

Questions 1-8: Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

Though the house and grounds of our home in India were Grandfather's domain, the magnificent old banyan tree was mine-chiefly because Grandfather, at the age of sixty-five, could no longer climb it. Grandmother used to tease him about this, and would speak of a certain Countess of Desmond, an English woman who lived to the age of 117, and would have lived longer if she hadn't fallen while climbing an apple tree. The spreading branches of the banyan tree, which curved to the ground and took root again, forming a maze of arches, gave me endless pleasure. The tree was older than the house, older than Grandfather, as old as the town of Dehra, nestling in a valley at the foot of the Himalayas.

1. Why did the boy say that the magnificent banyan tree was his domain?
2. Who was referred to as the Countess of Desmond? What was special about her?
3. What is the connection between the Dehra town and the Himalayas?
4. Grandmother used to tease him about this,.....? (Add a suitable question tag)
5. The tree was older than the house. (Change into negative without changing the meaning)
6. Find out a single word from the passage for '**an area under one's control**'.
7. Find out a single word from the passage for '**a confusing network of passages**'.
8. "*The spreading branches of the banyan tree, which curved to the ground and took root again, gave me endless pleasure*".
 - a) Identify the noun phrase (NP) in the subject position.
 - b) Identify the head noun (HN) in the subject position.
 - c) Identify a relative clause from the sentence.
 - d) Identify the verb phrase (VP).

Questions 9 -14: Read the following passages and answer the questions that follow.

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.

Halfway up the tree I had built a small platform on which I would often spend the afternoons when it wasn't too hot. I could read there, propping myself up against the bole of the tree with cushions taken from the drawing room. Treasure Island, Huckleberry Finn, The Mowgli stories, and the Novels of Edgar Rice Burroughs and Louisa May Alcott made up my bag of very mixed reading.

9. When would birds of all kinds flock into the branches of the banyan tree?
10. When and why did the banyan tree become the noisiest place on the road?
11. Where would the boy spend the afternoon when it wasn't too hot?
12. Pick out a single word for '**quarreling or arguing noisily**'.
13. 'I had built a small platform.' (Rewrite the sentence beginning with 'A small platform...')
14. Which bird was greedy?
 - a) crow b) parrot c) pastor d) bulbul

Questions 27 – 31: Read the following passages and answer the questions that follow.

When I had also made a cautious descent from the tree and returned to the house, I told Grandfather of the fight I had seen. He was pleased that the mongoose had won. He had encouraged it to live in the garden, to keep away the snakes, and fed it regularly with scraps from the kitchen. He had never tried taming it, because wild mongoose was more useful than a domesticated one.

From the banyan tree I often saw the mongoose patrolling the four corners of the garden, and once I saw him with an egg in his mouth and knew he had been in the poultry house; but he hadn't harmed the birds, and I knew Grandmother would forgive him for stealing as long as he kept the snakes away from the house.

27. Why was his Grandfather pleased to hear that the mongoose had won the fight?
28. Why had the Grandfather never tried taming the mongoose?
29. How did the boy know that the mongoose had the habit of visiting the poultry house?
30. Why did the boy think that his Grandmother would forgive mongoose for stealing eggs?
31. 'He hadn't harmed the birds'. (Change the voice of this sentence)

Questions 32 - 36: Read the following passages and answer the questions that follow.

Then the squirrel started building a nest. At first she tried building it in my pockets, and when I went indoors and changed my clothes I would find straw and grass falling out. Then one day Grandmother's knitting was missing. We hunted for it everywhere but without success. Next day I saw something glinting in the hole in the banyan tree. Going up to investigate, I saw that it was the end of Grandmother's steel knitting-needle. On looking further, I discovered that the hole was crammed with knitting. And amongst the wool were three baby squirrels--all of them white!

Grandfather had never seen white squirrels before, and we gazed at them in wonder. We were puzzled for some time, but when I mentioned the white rat's frequent visits to the tree, Grandfather told me that the rat must be the father. Rats and squirrels were related to each other, he said, and so it was quite possible for them to have offspring--in this case, white squirrels!

32. How did the boy realize that the squirrel had started building a nest in his pocket?
33. What made the search for Grandmother's knitting lead into the hole in the banyan tree?
34. What did the boy find amongst the wool in the hole in the banyan tree?
35. Why did Grandfather and others gaze at the white little baby squirrels in wonder?
36. How could Grandfather say that the white rat must be the father of the white baby squirrels?

- The boy was very much thrilled of his acquaintance with the squirrel, possession of the white rat and in the arrival of the white baby squirrels. He wrote a letter to his friend telling him about his new friends. Write a likely **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 in 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 one of the squirrels in the banyan tree. Meanwhile a strange thing happened. The squirrel started building 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 in 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. Hope to see you soon.

Yours lovingly,

Sd/
Sharat.

- '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! Our white rat has become father of three little white squirrel 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 all my new animal friends- the squirrels, white rat and the white baby squirrels. I will bring all my schoolmates here to show them these wonderful sights.

- 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 his platform 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 bushes nearby and went straight for the cobra.

Both of them came face to face in a clearing beneath the tree in 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 each other. 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!

- 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? Prepare a **write-up**.

Plant Trees and Preserve Nature

When we read the story, 'Adventures in a Banyan Tree', we understand how much a tree can contribute in preserving nature, its beauty and harmony and sustaining life on earth. 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 the rights of other creatures 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 ecosystem 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.

- Prepare a few placard slogans on the theme “Conservation of Nature”.

- 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.

- 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

- The arrival of the white baby squirrels soon became a wonderful piece of news. Hearing this news, visitors rushed to Grandfather's house. The following day the newspapers reported about this strange and rare gift of nature. Prepare the likely **news report**.

White Squirrels – A Feast for the Eyes!

20 July 2019

Staff Reporter

Dehra: It has been reported that three white baby squirrels have been found in a nest in a banyan tree here in the outskirts of the town. The banyan tree is in a home garden owned by a sixty-five year old gentleman living about ten miles away from the town. People from different part of the town come to his house to have a look at the wonderful gift of nature. White squirrels are a very rare species, and no one in our vicinity has seen them ever before. These strange guests of nature are truly a feast for our eyes!

In this house apart from the gentleman and his wife, their grandchild, a fifteen year old schoolboy, also lives with them. The grandfather is a hard working farmer with a special affection towards all creatures and plants in nature. He maintains an English model garden with a wide variety of plants and trees in his house plot; a huge banyan tree is one among them. Recently the grandpa bought a white rat from the bazaar. The boy had made friendship with a squirrel and he used to spend his free time with the squirrel and the white rat in the tree. Meanwhile the white rat made friendship with one of the squirrels there.

Yesterday while they were searching for the grandma's missing knitting, they came across these white squirrel babies in a nest in the banyan tree. When the boy said that he used to take the white rat to the tree, the grandfather realized the fact that the father of the white baby squirrels must be the white rat. He said, "Rats and squirrels are related to each other, and so it is quite possible for them to have offspring."

- Prepare a short **profile** of Ruskin Bond, an Indian author of British descent, with the help of the details given below.

Birth: 19 May 1934, in Kassuli, Punjab States Agency, British India.

Father: officer at Royal Air Force

First Novel: 'The Room on the Roof' (wrote when he was seventeen, won John Llewellyn Rhys Prize 1957)

First Children's Book: "The Angry River".

Short Story Collection: "Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra" (won the Sahitya Academy Award)

Padma Shri: in 1999 for children's literature contributions.

Lifetime Achievement Award: in 2017

Now lives with his adopted family: in Landour near Mussoorie.

Ruskin Bond

Ruskin Bond is an Indian author of British descent. He was born on 19 May 1934 in Kassuli, Punjab States Agency, British India. His father was an officer at Royal Air Force. He wrote his first Novel 'The Room on the Roof', at the age of seventeen. It won John Llewellyn Rhys Prize in 1957. His first children's book was "The Angry River". In 1992, he received the Sahitya Academy Award for his short story collection, 'Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra'. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1999 for his contributions to children's literature. He got the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' in 2017. He now lives with his adopted family in Landour, near Mussoorie.

- Having witnessed the dreadful fight between the cobra and the mongoose, the boy rushed to his grandpa and put across everything to him. The grandpa was happy to hear that the mongoose had won the fight and the cobra got killed. Prepare the likely **conversation** between the boy and his grandpa.

The boy: Good afternoon grandpa, how are you?

Grandpa: Good afternoon, I'm fine! You're so excited, what's up?

The boy: I got to see a fight between a cobra and a mongoose. Really dreadful!

Grandpa: What, fight between a cobra and mongoose! Where? Where were you then?

The boy: I was sitting on my platform in our banyan tree. The cobra and mongoose came just below me.

Grandpa: Then, what happened?

The boy: They fought fiercely each other. The mongoose was very fast and clever, and he killed the snake.

Grandpa: Wow, that's great! The mongoose is a clever guy. I've seen him many times here. He is our guard keeping snakes away from our garden and house.

The boy: A myna and a crow also took part in the fight, and the crow got killed.

Grandpa: Perhaps they also don't like the cobra. Anyhow, be careful while you're in the garden.

The boy: Okay grandpa, I'll be careful. Thank you, bye!

1: Completing Conversations

While searching for his grandmother's knitting, the boy happened to see three little white squirrels in a nest in the banyan tree. It was an amazingly unbelievable sight, and he rushed home to tell his grandpa about it. Complete suitably the following conversation between the boy and his grandpa.

Boy : Good afternoon grandpa.

Grandpa: Good afternoon. Why are you so excited?(a).....?

Boy : I have something special to show you. Get ready for a surprise.

Grandpa:(b).....

Boy : I won't tell you. Come with me; I'll show you.

Grandpa:(c).....?

Boy : You should come with me to our banyan tree.

Grandpa: Okay! What happened there?

Boy : There in a nest, there are three little white squirrels!(d).....?

Grandpa: No, I have never seen white squirrels in my life. Have you ever seen our white rat together with any squirrels?

Boy :(e).....

Grandpa: Then, the white rat is the father of these white squirrels. Rats and squirrels are related to each other and they can have offspring.

Boy: Thank you grandpa for this information. What a miraculous gift of nature! I'm much proud of my white squirrels.

[Answers: 1. a) What happened? b) Tell me what the surprise is. c) Where should I come with you? d) Have you ever seen white squirrels in your life? e) Yes, I've seen many times the white rat together with a squirrel.]

2: Completing Conversations

At the age of sixty-five, the grandfather could no longer climb trees. The grandmother used to tease him about this, sometimes in the name of a certain Countess of Desmond. Complete the following conversation between them.

Grandma: Hey, my dear,(a).....?

Grandpa : I'm here in the garden. What's the matter?

Grandma: Our grandson has built a platform up on the banyan tree.(b).....?

Grandpa: No, I haven't seen it. Why did he build it there?

Grandma:(c).....

If you want, you also can enjoy sitting there.

Grandpa: I can't climb trees at this age of sixty-five.

Grandma: Sixty-five is not too old an age. You've lost all your courage. Do you know the Countess of Desmond?

Grandpa:(d)..... Who is that?

Grandma: She was an English woman who used to climb trees till her death at the age of 117.

Grandpa: Then, you're my countess! You go climbing trees; I can't any more.

[Answers: 2. a) Where are you? b) Have you seen it? C) He says he likes sitting there and reading books. d) I don't know any countess.]

3: Completing Conversations

After seeing the fight between the cobra and the mongoose, the boy went home and explained everything to his grandpa. The grandpa was happy to hear that the winner was the mongoose. Complete the following conversation between the boy and the grandpa.

Boy : Grandpa, how are you?(a).....

Grandpa: I'm fine dear. Interesting story, what's it?

Boy : This afternoon while I was sitting in the banyan tree, I could see a dreadful fight between a cobra and a mongoose in our garden.

Grandpa: The mongoose was the one living in our garden,.....(b).....?

Boy : Yes, the same one.

Grandpa: Okay,(c).....?

Boy : Finally the mongoose won the fight. He killed the snake.

Grandpa: That's good. We need the mongoose in our garden to keep snakes away from our house.

Boy : A myna and a crow also participated in the fight.

Grandpa: What happened to the birds?

Boy :(d)....., and the myna escaped.

Grandpa: There could be more snakes in the garden. You had better.....(e).....

Boy : Okay grandpa, I will be more careful.

[Answers: 3. a) I have an interesting story to tell you b) wasn't it? c) Finally, who won the fight? d) The crow got killed by colliding with the snake. e) be more careful]

- Imagine that you go to school daily walking along a riverside. You have noticed that many small scale factories and the public people pollute the river by pumping and dumping wastes, including plastic wastes, into the river. You have decided to send an email message to bring this issue to the attention of the Environment Department of Pollution Control Board. Prepare the likely **email** message.

From	Sender's email ID @email.com
To	pollutioncontrolboard@email.com
Cc	
Bcc	
Subject	River is being killed by polluting it

20 July 2019

Dear Sir,

I am a tenth standard student. I live in a beautiful village almost three kilometres away from my school. Daily I walk to and from my school along a riverside.

The river that flows through our village is the main water source for all the villagers. Recently many small scale factories have started working along its banks. All these factories pump their plastic and chemical wastes into this river. Some anti-social people also dump wastes in the river. It is a pathetic sight that every day the river is getting polluted.

I would like to bring this serious issue to your attention. I request you to do the needful to save the river which is the blood vessel of the village life. Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/
Raheem.

- **Now convert the same message into a formal letter format.**

Street No. 10
Kochi- 11
20 July 2019

The Chairman
Pollution Control Board, Trivandrum

Subject: River is being killed by polluting it

Dear Sir,

I am a tenth standard student. I live in a beautiful village almost three kilometres away from my school. Daily I walk to and from my school along a riverside.

The river that flows through our village is the main water source for all the villagers. Recently many small scale factories have started working along its banks. All these factories pump their plastic and chemical wastes into this river. Some anti-social people also dump wastes in the river. It is a pathetic sight that every day the river is getting polluted.

I would like to bring this serious issue to your attention. I request you to do the needful to save the river which is the blood vessel of the village life. Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/
Raheem

➤ **Report the following dialogues.**

1. Grandfather: "I'm a sixty-five year old man, and I can't climb the tree any longer"
Grandmother: "You're lazy. Have you heard of one Countess of Desmond?"
2. The boy: Where did you get the white rat from?
Grandfather: I bought it from the bazaar.
3. The boy: What a dreadful fight it was!
Grandpa: Who won the fight?
The boy: The mongoose killed the snake.
4. Grandmother: Did anybody see my knitting?
Grandfather: I've not seen or taken your knitting.
5. The boy: Grandpa, have you ever seen white squirrels.
Grandpa: No, I've never seen white squirrels in my life.
6. Grandpa: Son, be careful while you are in the garden.
The boy: Okay Grandpa, I'll be careful. Thank you.

- [Answers: 1. Grandfather said that he was a sixty-five year old man, and he couldn't climb trees any longer.
Grandmother opined that he was lazy, and she asked whether he had heard of one Countess of Desmond.
2. The boy asked his grandfather where he had got the white rat from.
Grandfather replied that he had bought it from the bazaar.
 3. The boy exclaimed that it had been a very dreadful fight.
Grandpa asked the boy who had won the fight.
The boy replied that the mongoose had killed the snake.
 4. Grandmother enquired whether anybody had seen her knitting.
Grandfather told/replied/responded that he hadn't seen or taken her knitting.
 5. The boy asked his grandpa whether he had ever seen white squirrels.
Grandpa replied (negatively) that he had never seen white rats in his life.
 6. Grandpa advised his grandson to be careful while he was in the garden.
The boy accepted thankfully his grandpa's advice and said that he would be careful.

➤ **Add suitable Tag Questions**

1. Grandmother used to tease Grandfather,.....?
2. The banyan tree was older than the house,.....?
3. The boy had built a platform halfway up on the tree,.....?
4. During the fig season, birds of all kinds flocked into the tree,.....?
5. Grandma searched everywhere for her knitting,.....?
6. They could find the knitting nowhere,.....?
7. Nobody knew what happened to the knitting,.....?
8. Don't climb the tree,.....?
9. Let's go to the garden and see the squirrel babies,.....>
10. I am the owner of the banyan tree,.....?
11. That was a very old house,.....?
12. All my friends will be excited to see the white rat and the baby squirrels,.....?
13. Everyone was enchanted by the white squirrel babies,.....?
14. Something strange happened in the banyan tree,.....?
15. Those were unforgettable days,.....?
16. There were three white baby squirrels in the nest,.....?
17. The cobra got few chances for a counter attack,.....?

- [Answers: 1. didn't he? 2. wasn't it? 3.hadn't he? 4.didn't they? 5.didn't she? 6.could they? 7.did they? 8.will you?
9.shall we? 10.aren't I? 11.wasn't it? 12.won't they? 13.weren't they? 14 didn't it? 15.weren't they?
16. weren't there? 17.did it?

Answers to the questions based on the textual passages

1. The grandfather or anybody else did not climb or come to the tree. The boy could use it as his private place.
2. Countess of Desmond was an English woman who lived to the age of 117. She used to climb trees until her death falling while climbing an apple tree.
3. Dehra town situates in a valley at the foot of Himalayas.
4. didn't she?
5. The house was not as old as the tree.
6. 'Domain' is the word that means 'an area under one's control'.
7. 'Maze' is the word that means 'a confusing network of passages'.
8. a) NP in the subject position: *The spreading branches of the banyan tree, which curved to the ground and took root again.*
b) The Head Noun in the subject position: branches
c) The relative clause: *which curved to the ground and took root again.*
d) The Verb Phrase (VP): *gave me endless pleasure*".
9. In the spring season, when the banyan tree was full of small red figs.
10. During the fig season, all kinds of birds would flock into the branches of the banyan tree. They would squabble each other all the time making the banyan tree the noisiest place on the road.
11. The boy had built a platform halfway up the tree, where he would spend his afternoons when it wasn't too hot.
12. 'Squabbling' is the word that means 'quarreling and arguing noisily'.
13. A small platform had been built by me.
14. d) bulbul
15. It was hot outside. The summer was approaching and the breeze was warm. So everyone stayed inside the house.
16. It was a hot afternoon. The cobra wanted to escape from the heat. So it was moving to some cooler part of the garden.
17. The boy thought of going to the pond behind the house for a swim.
18. In a clearing beneath the banyan tree, the mongoose and the cobra came face to face.
19. The cobra raised three of his six feet off the ground darting his tongue in and out, spread his broad, spectacled hood and hissed defiantly.
20. The thickness of long hair on his spine had saved him from fatal snake bites in the past.
21. The boy was sitting on the platform he had built halfway up the banyan tree.
22. The other two spectators to watch the fight was a myna and a jungle crow.
23. The cobra's plan was to mesmerize the mongoose into making a false move.
24. The mongoose knew the power of the cobra's glassy, unwinking eyes. If he looked into them, he would be mesmerized and would miss his concentration. So he refused to meet them.
25. 'If they had been content only to watch, all would have been well with both of them'.
26. The mongoose emerged from the bush.
27. Grandfather had encouraged the mongoose to live in the garden. He wanted the mongoose to be there to keep snakes away from the garden and house.
28. Grandfather believed that a wild mongoose would be more useful than a tamed one to fight snakes.
29. The boy once saw the mongoose with an egg in his mouth. Then he realized that the mongoose had the habit of visiting the poultry house.
30. Though the mongoose would steal eggs, he never harmed the birds. And he would keep snakes away from the house. So Grandfather would forgive him for stealing a few eggs.
31. The birds hadn't been harmed by him.
32. When he changed his clothes, he would find straw and grass falling out of pocket. Then he realized that the squirrel had started building a nest in his pocket.
33. The boy noticed something glinting in a hole in the banyan tree. So he climbed the tree and searched the hole and found out that it was Grandfather's steel knitting-needle.
34. Amongst the wool in the hole, the boy could find three baby squirrels – all of them white!
35. None of them, including Grandfather, had never seen white squirrels before. So they gazed at them in wonder.
36. When the boy said that he used to take the white rat to the banyan tree and the white had made friendship with one of the squirrels, Grandfather realized that the father of the white baby squirrels must be the white rat. He also knew that rats and squirrels were related to each other and it was quite possible for them to have offspring.
