

## Lesson 10



### The Scholarship Jacket

#### About the Author:





**Marta Salinas** (born 1949) is a native of Coalinga, California. She graduated in creative writing from the University of California at Irvine. *The Scholarship Jacket* is one of the several short stories Salinas has published in journals and collections.

#### Glossary:

1. **Tradition:** a long-established custom, a convention or ritual.
2. **Carry out:** (phrasal verb) to do something as decided, to put into practice.
3. **Graduate:** (v) to grant or receive an academic degree or diploma, to complete a course of training (in North America a course of studies in High School).
4. **Valedictorian:** a student who has the highest grades in his or her graduating class in high school and who makes a speech at the graduation ceremony.

5. **Look forward:** (phrasal verb) to feel excited about something that is going to happen, hope for something with excitement. (Note: after 'look forward', a gerund – the 'ing form' - is normally used, not an 'infinitive form. E.g. *Martha looked forward to **winning** the jacket.* Not...to **win** the jacket).
6. **Raise:** (v) (here) to take care of a person until they are completely grown.
7. **Agile:** (adj) able to move quickly and easily.
8. **Athletic:** (adj) physically strong, fit and active, relating to athletes or athletics.
9. **Spring fever:** (n) a feeling of restlessness and excitement felt at the beginning of spring (a climate change)
10. **With a vengeance:** (idiom) to a greater degree than expected, vigorously.
11. **Pay attention to:** (phrasal verb) to listen to, consider.
12. **Stare:** look
13. **Despair:** to become disappointed, to lose hope.
14. **Curve:** (here) attractive body shape.
15. **Beanpole:** tall, thin person.
16. **String bean:** a type of long, green bean.
17. **Absentmindedly:** (adv) without much care or attention, without presence of mind.
18. **Wander:** walk aimlessly
19. **Sweating:** (here) working hard.
20. **'Coach Thompson was a real bear.'** (an example of 'Metaphor')
21. **Argument:** (here) angry conversation.
22. **Eavesdrop:** to listen secretly to a private conversation.
23. **Hesitate:** pause or stop uncertainly before saying or doing something.
24. **Interrupt:** break the continuity of some action for a short while.
25. **Rooted:** (here) caused to stand immobile because of fear or amazement.
26. **Blend in/blend into something:** (phrasal verb) mix into or become part of the surrounding people or things and therefore not to be easily noticeable.
27. **Graffiti:** words or drawings carved or written on walls etc. in public places.
28. **Falsify:** to change a document etc. in order to deceive people.
29. **Tie:** (n) an equal finish; a draw
30. **Pounding:** beating or hitting.
31. **Drown out:** (of a sound) to be loud enough to block the sound of something else. (E.g. *The sound of the vacuum cleaner drowned out the sound of the telephone.*)
32. **Filter through:** pass or move through.
33. **Grab:** take or seize suddenly
34. **Fled:** (pt of flee) ran away to escape.
35. **Make it:** (phrasal verb) to succeed in particular activity, to arrive on time.
36. **Coincidence:** an occasion when two things happen surprisingly together.
37. **Overhear:** hear without the knowledge of the speaker.
38. **Fidget:** make small movements, especially of the hands and feet, through nervousness or impatience.
39. **Dismay:** a feeling of unhappiness and disappointment.
40. **Dignity:** the calm, serious and controlled behavior of a person that makes others respect us.

41. **Muster:** produce or collect or gather.
42. **Puffy:** looking unusually swollen or larger.
43. **Quilt:** a decorative cover for a bed.
44. **Hoe:** a long-handled gardening tool with a thin metal blade. 
45. **Mesquite:** a North American thorny tree.
46. **Clod:** a hard piece of clay.
47. **Clasp:** grasp or hold tightly.
48. **Weed:** a wild plant growing among the cultivated plants.
49. **Sprang up:** (here) grew up
50. **Delicate:** soft and fragile, tender.
51. **Shoots:** young branches springing up from a plant or tree.
52. **Withdrawn:** not wanting to communicate with others, introverted.
53. **Mutter:** talk in a low, inaudible voice, murmur.
54. **Gaunt:** extremely thin and bony.
55. **Ranch:** large farm land, grassland for grazing.
56. **Forcing my eyes to stay dry:** trying not to cry.
57. **Vile:** bad and unpleasant.
58. **Adrenalin:** a hormone secreted by the adrenal glands.
59. **Yell:** (v) make a loud sharp scream.
60. **Wink:** close and open one eye quickly, blink.
61. **Hug:** embrace
62. **Crouch:** to stoop especially with the knees bent. 
63. **Pile:** heap
64. **Pat:** (n) a gentle touch.
65. **Crumbled:** (here) folded unevenly.
66. **Grin:** (n) broad smile.

## Questions and Answers based on textual passages

Read the paragraphs 1 and 2 of the story 'The Scholarship Jacket' in the textbook and answer the following questions.

Q 1-5:

1. What was the tradition followed in the small Texas School?
2. How did the scholarship jacket look like?
3. What do you think the letter 'S' on the jacket represents?
4. Why did Martha expect to win the jacket this year?
5. Why was Martha given to her grandparents to raise when she was six?

Read the paragraphs 3 and 4 of the story 'The Scholarship Jacket' in the textbook and answer the following questions.

### Q 6-10

6. 'This one, the scholarship jacket, was our only chance.' Why does Martha say so?
7. How does Martha describe herself?
8. Why did she have to walk all the way back to her class room instead of going directly to the gym?
9. What kind of a person was the Coach Thompson?
10. "Pencil thin, not a curve anywhere". This is not a sentence as there is no verb here. Expand these phrases to a simple sentence starting with "Martha" as the subject.

**Read the paragraphs 5 and 6 of the story 'The Scholarship Jacket' in the textbook and answer the following questions.**

### Q 11- 15:

11. Who were the teachers engaged in the argument?
12. What were Martha's teachers arguing about?
13. Why was Mr. Boone arguing in Joann's favour?
14. Why was Martha very sad and why did she cry?
15. "I don't care who her father is and I won't lie or falsify records", said Mr.Schmidt.

Change this sentence into reported speech.

**Read the paragraphs 7 and 8 of the story 'The Scholarship Jacket' in the textbook and answer the following questions.**

### Q 16 – 20:

16. "It seemed a cruel coincidence..." Why did Martha say so?
17. What did the principal tell Martha regarding the scholarship jacket?
18. Why was the principal uncomfortable and unhappy while talking to Martha?
19. Why was Martha shocked?
20. "If you are unable to pay for the jacket, it will be given to the next one in line".

Change the verb in the if-clause into past tense and rewrite the whole sentence accordingly.

**Read the paragraphs 9 and 10 of the story 'The Scholarship Jacket' in the textbook and answer the following questions.**

### Q 21 – 25:

21. "I will speak to my grandfather about it and let you know tomorrow", said Martha.  
Change into reported speech.
22. "'Where's Grnadpa?'" I asked Grandma'. What did Martha ask her grandma?
23. What was the grandmother doing when Martha approached her?
24. What was Martha thinking while walking to her grandfather?
25. Why was winning the scholarship jacket so much important to Matha?

**Read the paragraphs 11 - 13 of the story 'The Scholarship Jacket' in the textbook and answer the following questions.**

### Q 26 – 30:

26. What did Martha say to grandfather nervously? Why did she use the Spanish language?
27. How did the grandpa respond initially and what did he ask her later?
28. Why did Martha's grandfather refuse to pay the money for the jacket?
29. What did the grandfather want Martha to tell the principal?
30. If....., it would not be a scholarship jacket. Complete the if-clause suitably.

**Read the paragraphs 14-17 of the story 'The Scholarship Jacket' in the textbook and answer the following questions.**

**Q 31 – 35:**

31. What were Matha's feelings and what did she do?
32. What kind of a girl was Martha when she came to the principal's office the next day?
33. What did the principal ask Martha and what was her reply?
34. Why does the principal think that Martha's grandfather can pay the money if he wants?
35. Do you think that the grandfather's stand and words have made some changes in the principle's mind?? What it could be? What did he say finally to Martha?

**Read the paragraphs 18 - 20 of the story 'The Scholarship Jacket' in the textbook and answer the following questions.**

**Q 36 – 40:**

36. How did Martha wish to express her joy?
37. Who really helped Martha get the scholarship jacket? How?
38. "I cried on the walk home again". Why did she cry this time? What does the word "again" suggest?
39. "His face looked as happy and innocent as a baby's". What is the significance of this expression about Mr.Schmidt?
40. Martha's grandfather responded very calmly to his granddaughter's victory and joy. He gave her a smile and a pat on her shoulder. How do you evaluate this grandpa? Prepare a character sketch of him.

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## **Answers**

1. The tradition was that every year during the eighth grade graduation a beautiful gold and green jacket would be awarded to the class valedictorian, the student who had maintained the highest grades for eight years.
2. The scholarship jacket is a gold and green one. It has a big gold 'S' on the left front side and the name of the winner is written in gold letters on the pocket.
3. The letter 'S' stands for Scholar.
4. Martha had been a straight 'A' student since the first grade and she was in her last year in the eighth grade.
5. Martha's father was a poor farm labourer. He could not earn enough money to feed eight children. So she was given to her grandparents to raise, when she was six.
6. Martha was the member of a poor family. They could not afford to pay the registration fees, the uniform costs and buy a sports jacket. Winning the scholarship jacket was only her chance.
7. She was pencil thin and had no curve anywhere. Her friends called her 'beanpole' and 'string bean' and she knew that was what she looked like.

8. She had forgotten to take her PE shorts before going to the gym. So she had to walk all the way back to her classroom to take them.
9. Coach Thompson was strict and would become a real bear if someone wasn't dressed for PE.
10. Martha was pencil thin without any curve anywhere.
11. Mr. Schmidt, Martha's history teacher and Mr. Boone, her Math teacher engaged in the argument.
12. They were arguing about falsifying the scholarship record. Mr. Schmidt stood for justice and argued for Martha saying angrily that he wouldn't falsify the grade records. Mr. Boone wanted to falsify the records and support Joann to get her the award.
13. Joann's father was on the School Board and he owned the only store in town. Moreover, Joann was an American girl and Martha a Mexican.
14. The argument between her two teachers pained her more than the thought she might lose the jacket. She might have felt it as heart-breaking discrimination.
15. Mr. Schmidt said firmly that he didn't care who her father was and he wouldn't lie or falsify records.
16. Martha was in a thrilling expectation of receiving the scholarship jacket when she happened to hear the argument between her two teachers. It seemed a cruel coincidence.
17. The principal told Martha that there was a change in the scholarship policy. It has been free so far and now the school board has decided to charge 15 dollars for the jacket.
18. The principal was unhappy and uncomfortable because he knew he was going to talk about something unfair.
19. Martha was certain to receive the award as she deserved it by merit. But when the principal told her that she had to pay 15 dollars for it, she got an unexpected shock.
20. If you were unable to pay for the jacket, it would be given to the next one in line.
21. Martha said that she would speak to her grandfather about it and would let him know the next day.
22. Martha asked her grandma where Grandpa was.
23. She was sewing on a quilt when Martha approached her.
24. She was thinking how she could best ask him for money.
25. Winning the scholarship jacket was not just a matter of being a valedictorian and delivering a thank you speech. It was so important a matter as the jacket represented eight years of hard work and expectation.
26. Martha said to her grandfather that she had a big favour to ask him. She said it in Spanish because it was the only language he knew.
27. He didn't say anything and waited silently. Later he asked her what a scholarship jacket meant.
28. The grandpa believed that if she paid for it, it wouldn't be a scholarship jacket. So he refused to pay.
29. The grandfather wanted Martha to tell the principal that he was not ready to pay fifteen dollars.
30. If you paid for it, it would not be a scholarship jacket.
31. She was in an angry and rebellious mood. Thinking why the board changed the policy when her turn came, she locked herself in the bathroom for a long time.
32. Martha was very sad and in a withdrawn mood when she came into the principal's office the next day.
33. The principal asked Martha what her grandfather had said. She replied that he would not pay the fifteen dollars.
34. The principal thinks so because the grandfather is fairly rich and has the money. He owns a two-hundred acre ranch.
35. Yes, the words of Martha's grandfather that 'if she paid for it, it wouldn't be a scholarship jacket' made him think that he was doing something unfair. So he changed his mind and told Martha that she would get the scholarship jacket.

36. She wished to yell, jump, run the mile and do something.
37. Her grandfather's strong determination helped Martha finally get the scholarship jacket. The grandfather's words that 'if paid, it wouldn't be a scholarship jacket' made the principal think fairly and act justly.
38. This time it was a cry of joy. The word 'again' has a significance because she had walked the same path once crying in distress and disappointment regarding this same award.
39. Mr. Schmidt is a man of honesty and innocence. Naturally he is happy when he sees the justice succeeds and Martha wins the jacket.

**40. Character Sketch of Martha's Grandfather**

Martha's grandfather is probably the most important character in the story. In our mind he will be the winner once we finish reading the full story. His words "if you pay for it, it won't be a scholarship jacket" could make even the principal change his decision. He is somewhat a rich farmer owning a two-hundred acre ranch. He is seen in the story working always in his farm field. He is a sort of reserved type but a man of strong determination. Though he is uneducated, he believes that it is injustice to pay for a deserving award. So he strongly stands with his belief even when his granddaughter cried. Finally, his words win and Martha gets the award. When he hears both the sad and happy news of Martha, his reaction does not change. When she tells him about her winning the jacket, he still doesn't express his rejoice through words. He just gives her a smile and a pat on her shoulder. As the proverb says, 'still waters run deep', some people will not show overtly their deep love and affection. Martha's grandfather is a man of this sort.

## Textual Activities

### Let's Revisit

#### Activity 1, textbook page 119

Read the following sentence from the story.

*"The pounding in my ears drowned out the rest of the words, only a word here and there filtered through. 'Martha is Mexican . . . resign . . . won't do it . . .'"*

**What did the teacher mean by the statement 'Martha is Mexican'?**

**'Martha is Mexican'.** This statement points towards the harsh reality that extreme racial and ethnical discriminations still exist in America. Mexican- Americans are treated as second-class citizens just like the Afro-Americans. This discrimination is there even in educational institutions and among educated people. The main character in the story "The Scholarship Jacket" is Martha, a Mexican-American girl, who lives in Texas. So, by the statement 'Martha is Mexican', the teacher means that she is a backward class or second-class American, and she is not equal to Joann, a real American girl.

#### Activity 2, textbook page 119

Joann was recommended by Mr. Boone for the Scholarship Jacket. Eventually, it was Martha who won the Jacket.

## Narrate the events that led to Martha's winning the Jacket.

### Final Victory is for Truth

Martha is an eighth grade student of the Texas school. She is the class valedictorian and expects to win the Scholarship Jacket of the school this year.

Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Boone are Martha's history and Math teachers respectively. Mr. Boone has a prejudice against Martha. He does not want Martha, who is a Mexican-American girl, to win the scholarship jacket, though she deserves it by merit. He favours another girl Joan who is an American as well as the daughter of a school board member. But Mr. Schmidt firmly stands with truth and justice. He very angrily argues with Mr. Boone and declares that he will not take part in falsifying Martha's merit record. Martha happens to overhear this heated argument between her teachers and becomes very disappointed. The following day the Principal informs her that this year the scholarship is not free and she has to pay 15 dollars to get it. She becomes very upset, and feels like all her dreams about the scholarship got shattered. She informs her grandfather about this sad news. Though he is an illiterate farmer, he takes a firm decision not to pay and buy the scholarship jacket. He tells Martha to inform the principal that 'if he paid, it would not be a scholarship jacket'. His stand and statement were strong enough to make the principal and the school board change their wrong policy. Thus, finally Martha wins the award, which is her life's dream and the fruit of eight years' hard work.

### Activity 3, textbook page 119

Martha is the protagonist of the story. There are other characters who contribute to the main events in the story.

**Pick out instances from the story that reveal the role played by them and complete the table given.**

<b>The grandfather</b>	<b>The Principal</b>	<b>Mr. Boone</b>	<b>Mr. Schmidt</b>
He takes a firm stand that he will not pay 15 dollars for the jacket and says that if he pays for it, it won't be a scholarship jacket. These words and deeds of the grandpa became a turning point in Martha's life. Though he is an illiterate farmer, he has an uncompromising vision of justice. He is not ready to pay and buy the award for his granddaughter. He is of the opinion that awards should come to the deserving hands. He made all other people open their eyes to justice by his strong determination.	He asks Martha to pay 15 dollars. He actually wants to play a trick not to give the jacket to her. He thinks that she can't afford to pay as she is the daughter of a poor Mexican farmer. We can suspect a plot from his different stands. First he says that from this year onward, the school has changed its policy, and the scholarship jacket won't be free any more. But he has to yield in front of Martha's grandpa's determination, and has to say that he is going to give an exception in her case.	From his activities we can't but think that he is a racist and keeps a discriminating attitude against the Mexican-Americans. He does not want Martha to win the Jacket. He wants to falsify her merit records to favour Joana, another American girl and the daughter of the school board member. He engages in heated arguments with Mr. Schmidt in this regard, and asks him to favour Joana and to discard Martha, the deserving candidate.	He is a kind-hearted person and shows the noble qualities of a real teacher. A teacher should always stand with truth and justice, especially in matters connected with their students' merits and success. He is not ready to compromise with any malpractices even when his colleague and the principal join hands in falsifying the merit records of the deserving student. He becomes very happy when he hears that Martha is going to get the scholarship jacket finally.



**Activity 4, textbook page 120**

After receiving the Scholarship Jacket, Martha delivers a speech. **Prepare the speech and present it before the class.**

Honourable principal, respected teachers and my dear friends. First of all, I would like to wish a very good morning to all of you.

“Where there is a will, there is a way”! As the proverb says, today it has happened to me and that’s why I am standing in front of you now. It has been my dream to win the scholarship jacket ever since my sister won it, and that dream has now come true in my life. My sister Rosie really inspired me from the beginning to work for winning this award, and I should thank her first.

I am a member of a poor Mexican farmer’s family having great difficulties to bear the expenses of my studies. When I was told to pay 15 dollars for the scholarship jacket, which I deserve to win by my merit, I was really shocked and became disappointed. My grandfather, with whom I am staying, was not ready to pay for the jacket. He told and taught me that awards are not to be bought by money. It should come our way by our efforts and merit. Yes, finally it has come in my way as he said. Also, many of our teachers have supported me greatly, especially our history teacher Mr. Schmidt. I should thankfully remember them all on this occasion.

I believe that honours like this scholarship jacket are to inspire students in their studies. Merits should only be the consideration while bestowing such honours, and any sort of partiality or favouritism should not have any role in the selection of candidates for awards.

Let me conclude my words expressing my sincere gratitude to all of you for having supported me in winning this prestigious award. Thank you very much and I wish a good day to all of you!

**Activity 5, textbook page 120**

The management decides to change the policy regarding the Scholarship Jacket. The principal feels uncomfortable and unhappy about this change. He expresses his resentment in a letter to the management. **Write the likely letter.**

**The Principal,  
Texas School, Texas, USA.**

**10 March 2020**

**The Manager,  
Texas School, Texas, USA.**

**Subject: Change of policy regarding the Scholarship Jacket.**

**Dear Sir,**

I would like to bring to your attention that the new decision taken by the management regarding the Scholarship Jacket is unfavorable. This decision puts me in a dilemma. The scholarship has so far been a prestigious award presented every year to the valedictorian student of our school free of cost. Now, to pay 15 dollars for it is unjustifiable.

I believe that honours should be bestowed to students based on their merit. I hereby express my strong disagreement on the management’s new decision – money for award!

I would like to request you to rethink about the new decision and consider poor and deserving students like Martha. Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

**Sd/**

**Steve S. Parker  
(The Principal)**

**Activity 6, textbook page 12**

Here Martha tells her own story (**First Person narrative**). Imagine that you are a friend of Martha and you know everything that happened in her life in connection with the issue of the Scholarship Jacket. If you narrate the story (**Third Person narrative**), how would you do it? Write the likely **narrative**.

**Award is for merit, not for money**

Martha, a 14 year old Mexican-American girl, was an eighth grade student at the Texas school. The school had a tradition of awarding a beautiful gold and green jacket to the class valedictorian every year during the eighth grade graduation. That year Martha was expected to win the jacket as she had been a straight 'A' level student since the first grade. Her sister Rosie had also won the jacket a few years back.

One day at school, she happened to hear a heated conversation between her history teacher, Mr. Schmidt and Mathematics teacher, Mr. Boone. From their talk she understood that there was a conspiracy taking place against her regarding the award. Mr. Boone was of the opinion that they should falsify the record in favour of Joann, another American student and daughter of the school Board member. Mr. Schmidt knew that Joann's grades were nowhere near Martha's. He realized that Mr. Boone and the school management wanted to play partiality against Martha, a Mexican-American. So, he strongly opposed to the suggestions of Mr. Boone. Then the school management changed the policy and decided to charge 15 dollars for the scholarship jacket. They thought Martha could not afford to pay the sum as she was the daughter of a poor Mexican farmer. When the principal told her about this decision, she became very much shocked and disappointed.

In great despair and disappointment she went home and asked her grandfather to pay for the award.

Though he was an illiterate old farmer, he was determined not to pay and buy the award. He said that if she paid for it, it wouldn't be a scholarship jacket.

The following day, desperate Martha met the principal and informed him that her grandfather was not going to pay. She was about to leave the principal's office totally depressed when the principal asked her to wait. He said that they had decided to make an exception in Martha's case and to award her the jacket free of cost.

Upon hearing that, she couldn't control herself. She wanted to yell, jump, run the mile and do something. Mr. Schmidt was also very much happy to hear the good news. She ran back home crying - but that time, it was a cry of joy. She explained everything to her grandfather; but he was apparently motionless. Perhaps he was also having a cry of joy in his mind.

**Activity 7, textbook page 120**

Martha is awarded the Scholarship Jacket by the Vice - Chancellor of the University.

Prepare a **news report** of the award ceremony.

**Martha wins Scholarship Jacket**

**10 March 2019**, Staff reporter

**TEXAS:** Martha, a 14 year old Mexican-American girl and eighth grade student of the Texas school has won the scholarship jacket of the school this year.

The scholarship jacket is a prestigious award the school awards to the valedictorian student as a tradition every year, during the eighth grade graduation. It is a very beautiful green and gold jacket awarded to the student who has maintained the highest grades for eight years.

Vice Chancellor of the Texas University distributed the award to Martha in the presence of the school principal, teachers and students. *“I was very much disappointed and was afraid of losing it, when I heard that I had to pay for it. But, thank God, I have won it, and it’s like my dream has come true”*, jubilant Martha said.

**Let’s learn more about words**

**Activity 1, textbook page 121**

Some words from the story are given in Column A. Match the words in Column A with their appropriate meaning in Column B.

Column A	Column B
Valedictorian	A student with the highest academic rank in a class
Agile	Able to move quickly and easily
Despair	Lose hope
Falsify	To make false by adding or changing
Resign	To give up
Coincidence	An accidental sequence of events
Fidget	To behave nervously or restlessly
Dismay	Lose of courage in the face of trouble
Muster	To gather, to summon up
Vile	Disgusting, unpleasant
Eavesdrop	To listen secretly to a private conversation
Beanpole	Slang for a tall, thin person

**Activity 2, textbook page 121**

**Write the word that best completes each sentence. You may use the words given in Column A of Activity 1.**

- .....people are usually good athletes. (**agile**)
- Martha tried not to.....over the bad news. (**despair**)
- ‘What a .....! I wasn’t expecting to see you here’. The principal said to Martha. (**coincidence**)
- She could not help but..... . (**eavesdrop**)
- Mr. Schmidt was not ready to.....the records to hide the truth. (**falsify**)
- The thought that she may lose the jacket was the reason for her..... . (**despair**)
- The .....comment of Mr. Boone made her upset. (**vile**)
- She couldn’t .....enough courage to ask her grandfather for the money. (**muster**)

**Activity 3, textbook page 122**

**Read the following sentence from the story.**

*“The small Texas school that I went to had a tradition carried out every year during the eighth-grade graduation: a beautiful gold and green Jacket was awarded to the class valedictorian, the student who had maintained the highest grades for eight years”*.

**What does the word ‘valedictorian’ mean? You can get the meaning of the word from the definition given by the writer.**

Look at the examples given below and try to find out the meanings of the words highlighted from the contextual clues given in the sentences.

1. Polyglot	A person who knows many languages
2. Amorphous	Having no fixed form or shape
3. Disparaged	Downgraded, degraded
4. Euphoric	Extremely excited or happy
5. Somnambulists	People who walk around in their sleep.

**Activity 4, textbook page 123**

Idiomatic expressions are phrases whose meaning is different from the meanings of the individual words.  
(Some Idiomatic expressions and their meaning)

(i) under the breath	Speaking very softly or in a low voice The principal muttered something I couldn't understand <i>under his breath</i> and walked over to the window.
(ii) know better	To be wise enough to recognize something as wrong or not possible His face looked as happy and innocent as a baby's, but I <i>knew better</i> .
1. Cut a sorry figure	To make a poor impression The actor <i>cut a sorry figure</i> .
2. Greek and Latin	New, strange The subject is <i>Greek and Latin</i> to me.
3. At my wit's end	Puzzled I am <i>at my wit's end</i> on how to make some money.
4. Rise to the occasion	Perform one's role well When a crisis comes, you must <i>rise to the occasion</i> .
5. By leaps and bounds	Rapidly The prices are rising <i>by leaps and bounds</i> .
6. At the eleventh hour	At the last moment <i>At the eleventh hour</i> , he decided to apply for the post.
7. Fits and start	Unsteadily If you work <i>by fits and starts</i> , you won't succeed.
8. Thick and thin	During good and bad times I will stand by you through <i>thick and thin</i> .

Given below are sentences which contain certain idiomatic expressions. Read the sentences and write the meaning of the idioms.

1. We can argue on the issue <i>till the cows come home</i>	For a long time
2. Oh! It is <i>raining cats and dogs</i>	Raining very heavily
3. Radhika was <i>tickled pink</i> by the good news	Very pleased, extremely happy
4. This dress costs <i>an arm and a leg</i>	A lot of money
5. We all are <i>in the same boat</i>	In the same difficult situation as someone else
6. I'll clean the toilet <i>when pigs fly</i>	Something that will never happen, never at all.

## **Prepare a character sketch of Martha.**

'Martha', the central character in the story 'The Scholarship Jacket' is a character of mixed feelings. She is sensitive, bold and brilliant. She is a Mexican-American girl of 14 years of age, and an eighth grade student at the Texas school. She has maintained a consistent 'A' level since her first grade. She is in every sense qualified enough to win the prestigious scholarship jacket, an award to the class valedictorian of her school.

Martha is the daughter of a poor Mexican farm labourer. Owing to the poverty at her own family, she has been given to her grandparents to raise. In appearance she is very lean and her friends call her 'beanpole' and 'string bean'. Once she happens to overhear a heated argument between her two teachers. She understands that a conspiracy is going on to undermine her chance of winning the jacket. Eventually the principal asks her to pay 15 dollars for the award. Although bold and brilliant, this incident makes her cry in despair.

But when Martha's granddad tells her that a paid award is not an award at all, she accepts his words. She strongly believes that she deserves the award by merit and it will come her way. She determines to tell the principal looking straight into his eyes that she is not ready to pay. Here, we see a bold Martha. However, later when Martha hears from the principal that she is going to get the jacket, she cannot control her happiness. She wants to express her extreme joy by whatever means – she wants to yell, jump or run the mile. While rushing back home to inform her grandpa and grandma about the good news, she can't help crying – but this time it is a cry of joy. Martha's words and deeds show that she is quite bold and sensible but at the same time sensitive and childlike.

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