up the boy's bag of mixed reading?

Answer: Treasure Island, Huckleberry Finn, The Mowgli Stories, Novels of Edgar Rice Burroughs and Louisa May Alcott.

25. What were some of the sights he would see sitting on the tree when he was not reading?

Answer: Sometimes he would see his grandma hanging up or taking down the washing, cooks quarrelling with a fruit vendor, or the grandfather grumbling at the Indian marigold in the garden.

26. 'In a clearing beneath the tree, in bright sunshine, they came face to face'.

Identify the Prepositional Phrases and the Verb Phrase in the sentence.

Answer: Prepositional Phrases: In a clearing; beneath the tree; in bright sunshine

Verb Phrase: came face to face in a clearing beneath the tree, in bright sunshine.

27. 'The mongoose bushed his tail'. Here the word 'bush' is used as a verb. Construct another sentence using 'bush' as a noun.

Answer: The mongoose dragged the dying snake into the nearby bush.

28. 'The banyan tree was also the setting for what we were to call the 'Strange Case of the Grey Squirrel and the White Rat'.

What was the strange case?

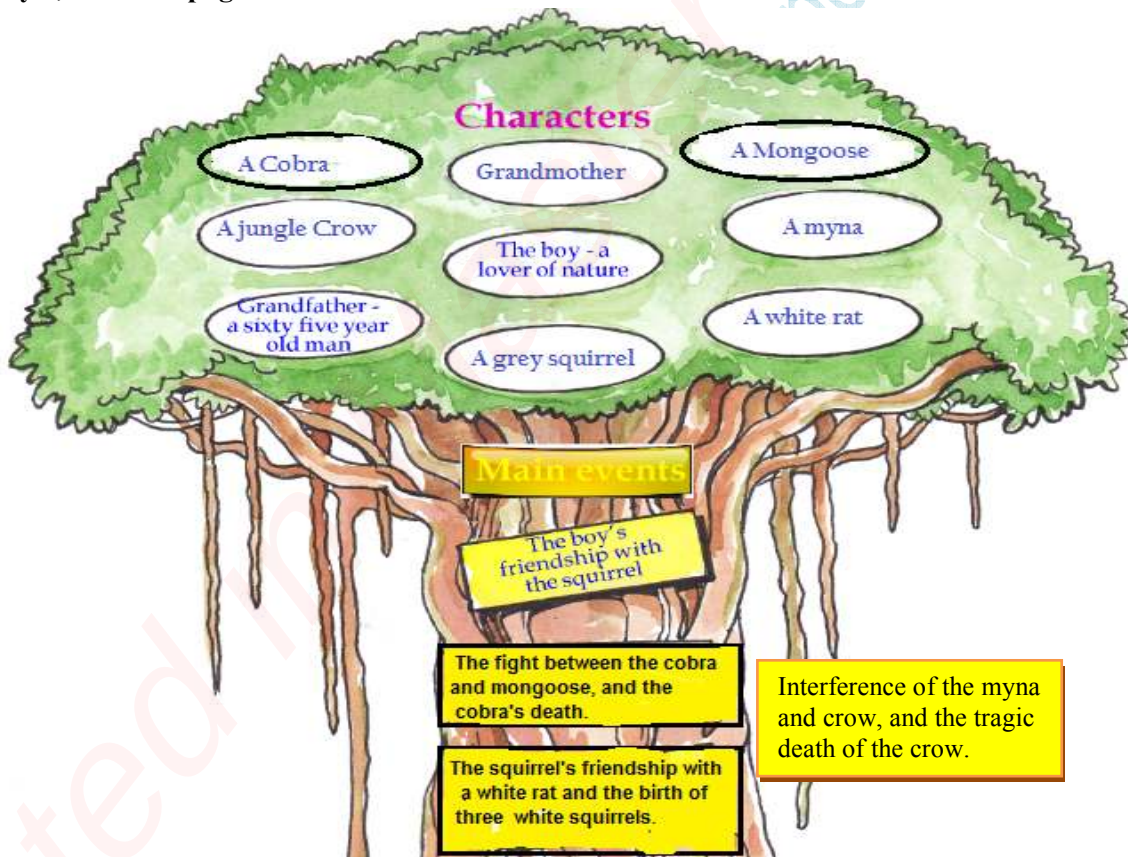
Answer: The white rat became the father of three little white squirrels. That was the strange case.

29. The following table contains some significant words from the story and their definitions in the jumbled order. Match them suitably.

A	B
1. Delve (v)	A) hypnotize
2. Squabble (v)	B) shine
3. Aggressive (adj)	C) a deceptive or pretentious move.
4. Defiance (adj)	D) twist as in pain
5. Mesmerize (v)	E) throw with great force
6. Feint	F) a pleasant shady place under trees
7. Hurl (v)	G) quarrel noisily
8. Glisten (v)	H) a challenge to meet in a combat
9. Writhe (v)	I) vigorous or quarrelsome
10. Bower	J) search thoroughly to find something as if by digging

Answers: 1-J, 2-G, 3-I, 4-H, 5-A, 6-C, 7-E, 8-B, 9-D, 10-F

### Activity 1, textbook page 15



#### Settings:

It was a warm April afternoon; the boy was sitting on the platform he had built halfway up on the banyan tree. A huge black cobra came out from a clump of cactus to the garden beneath the tree. At the same time, a mongoose also came out from a bush and stayed face to face ready for a fight.

### Activity 2, textbook page 16

The boy was very much thrilled of his acquaintance with the squirrel. He wrote a letter to his friend telling him about his new friend. Help him to complete the letter.

Ivy Cottage  
Landour Cantt  
Dehradun

28 Apr 1997

Dear Sravan,

Hope you are enjoying your vacation there. I am doing the same here, at grandpa's house. I got a new friend here. Do you know who the new friend is? A little, cute squirrel grey in colour!

In the beginning he was a little resentful towards me. But now, finding that I am not harmful, he is very friendly and familiar with me even to take food from my hands. You know in our garden there is a magnificent banyan tree, which is older than my grandpa. I often spend my free time on the tree, and the squirrel will also be there with me sometimes in my pocket.

A few days ago, my grandpa brought home a white rat, which he bought from the bazaar. I often take it with me to the tree. Soon it made a friendship with the squirrel. Meanwhile a strange thing happened. My new friend built a nest in a hole in the tree. When we checked it, we found three little white squirrels! My grandpa says that he has not seen white squirrels ever before in his life. And, he also says that the white rat is the father of them.

I invite you to come to our home one day. We can spend enough time in the garden and on the banyan tree. You may come with your sister and parents. They will also be happy to see the rare and strange gift of nature – the white squirrels!

Convey my regards to all at home. I hope to see you soon.

Yours lovingly,

Sd/  
Sharat.

### Activity 3, textbook page 16

Observing the nature is really interesting. Each and every living being has its own characteristics. The boy in the story narrates certain features of some animals. List them out.

<b>Squirrel</b>	The squirrel was very young. It was small and grey in colour. It was very friendly and a careful observer. Finding the boy not harmful, it became very friendly with him.
<b>Snake</b>	The snake was a huge cobra, and it was black in colour. The cobra was a skilful and experienced fighter. It could move swiftly and strike with the speed of light. The sacs behind its sharp, long fangs were full of deadly venom.
<b>Mongoose</b>	The mongoose was three feet long and grey in colour. It was a superb fighter, clever and aggressive. It had a bushy tail. The long hair on its spine was thick enough to save him from the bites of snakes.



#### Activity 4, textbook page 17

The boy was thrilled with the fight between the cobra and the mongoose. You may also have the same feeling. Narrate the fight scene in your own words.

#### Battle of Champions

The boy was sitting on the platform halfway up the tree. He used to read books and enjoy sights down in the garden sitting there. One April afternoon, when everyone was indoors due to the warm breezes of the approaching summer, he was sitting up on the tree as usual. Suddenly he saw a huge, black cobra gliding into the garden beneath him out from a cactus clump. At the same time, a mongoose also emerged from the bush nearby and went straight for the cobra.

Both of them came face to face in a clearing beneath the tree on which the boy was sitting. The cobra defiantly darted his forked tongue in and out and raised three of his six feet off the ground. The mongoose bushed its tail, and the long hair on its spine stood up. They were ready to fight each other.

Two other spectators- a myna and a jungle crow- also came to the scene. The cobra tried to mesmerize his opponent into making a false move. But the mongoose knew the trick and did not fall into the trap. The mongoose moving forward, made a feint to one side. The cobra struck but missed the aim. Immediately the mongoose darted on the snake and bit on its back. At the same moment, the myna and the crow also dived at the cobra but collided themselves. The cobra started getting weaker and weaker as the mongoose attacked him vigorously and repeatedly. In the fight, the cobra whipped his head back and his snout thudded forcefully against the crow's body killing it. Then, the myna wisely refrained from anymore interferences.

Finally, the mongoose with a lightning snap had the cobra by his snout. He writhed for a while and gradually stopped struggling. The winning mongoose, gripping its enemy's hood, dragged it into the bushes. The myna, with a shrill cry of congratulation, flew away!

#### Activity 5, textbook page 17

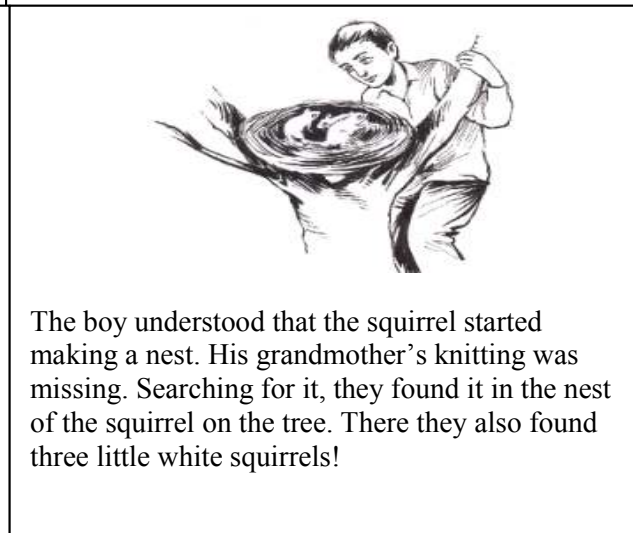
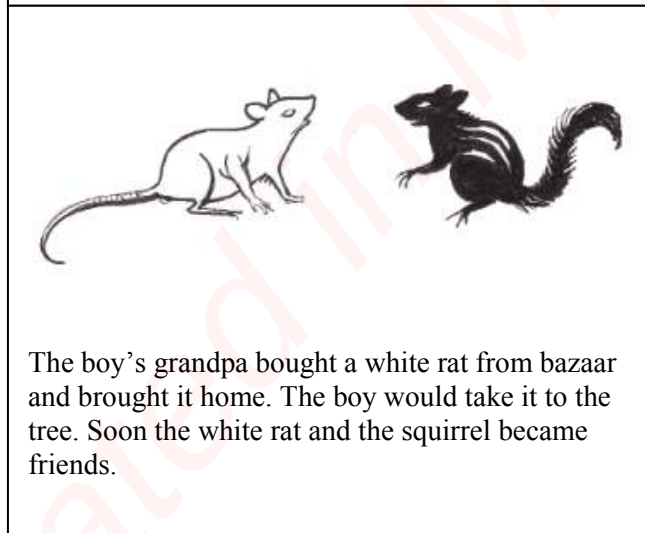
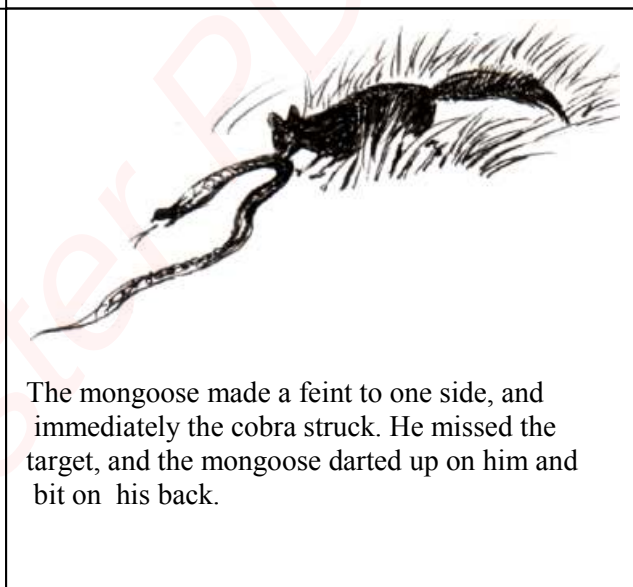
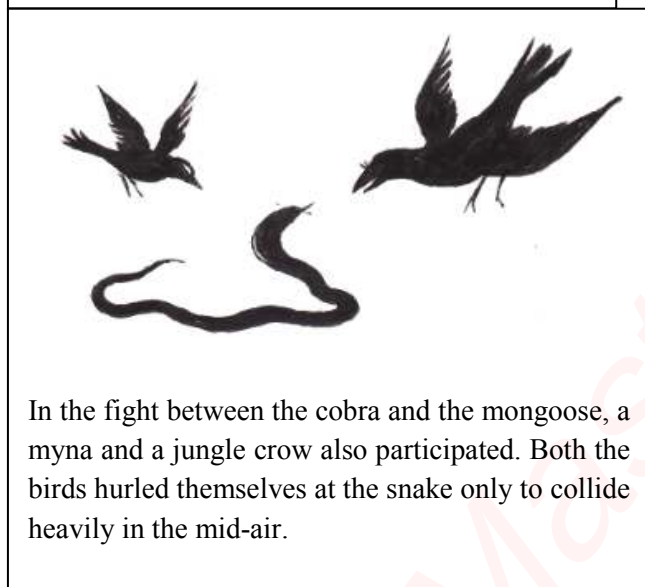
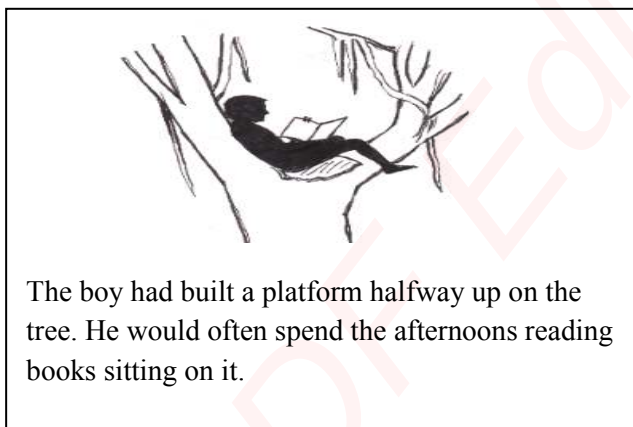
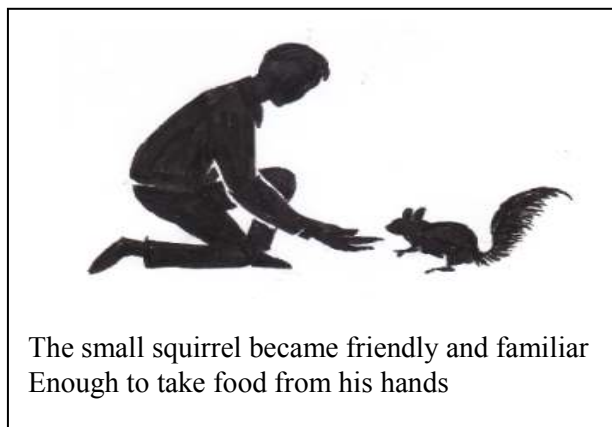
'And amongst the wool were the three baby squirrels – all of them white!' The boy couldn't stop wondering about the white squirrels. If he scribbled down this unforgettable sight in his diary, how would it be?

**10 April 2019**  
**Tuesday**  
**11:00 pm**

What a wonderful sight! My grey squirrel has got white babies. I've never seen or heard of white squirrels before. Even grandpa doesn't know about white squirrels. Grandpa is really a nice person. He loves trees, birds, animals and everything in nature. I know he loves me too very much. Actually he might have bought the white rat for me. He said the rats and squirrels were related each other. It is right, as grandpa said, the father of the white baby squirrels is my white rat. How many varieties of creatures are there in nature! We should do everything to protect the nature and its creatures. I'm proud of my grey squirrel, white rat and the white baby squirrels. I will bring all my school friends here to show them these wonderful sights.

Activity 6, textbook page 18

A. The silhouettes of some scenes from the story are given here. Identify the scenes and give cutlines.



B. Based on the cutlines, prepare a narrative.

(See the narrative given under activity 4)

## Activity 7, textbook page 19

a. A single banyan tree creates such beauty and harmony. How will it be if we have such beauty everywhere? What should we do for the conservation of nature? Discuss.

### Plant Trees and Preserve Nature

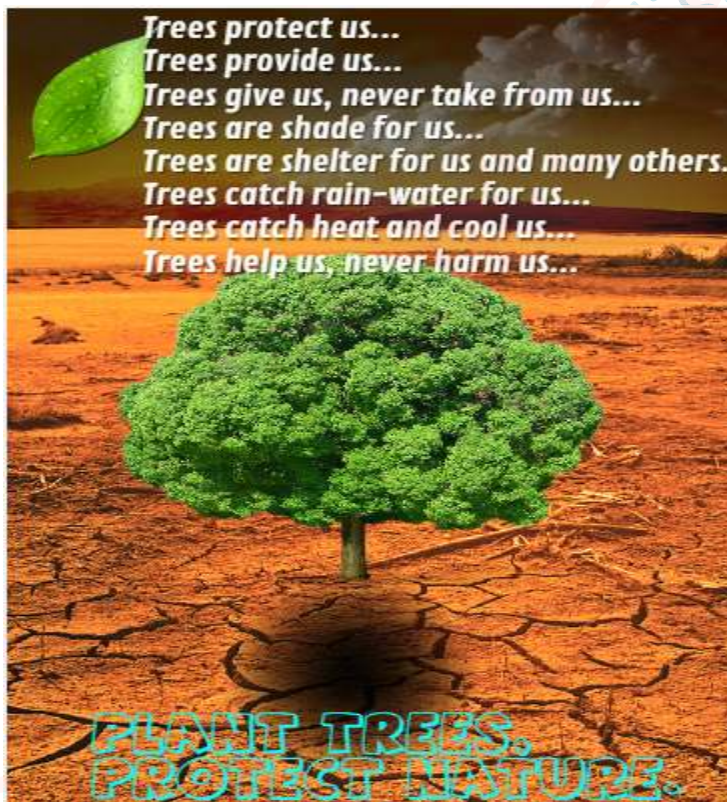
When we read the story, we understand how much a tree can contribute in preserving nature, its beauty, harmony and life. The single banyan tree is a dwelling place for many creatures, a resting place for the boy and a location of sustenance for birds, especially when the fig season comes.

As the Malayalam literary legend, Vaikom Mohammed Basheer said, all the creatures in this world are the 'rightful inheritors of the earth'. So, we the humans do not have a particular right to overuse or exploit the resources of the earth. We should consider our fellow creatures living in this world. When we cut and fell a tree, we are actually violating others' rights as well as damaging our own existence.

Nowadays, the large scale deforestation is a threat to nature. We fell trees in the name of infrastructural development to construct roads and buildings. With the increasing demand for wood fuels and building materials, the deforestation process has also increased. And, the result is hazardous. The depletion of trees decreased the rain-water catchment and increased the global warming.

In order to keep the natural eco-system intact and help life existence possible on the planet earth, it is necessitous for us to promote afforestation. We students should be motivated from stories of this kind, and take an oath to preserve and protect our nature by planting plenty of trees.

b. Prepare a digital poster on the theme 'Conservation of Nature'.



### Slogans on Nature Conservation

- Plant trees, Protect Nature.
- Root of our existence is on top of trees!
- Pollution everywhere, solution nowhere.
- Avoid plastic, save our planet.
- Say NO to pollutants to make life pleasant.
- Global warming is a warning: Carbon emission is a killing poison!
- Don't harm nature; let every creature be calm in future.
- Let rivers flow pure; make lives grow sure.

## Activity 8, textbook 19

The story, 'Adventures in a Banyan Tree', portrays the happy childhood of the writer blended with the enchanting nature. Can the future generation enjoy such a beautiful life? Analyse the following pictures and pick out the environmental issues there.



**Issue:** Deforestation / Felling tress

**Impacts:** Increasing of global warming, air pollution. Undermining the ecosystem; birds and small animals lose their habitats. Endanger the existence of our future generation.



**Issue:** Accumulation of Plastic wastes

Plastic pollution is more dangerous and longer-lasting than any other pollutions. Plastic has toxic pollutant that can damage the environment, and cause water, air, land pollution making them toxic. Plastic will take hundreds of years to decompose, so the damage created by it is long-lasting.

Do you think there are serious threat to our earth? What are the possible solutions for these issues?

### **Afforestation:**

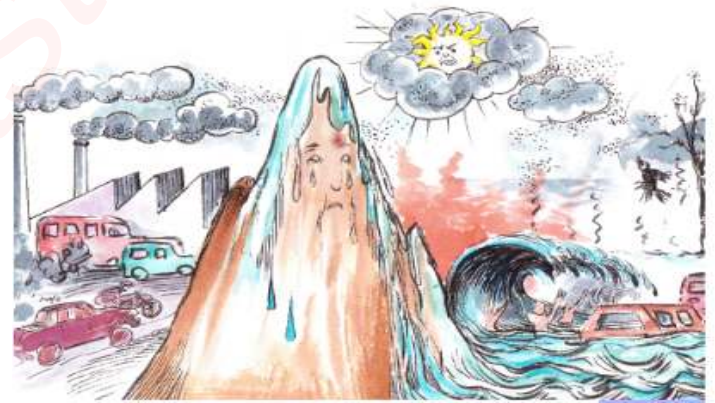
Afforestation and reforestations are two major solutions. Afforestation means to plant trees in barren areas and create new forests. Reforestation means to plant more new trees in the existing forests which have lost lots of trees for various reasons.

### **Avoid Plastic carry-bags and containers**

We know plastic is an enemy of our nature. Still we use it abundantly in our daily life as carry-bags and containers. Plastic has toxic pollutants that can poison our water, land and air in a way lasting for centuries. The only solution is our strong determination to avoid plastic, and instead use only decomposable materials.

### **Control Carbon Emission**

Carbon emissions from industrial factories, vehicles and other appliances is a major cause for rising the global warming and air pollution. Sophisticated methods should be adopted to reduce this threat.



**Issue:** Uncontrolled Carbon Emissions

The booming industrial and transport developments have affected our environment adversely. The uncontrolled carbon emissions from countless factories and vehicles pollute the atmosphere dangerously.

It adds to the global warming as well as polluting the breathing air. The increase in the atmospheric temperature, especially in the Arctic region, causes losing the sea ice and melting ice sheets. The excessive inflow of freshwater into seas undermine the marine ecosystem. The increasing global warming causes for sudden climate changes which affect the human beings as well as all other living species badly.

- Imagine that the English Club of your school has decided to conduct a seminar on the topic ‘Save the Earth.’ Prepare a notice proclaiming the subject and inviting all the teacher and students.

## ‘Save the Earth’

(Seminar conducted by the ABC school, Kochi)

Dear teachers and students,

Human encroachments into the world of nature have undermined the ecosystem, and their adverse effects have started threatening the existence of life on Earth. In this scenario, awareness on environment preservation and protection has become vital. So, the English Club of our school has decided to conduct a seminar on the topic ‘Save the Earth’ as detailed below.

All are invited to the programme and requested to participate actively in all sessions.

**Date: 07 March 2020**

**Time: 10 a.m.**

**Venue: Multimedia Hall**

### Programme Details

Prayer: The school choir  
Welcome Speech: The President, English Club  
Topic Presentation: The Secretary, English Club  
Keynote Address: The school Principal  
Submitting Papers  
General Discussions  
Interactive Sessions  
Vote of Thanks: The school Leader

Kochi  
01 Mar 2020

Secretary,  
English Club, ABC School

- Prepare a report of the seminar describing the programmes published in the notice.

## ‘Save the Earth’ – Seminar conducted by the ABC school, Kochi

Ashwin KS  
The English Club Secretary,  
ABC School, Kochi  
10 March 2020

The ABC school, Kochi conducted a seminar on the topic ‘Save the Earth’ at the school’s multimedia hall on 07 March 2020. The sessions started at 10:00am with the prayer by the school choir. The club president welcomed all to the programme. The club secretary presented the topic of the seminar, and the school principal delivered the keynote address focusing on the necessity of saving the earth from all threats and protecting our environment from all pollutions.

In the seminar several papers were submitted and they opened ways for detailed discussions and the interactive sessions became very vibrant. The seminar expressed anxieties on climate changes and global warming and exhorted to find solutions. It was decided to conduct more awareness programmes on the importance of protecting nature and saving our earth from all human threats.

The school leader proposed vote of thanks and the seminar sessions concluded successfully.

## Let's learn about words

### Activity 1, textbook page 20

1. Pick out the words and phrases used to describe the fight of each warrior.

Snake	Mongoose
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Move swiftly</li> <li>Strike with speed of light</li> <li>Hissed defiantly</li> <li>Darted his forked tongue in and out</li> <li>Raised three feet of his six feet off the ground</li> <li>Spread his broad spectacled hood</li> <li>Swayed slowly from side to side</li> <li>Tried to mesmerize the mongoose into making a false move.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Made a feint to one side</li> <li>Darted swiftly</li> <li>Refused to meet the glassy, unwinking eyes of the snake</li> <li>Fixed his gaze at a point just below the cobra's hood</li> <li>Bushed his tail</li> <li>Raised the long hair on his spine</li> <li>Bit the snake on the back</li> </ul>

### Activity 2, textbook page 21

Rewrite the passage using the synonyms of words underlined.

In the spring, when the banyan tree was full of small red figs, birds of all kinds would flock into its branches, the red-bottomed bulbul, cheerful and greedy; gossiping rosy pastors, and parrots and crows, squabbling with each other all the time. During the fig season, the banyan tree was the noisiest place on the road.

- Answers: **small** = tiny, little / **flock** (v) = assemble; gather. Flock (n) = group / **greedy** (adj) = avid; avaricious, voracious / **gossiping** (adj) = backbiting; babbling / **noisiest** (ad) = most uproarious; most clamorous; most vociferous.

**Now read the following sentence:**

He had never tried taming it, because a wild mongoose was more useful than a domesticated one.

What function do the underlined words perform in this sentence?

- Answer: The underlined words are adjectives. They describe the nouns that follow them. [An adjective is a word that describes or qualifies a noun or pronoun.] (The adjectives 'wild' and 'domesticated' are antonymous as well).

**Prepare more word cards picking words from the lesson.**

Word	Category	Synonyms	Antonyms	Sentence with synonyms	Sentence with antonyms	Activity with the word
Foolish	Adjective	Silly, stupid, idiotic, witless	Wise	The myna decided to refrain from the fight, which was a <b>wise</b> decision.	The crow took a <b>foolish</b> step and got struck by the snake.	Wisely (adv) Foolishness (n) Suffixed
Hardy	Adjective	Strong, firm; healthy	Weak; unhealthy; Feeble; tender	<b>Hardy</b> plants can grow even in adverse climates.	Towards the end of the fight, the cobra became very <b>weak</b> .	Hardiness (n) Weakness (n) Suffixed
Emerge	Verb	Appear; arrive; emanate	Disappear Hide Fade	The magician <b>emerged</b> from the smoke.	While everyone was watching, he disappeared.	Emergence (n) Disappearance (n) Suffixed
Descend	Verb	Fall; drop; decline Come down	Ascend; climb	The plane finally <b>descended</b> into an unknown airport.	She <b>ascended</b> the stairs with much difficulty.	Descended (v) Ascended (v) Suffixed

### Activity 3, textbook page 22

#### Adjective/Adverbs: Degrees of Comparison

Positive	Comparative	superlative
Old	older	oldest
Swift	Swifter	Swiftest
Good	Better	Best
Bad	Worse	Worst
Aggressive	More aggressive	Most aggressive

**Note:** There are three degrees of comparison for adjectives and adverbs in English as shown in the table above.

- The positive degree is used to compare between two things or persons with a quality on an equal level. We use the structure “**as...as**” to compare with the positive degree.

E.g. The banyan tree was **as old as** the house.

(Both the tree and the house are old in the same degree)

- The comparative degree is used to compare between two things or persons with a quality on a different level. The quality compared will be either less or more with one of the persons/things. The word ‘**than**’ is used in this type of comparisons.

E.g. The tree was **older than** the house.

(The quality of being old is not equal with the tree and house. The tree has the quality more than the house).

- The superlative degree is used to show that a person or thing has the highest or the lowest quality in a group of more than two persons/things. The determiner (definite article) ‘**the**’ is used with superlative degree forms.

E.g. It was **the oldest** banyan tree in the town.

(The banyan tree is compared to all other trees in the town, and shows that it has the quality of being old in the highest degree among all other trees in the town).

#### Fill in the blanks suitably.

1. No other animal is as .....as the crow. (clever, cleverer, cleverest)

Answer: Clever

2. The grey mongoose was.....than the cobra. (aggressive, more aggressive, most aggressive)

Answer: more aggressive

3. The banyan tree was the.....place on the road. (noisy, noisier, noisiest)

Answer: noisiest

4. The cobra was a.....fighter. (skilful, more skilful, most skilful)

Answer: skilful

5. The evening was.....than the morning. (hot, hotter, hottest)

Answer: hotter

6. The myna was as.....as the crow. (contented, more: contented, most contented)

Answer: contented

7. It was the.....fight of the snake with the mongoose. (bad, worse, worst)

Answer: worst

8. It was one of the.....vacations the boy had. (unforgettable, more unforgettable, most unforgettable)

Answer: most unforgettable

9. Grandfather is the.....member of the family. (old, older, oldest)

Answer: oldest

10. The mongoose darted in as.....as the cobra. (swiftly, more swiftly, most swiftly)

Answer: swiftly.