

Lesson -10

A HERO



Swami is a nine-year-old boy, who lives in Malgudi village with his parents and grandmother. One day, his father was reading a newspaper.

Father :Swami listen to this, a news of the bravery of a village lad who, while returning home by the jungle path, came face to face with a tiger till some people came that way and killed the tiger.After reading it through, father looked at Swami and asked, "What do you say to that?"

Swami :I think he must have been a very strong and grown up person, not at all a boy. How could a boy fight a tiger?

Father :A man may have the strength of an elephant and yet be a coward whereas another man, who may have the strength of a straw but has courage, can do anything.

Swami-Suppose I have all the courage. What can I do if a tiger attacks me?

Father-Let alone strength, can you prove you have courage? Let me see if you can sleep alone tonight in my office.

(Swami had always slept beside his granny which irritated his father.)

Swami -From the first of the next month I will sleep alone father.

Father -No, you must do it from today.

In the evening, Swami went to his granny and slept under her blanket. His father came and said to him.

Father-Get up.

Granny -Why do you disturb him?

(Father rolled his bed and took it under his arms)

Father-Come with me.

Swami-Let me sleep in the hall please! Your office is very dusty and there may be scorpions behind your law books.

Father-No, you must learn not to be afraid of darkness. It is only a question of habit. You must cultivate good habits.

As the night advanced and the silence in the house deepened, Swami's heart beat faster. He remembered all the stories of devils

and ghosts he had heard in his life.

He shut his eyes tight and covered himself with his blanket under the bench. He put his hand out to feel granny's presence at his side, as it was his habit, but he only touched the wooden leg of the bench. He sweated with fright.

Swami moved to the edge of the bench. He stared into the darkness. Something was moving down. As it came nearer, thinking it is a ghost, he crawled out from under the bench and hugged it with all his might. He used his teeth on it like a weapon. The creature yelled out in pain.

In a moment his father, the cook, and a servant came in carrying a light. All the three fell on the burglar who lay amidst the furniture with a bleeding ankle.

Father called the police. The police was grateful to Swami as he had caught the notorious thief. The next day in the school, Swami's classmates congratulated him and looked at him with respect. The headmaster said that Swami was a true scout. The news of his bravery was also published in Malgudi Times.

-This story has been adapted from 'Malgudi Days' by R.K. Narayan

New Words

Word	Meaning
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scorpion	-	बिच्छू
advanced		उन्नत
silence	-	खामोशी
ghost	-	भूत
rustling	-	सरसराहट
crawled	-	रेंगा
hugged	-	गले लगाया
burglar	-	सेध लगाने वाला
published	-	प्रकाशित

Comprehension Questions

1. Answer the following questions:

- What news did Swami's father read in the newspaper?
- What does Swami's father quote regarding strength and courage?
- Why did Swami's father ask him to sleep in his office room?
- What was Swami's condition when he lay amidst the furniture?
- What was the incident which showed Swami's bravery?

2. Write whether the following statements are 'true' or 'false':

- Swami lives in Malgudi village. ()
- Swami always slept beside his mother. ()
- Swami remembered all the stories of devils and ghosts. ()
- The police said that Swami was a true scout. ()

Word Power

1. Tick the correct words from the brackets:

- Objects like table, chair and bed used in home. (furniture/crockery)
- A woollen sheet used to keep us warm. (bedsheet/blanket)
- A set of rooms or building where people work. (office/playground)
- A person who enters a building illegally in order to steal. (burglar/joker)

Language Practice

1. Read the following sentences and understand:

- We use 'from' to indicate the beginning and 'to' to indicate the end of an action.
- We use 'till' to indicate the end of an action.
- 'At' has many uses. One of its common use is to indicate time.
- **Now complete the sentences using- from... to, till, at :**
- The crowd cheered ___ the end of the game.
- The train is expected ___ 12 p.m.
- Children played cricket __4 p.m. __ 6 p.m.

Activity

» Discuss with your classmates about any courageous act done by you.