



# Syllabus

Year II, Quarter II

Age Group : 5 to 8

Gokulam is the place where Lord Krishna's magical days of childhood were spent. It was here that his divine powers came to light.

Every child has that spark of divinity within. Bala-Gokulam is a forum for children to discover and manifest that divinity. It's objective is to enable Hindu children in US to appreciate their cultural roots and learn Hindu values in an enjoyable manner. This is done through weekly gatherings and planned activities which include games, yoga, stories, shlokas, bhajan, arts and crafts and much more.....

**Balagokulam is a program of Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS).**

**Visit <http://www.balagokulam.org>**

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## Shloka

निद्रा समये (before sleeping)

रामस्कन्धं हनूमन्तम्	rāmaskandham hanūmantam
वैनतेयं वृकोदरम्	vainateyam vakodaram
शयने यः स्मरेन्नित्यम्	śayane yaḥ smarennityam
दुःस्वप्नम् तस्य नश्यति	duḥsvapnam tasya naśyati

Meaning: Meditating upon Hanumanta, Bhima and Ganesha before going to bed ensures a sleep without disturbing dreams.

मंत्र (Mantra for chanting)

हरे राम हरे राम	hare rāma hare rāma
राम राम हरे हरे	rāma rāma hare hare
हरे कृष्ण हरे कृष्ण	hare kaṣṇa hare kaṣṇa
कृष्ण कृष्ण हरे हरे	kaṣṇa kaṣṇa hare hare

This mantra should be chanted in the praise of Lord Vishnu's incarnations - Sri Ram and Krishna.

## Subhashitam (Words of wisdom)

परोपकारः पुण्याय पापाय परपीडनम् ।

paropakAraH puNyAya pApAya parapIDanam |

**Meaning:** Helping others gives spiritual merit, hurting others is sin indeed.

## Bhajan

Come here my dear Krishna Kanhaayee  
Mene tere liye hrudaya andar building banaayee

For you my dear Krishna Kanhayee  
Mene tere liye hrudaya andar building banaayee

Makhana, Mishri, Dudha, Dahi khuba milaayee  
Mene tere liye hrudaya andar building banaayee

Too much delay, too much delay tumne lagaayee  
Mene tere liye hrudaya andar building banaayee



# Story of Krishna

## Kamsa's Invitation to Krishna

Kamsa tried to kill Krishna in the Gokul by hook or crook. But when he failed in his attempts to kill Krishna, he hatched a conspiracy to kill him. He organized a wrestling competition in the Mathura, in which Krishna and Balarama were to be invited and then killed by the demons. Kamsa knew that Krishna would not decline his invitation. He decided to invite him and Balaram to take part in the wrestling competition. He ordered one of his ministers named by Akrura, "Akrura!, Go to Gokul and invite Krishna and Balarama for the competition!".

Akrura was a minister in Kamsa's kingdom. But, unlike Kamsa, he was a very kind, sober and a good man. He was also a great devotee of Lord Vishnu. He knew that Krishna is nothing but the incarnation of Lord Vishnu. So he was very desirous to meet him. He was thrilled and excited when Kamsa himself asked him to go to the Gokul. But the next moment, he became so sad as he was aware about Kamsa's bad intentions. However, he could not deny Kamsa because he was afraid of him too just like other people.

Akrura was all set to go to the Gokul. He took his chariot and headed for the Gokul. As soon as he arrived at the borders of the Gokul, he saw Krishna's footprints everywhere. He jumped down from his chariot and saluted that sacred soil of Gokul. His heart was so filled up with deep satisfaction.

Nanda and his people welcomed Akrura. They took him to the Nanda's palace where he was provided with all kinds of hospitality. Akrura was very happy and grateful to them. But he was really eager to meet Krishna. So he asked Nanda, "Nanda! Where is Krishna? I can't wait to see him!". Nanda called Krishna. Krishna was playing outside with his friends. He came in and touched Akrura's feet to show him a respect. Balarama did the same. Akrura was very much delighted looking at their humbleness and respect for elders.

After settling down, Akrura told Nanda and Yashoda about his purpose of coming. He also told them about Kamsa's bad intentions. In the beginning, Nanda refused to send Krishna and Balarama to the Mathura. Especially, Yashoda did not want them to go to the Mathura. "They are just kids. You can't take them with you!", She said to Akrura. But Krishna wanted to see Mathura and take part in the wrestling competition. He also wanted to teach Kamsa a lesson. He, in a convincing tune, told Yashoda, "Mother!! Ignoring King's order is showing a disrespect to him. I would not do that! I should go to the Mathura!!" Additionally, he also said, "Akrura uncle is with us. He will take care of us very well. You don't have to worry!!". At last, reluctantly Nanda and Yashoda both gave permission.

People of the Gokul were very much sad hearing that Krishna was leaving them. He had become a part of their life. Krishna's best friend Radha would not even allow him to leave Gokul! She could not think of a moment without Krishna. She said, "Kanha!, how can you go leaving me behind? Either don't go or take me with you!!" She kept insisting him to take her with him. But somehow Krishna also managed to convince all of them.

Now, Krishna and Balarama were all set to go to the Mathura with Akrura. They touched their parents feet to take their blessings. People of Gokul accompanied them until the borders of the Gokul to see them off. Akrura took them in his chariot and headed for Mathura. On the way, he gave them a valuable advice. He told them about the beautiful city of Mathura, its people and Kamsa's bad and cruel deeds. He also told them about Kamsa's bad intentions to kill both of them. Krishna and Balarama were carefully listening to him. After a long journey, they reached at Mathura.





# Story of Krishna

## Krishna visits Mathura

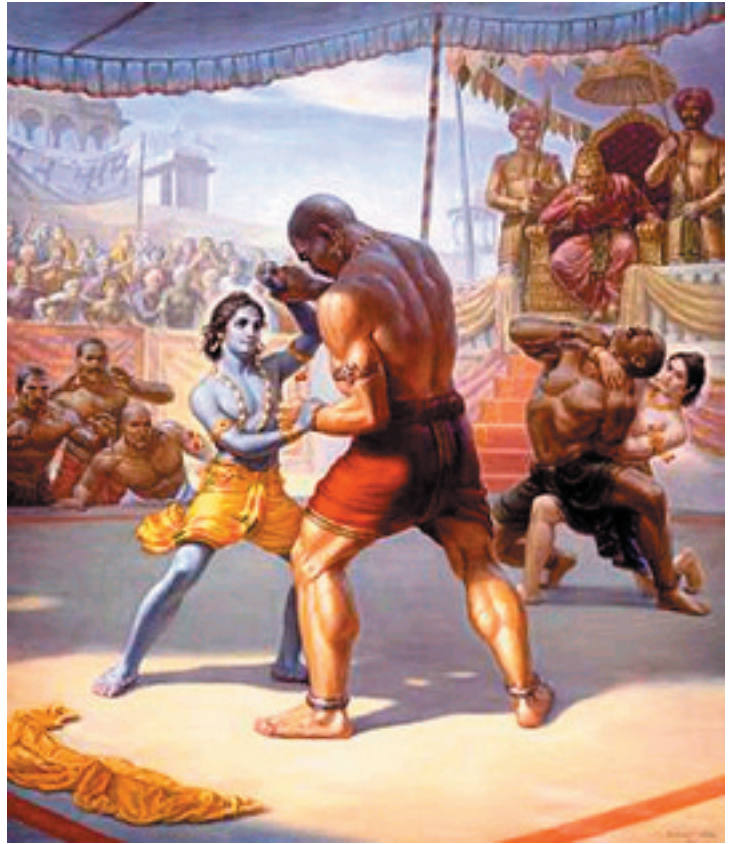
Akrura, with Krishna and Balarama, left Gokul and after a long journey they reached at Mathura. In the mean time, Kamsa was planning to kill Krishna as soon as he enters Mathura. He had deliberately stationed a big drunk elephant with a broken tusks at the entrance of the Mathura.

As soon as Akrura entered Mathura with Krishna and Balarama, that big drunk elephant rushed towards them. Within no time, Krishna understood Kamsa's evil plan. Without any fear, he asked Akrura and Balarama to stay away and took position to confront that huge animal. As soon as that huge animal came close, he caught his trunk in his hands and shoved it to the ground. He pulled animal's broken tusk from his mouth and hammered heavily on his head. The huge elephant fell down with a great pain and then died.



The news of the visit of Krishna spread in Mathura. So everywhere there was curiosity, excitement and joy. Akrura, Krishna and Balarama entered Mathura. The beauty and charm of two brothers was just enchanting. People of Mathura had heard a lot about Krishna's divine powers. They were curious to see him. They came out of their houses to get a glimpse of them. Few of them even praised him by showering garlands. Krishna and Balarama rejoiced seeing such a wonderful welcome. They both liked the Mathura so much that they wandered each and every corner of it.

Now, the day of wrestling competition came. By this time, Nanda and few of his associates had also come to the Mathura to see the competition. Kamsa had pitched his two wrestlers, Mushtika and Chanura, in this competition. They were famous all over the country for their wrestling skills. They were huge and very strong demons. They defeated and killed all their rivals who challenged them.



Kamsa was so sure that his wrestlers would easily kill Krishna and Balarama. When there was nobody to challenge his wrestlers, Mushtika and Chanura, he asked Krishna and Balarama, "Hey! Boys!! I have heard about your divine powers. Why don't you challenge my wrestlers? If you have real guts, challenge and defeat my wrestlers!!"

Fearless Krishna and Balarama were waiting for this moment. They stepped forward and challenged Mushtika and Chanura. The spectators were filled with pity and murmured, "Poor boys! What can they do against these rocklike wrestlers! These wrestlers will kill them like anything!!" But the two brothers were calm and determined. Krishna took on Chanura and Balarama took on Mushtika. Two wrestlers tried all their skills and tricks to down these two brothers and failed miserably. Krishna and Balarama were smart and quick in their movements. Soon, both wrestlers started gasping for breath. In a mortal combat, Balarama killed Mushtika and Krishna fought and killed Chanura.

Spectators were taken aback. They could not believe that the boys really killed the two demon wrestlers. Soon they realized. They praised Krishna and Balarama for their bravery and courage. On the other hand, Kamsa was very furious but could not do anything.





# Story of Krishna

## Kamsa Vadh

After the defeat of Mushtika and Chanura, people of Mathura praised Krishna-Balarama for their bravery and courage. On the other hand, when he saw his two formidable wrestlers killed by the boys, Kamsa was bewildered and filled with fear. Frightened Kamsa ordered his soldiers, "Seize these evil lads. Seize all the visitors from Gokul and put them in chains!!" But soldiers themselves were frightened. They did not move an inch.

Then Kamsa himself drew his sword. Krishna rushed towards him. He pounced on Kamsa, caught hold of his hair and pushed him to the ground. He then jumped onto his chest. Krishna's body contains all of the universes. When Krishna sat on Kamsa's chest, he felt the weight of all of the universes. Now Kamsa realized that Krishna is not a common boy but a god with divine powers. But it was too late for him. Krishna smashed his head on the floor and killed him. On the other side, Balarama killed all Kamsa's evil brothers and soldiers.



The people of Mathura sighed in relief. They celebrated Krishna's victory with great joy because Kamsa had been a tyrant. Krishna then went to the jail and unchained his real mother and father, Devaki and Vasudeva. Both Vasudeva-Devaki were so happy to see their own son after such a long time. They knew

that their son is an incarnation of Lord Vishnu. They offered prayers addressing Krishna as God.

Krishna then freed the real King Ugrasena who was kept captive by Kamsa. Ugrasena gladly offered him to become a king of Mathura. But Krishna respectfully refused to be a king. On the contrary, he reinstated Ugrasena as a King of Mathura. Everyone rejoiced. People who had left Mathura because of tyrant Kamsa, came back to Mathura. Peace and harmony had been restored in Mathura.

Krishna stayed with his real parents for some time. Now it was a time for him to go to school. Then he with Balarama went to school for education. Sage Sandipani was their teacher (Guru). Just like other students, they both stayed at Sandipani's house. They did all kinds of work there and served Sandipani with great devotion. Sandipani was pleased with their earnestness, modesty and intelligence. They soon mastered law, military science, political science and other arts and sciences. During this time, they made lots of good friends. Another student called Sudama was their best friend.

Krishna and Balarama did great things in their life. They fought many battles and killed many demons in their life time. They helped Pandavas of Hastinapur against Kauravas. Because of Krishna, the Pandavas could win the world war against the Kauravas.

Krishna and Balarama built impregnable island called Dwaraka and spent rest of their life there. Everytime, they used their powers only for good and to protect the good people against evil. Krishna is truly a role model for all of us. He was good friend to his friends, good son to his parents, good student to his teacher. His teachings are collected in a holy scripture called - Gita. Everyone should read Gita and Krishna's life and try to be like a him!

Gokulam was Krishna's childhood. Brindavan was Krishna's boyhood. Mathura was Krishna's youth. Dwaraka was Krishna's manhood. Dwaraka remained Krishna's capital until his life on earth and later it submerged under the ocean.





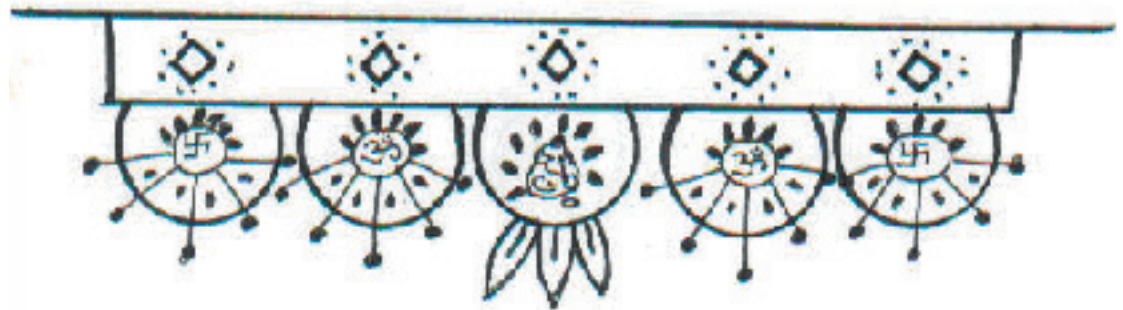
## CD Toran

### Material:

- 1) 5 discarded CDs
- 2) Green felt (36" by 36") , yellow or orange (12" by 9")
- 3) cantalope / watermelon seeds / pistachio shells or any seeds for decoration.
- 4) beads, small mirrors, toothpicks or popcicle sticks,
- 5) 3D paint (silver, copper), nail polish
- 6) lace or satin ribbon
- 7) Picture or small light icon of Lord Ganesha.
- 8) jute rope, hot glue gun, tacky glue

### Procedure:

- 1) Cut the green felt sheet 7" by 36" and fold it half lengthwise press and keep aside.
- 2) On one CD, stick Lord Ganesha picture or icon on the lower half and decorate with felt cutouts and seeds
- 3) Color Ganesha icon with 3D paint on brush or with similar metallic nail polish
- 4) Glue a bead on one end of the tooth pick and stick it on the CD from center to outwards using hot glue gun.
- 5) Cut 9 small yellow/orange felt circles about 2" diameter and stick one on the back of Ganesha CD and on both sides of the remaining 4 Cds.
- 6) Decorate the circles with 3D paint with 'Om' on two of them and 'Swastika' on other two. Arrange the 5 CDs in symmetry with Ganesha CD in the centre.
- 8) Glue 1/3 of one side of CDs into the fold of the green felt with hot glue.
- 9) Pass a jute or similar rope across the felt for support for hanging. Now glue the other side of the CD into the fold. Decorate the green felt with mirrors and 3D paint.



## -: Exercise :-

### Fill up the blanks

- 1) Kamsa asked \_\_\_\_\_ to invite Krishna and Balarama.  
a) Chanur      b) Akrura      c) Nanda      d) None of these
- 2) Akrura \_\_\_\_\_ was a great devotee of \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) Vishnu      b) Shiva      c) Brahma      d) None of these
- 3) Akrura jumped down from his chariot and saluted sacred soil of \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) Mathura      b) Gokul      c) Ayodhya      d) None of these
- 4) Krishna's best friend in Gokul was \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) Balarama      b) Sudama      c) Radha      d) None of these
- 5) Krishna and Balarama fought with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ respectively.  
a) Sudama      b) Mushtika      c) Chanura      d) None of these
- 6) Krishna and Balarama went to \_\_\_\_\_ on Kamsa's invitation.  
a) Gokul      b) Ayodhya      c) Mathura      d) None of these
- 7) Krishna killed \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) Kamsa      b) Balarama      c) Sudama      d) None of these
- 8) Krishna reinstated \_\_\_\_\_ as a King of Mathura.  
a) Vasudev      b) Ugrasena      c) Kamsa      d) None of these
- 9) Sage \_\_\_\_\_ was Krishna and Balarama's Guru.  
a) Valmiki      b) Vasishtha      c) Sandipani      d) None of these
- 10) Krishna and Balarama built impregnable island called \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) Mathura      b) Dwaraka      c) Gokul      d) None of these

**Questions:**

1) What was Kamsa's plan in inviting Krishna and Balarama to Mathura?

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2) Krishna's teachings are collected in what holy scripture?

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3) Who was Krishna's best friend during his schooling at Sage Sandipani's Ashram?

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4) What kind of education did Krishna and Balarama take at Sage Sandipani's Ashram?

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5) Name the capital of Krishna's kingdom.

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## Unscramble sentences and words:

1) Krishna Kamsa Devaki killed and freed Vasudev and.

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2) Krishna island and Balarama impregnable called Dwaraka built.

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3) Gokulam childhood was Krishna's. was Krishna's boyhood.  
Mathura was Brindavan Krishna's youth. Dwaraka was Krishna's manhood.

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dasnipani

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mukhtisa

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cranuha

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adkwraa

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dsuaam

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yadasho

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## Shloka

स्तुति (Praise of the God)

नमोऽस्तवनन्ताय सहस्रमुर्तये	namo'stavanantāya sahastramurtaye
सहस्रपादाऽक्षिशिरोरुबाहवे ।	sahastrapādā' kṣīśirorubāhave
सहस्रेनाम्ने पुरुषाय शाश्वते	sahastrenāmne puruṣāya śāśvate
सहस्रकोटी युगधारिणे नमः ॥	sahastrakoṭī yugadhāriṇe namaḥ ॥

Meaning: (Praise of the Almighty God) : Salutations to the ever-present, never-ending Almighty (Ananta), the one with thousands of forms, the one with thousands of legs, eyes, heads and hands, the one with thousands of names, and the one who governs thousands of crores (innumerable) of yugas (of life).

मंत्र ( mantra - for repetition /chanting )

ॐ नमो भगवते  
वासुदेवाय

om namo bhagavate  
vāsudevāya

**Meaning:** Salutations to Bhagvan Vasudeva (Lord Vishnu).

## Subhashitam (Words of wisdom)

परोपकारार्थमिदं शरीरम् ।

paropakArArthamidaM sharIram .

**Meaning:** This (human) body is for helping others.

## रामा भजन (rAmA bhajana)

रामा हो रामा रे भूल मत जाना  
तेरी अयोध्या छोड के ।।

rAmA ho rAmA re bhUla mata jAnA  
terI ayodhyA ChoDa ke ||

फूल लाया फल लाया तेरे लिये  
तुझको चढाऊंगा वापस न जाऊंगा  
तेरी अयोध्या छोड के ।।

phUla lAyA phala laayaa tere liye  
tujhako chaDhAuuaMgA vApasa na jAuuaMgA  
terI ayodhyA ChoDa ke ||

धूप लाया दीप लाया तेरे लिये  
तुझको दीखाऊंगा वापस न जाऊंगा  
तेरी अयोध्या छोड के ।।

dhUpa lAyA dIpa lAyA tere liye  
tujhako dIkhaAuuaMgA vApasa na jAuuaMgA  
terI ayodhyA ChoDa ke ||

दूध लाया दही लाया तेरे लिये  
तुझको खिलाऊंगा वापस न जाऊंगा  
तेरी अयोध्या छोड के ।।

dUdha lAyA dahI lAyA tere liye  
tujhako khilAuuaMgA vApasa na jAuuaMgA  
terI ayodhyA ChoDa ke ||

ईट लाया पत्थर लाया तेरे लिये  
मंदिर बनाऊंगा वापस न जाऊंगा  
तेरी अयोध्या छोड के ।।

iiTa lAyA patthara lAyA tere liye  
maMdira banAuuaMgA vApasa na jAuuaMgA  
terI ayodhyA ChoDa ke ||



# Bala Hero

## Story of Bhakta Prahlad

Prahlad's story begins during the time of Lord Vishnu's fourth avatar (incarnation) Varaha. In order to rescue the earth from the captivity of Hiranyaksha, Lord Vishnu had arrived in the avatar (incarnation) Varaha (boar) form and killed him. Hiranyaksha's elder brother Hiranyakashipu was very angry about this. He resolved to take revenge of his brother's death. He went to the Himalayas and began to perform severe penance for many, many years. Lord Brahma was pleased by his penance and asked him for a boon. Hiranyakashipu asked that "May I never be killed neither by any weapon nor any creature made by you, neither in the day nor in the night, and neither on earth nor in the sky". Lord Brahma agreed to Hiranyakashipu's boon and gave it to him.

While Hiranyakashipu was away, the gods had attacked his kingdom and killed his nephews. Lord Indra had even abducted his wife, Queen Kayadhu who was expecting a child. Devarishi Narad stopped Indra on his way back to heaven. Indra declared to Devarishi Narad that Kayadhu was pregnant; he would destroy her unborn baby and then release her. Devarishi Narad however, assured Indra that the unborn baby was a supreme devotee of Lord Vishnu and that they should not fear him. Lord Indra was convinced and released Queen Kayadhu, who then began to stay at Devarishi Narad's hermitage. Addressing the unborn baby, Narad daily used to preach Queen Kayadhu about the devotion one should have for God. This was the way the baby would never forget the preaching it received in the pre-natal stage.

At the appropriate time, Queen Kayadhu gave birth to a son, Prahlad. Prahlad was the youngest among Hiranyakashipu's four sons. He appeared to be the eldest in virtues. He did not have any desires. He was content like the hermits, truthful and always wished well for everyone. He had full control over his senses, mind and

body. He was also completely untouched by the demonic virtues of his father and brothers. Since childhood, he remained submerged in devotion to Lord Vishnu.

The demons even tried to use their illusionary powers on Prahlad but none of their powers could stand before him. Two sages, Shand and Amark produced an ogress, Kritya to kill Prahlad if he didn't follow their ways, but she killed them instead of killing Prahlad. But Prahlad was kind hearted and prayed to Lord Vishnu and brought them back to life.

Hiranyakashipu tried another way to kill Prahlad. He had a sister, Holika who had a boon that she would not die by fire. King Hiranyakashipu asked her to sit on a bonfire with Prahlad on her lap in the hope that this would kill Prahlad. Prahlad was not at all worried and chanted Lord Vishnu's name and was not hurt, but Holika was burned to her death. All the measures taken by the demons to kill Prahlad proved to be fruitless.

Because of this, Hiranyakashipu began to feel afraid. Once more, he forcibly sent Prahlad to the hermitage of Shand and Amark. Once there, Prahlad did take the education they offered but had no interest in their teachings. When his teachers used to get engaged in minor activities, Prahlad would assemble his fellow disciples around him and preach



to them that, "Brothers, this human incarnation is not meant to be wasted. If we don't find God in this birth, it would be a great loss. We can achieve the means to find God right in our childhood, for when we grow young, we are caught by the material wealth and nothing can be done in old age. It is very easy to find God. He is present in everyone's hearts. He is in every living being. Hence, we should not torture any creature. We should concentrate our mind in the God".

At the age of five years, Prahlad was preaching to the demon boys. The demon boys followed him faithfully. His teachers saw that Prahlad's teachings were against demonic traditions, Prahlad was sent back to Hiranyakashipu. Hiranyakashipu decided to kill Prahlad with his own hands. He tied Prahlad to a pillar. Hiranyakashipu asked in a loud voice: "O fool, with whose powers you have been humiliating me with? Now, I am going to kill you, call your God to save you."

Prahlad was unconcerned replied humbly: "Father, don't be angry. Lord Vishnu

is the protector of us all. I am not dishonoring you. One's own mind is his biggest enemy in the world. Lord Vishnu is everywhere. He is in me, in you, in your sword and is also present in the pillar".

Little Prahlad could not even finish his words when his angry father hit the pillar with his mace. As soon as the mace touched the pillar, it broke with a thundering sound. Everyone who was present in the court panicked. They saw a creature emerging from the pillar. It had the face of a lion and a human body. Emerging from the broken pillar was the avatar (incarnation) of Lord Vishnu as Narsimha. Narsimha roared angrily. The demon king Hiranyakashipu tried his best to escape from Narsimha. But at last, Narsimha caught hold of him and dragged him towards the threshold. There, he put Hiranyakashipu on thighs and tore his belly with his terrifying nails.

The anger of Narsimha did not subside even after killing Hiranyakashipu. He was still roaring repeatedly. Lord Brahma, Lord Shankar and even Goddess Lakshmi prayed to Lord Narsimha from a distance but no one had the courage to go near him. Finally, Brahma sent Prahlad near Narsimha to calm him down. Fearlessly, Prahlad went near Narsimha and laid himself flat at his feet. Affectionately, the Lord in Narsimha form raised Prahlad and embraced him and said: "O son Prahlad, you had to bear the sufferings for so long. Please forgive me."

Prahlad felt overwhelmed. The lord of the universe was standing before him and was stroking his head in assuring way. Prahlad bowed his head faithfully. Lord Narsimha then asked Prahlad to seek some boon. Prahlad said: "You are my true Lord. If you wish to grant me a boon, kindly bless me that no desire may arise in my mind for anything."

Prahlad also prayed to Lord Narsimha for his father, asking him, "O Lord, my father had always criticized you. Please free him from the sins he has committed." Lord Narsimha replied saying, "Prahlad, your father has now become holy." Lord Narsimha promised Prahlad that he would never kill any of his descendents. Lord Narsimha then escorted Prahlad to the throne of his father and made him sit on it, instructing him to follow good conduct and do his duties. Saying those words Lord Narsimha disappeared.





## Bala Hero

### Story of Shravan Kumar

Once upon a time there lived a boy named Shravan Kumar. He had parents who were blind. He had to do all the work for them, since they could not see. Shravan took great care and did everything for his mother and father with earnestness and love. He fulfilled every wish of his parents.

One day his parents expressed their desire to go on a pilgrimage. Shravan wanted to take them so he made a device like a balance, to carry them on his shoulders. His parents were pleased that their only son was fulfilling their wish. During the journey, Shravan managed to get them some roots and fruits from the forest. They ate them and never accepted corn or cereal offered by anyone else. They were on a pilgrimage and wanted to eat simple food offered only by their son.

While on pilgrimage they arrived in a forest near Ayodhya. His parents were thirsty and requested Shravan to get water to quench their thirst. Shravan Kumar took a vessel to fetch water from the river Sarayu. He left his parents and went to the banks of the river.



Dashrath was the king of Ayodhya and he was fond of hunting. He had come to the forest alone to hunt. He had a unique skill of shooting a mark with his arrow from where he heard the sound. As soon as Shravan Kumar dipped the vessel to fill water, Dashrath thought it was the sound of a deer drinking water. He received the arrow precisely, aiming at the place from where the sound came. The arrow pierced into Shravan. He gave out a cry and fell on the ground.

On hearing the moaning sound, King Dashrath came to the place to see who

it was. He saw an innocent boy crying in pain. The vessel was lying on the ground. His body was all splashed with blood and mud. When King Dashrath saw this young boy, he became very sad and started cursing himself.

When Shravan saw the king, he told him, "O, King! Please don't worry. I came to take water for my parents. They are thirsty. I am in severe pain. Please pull out this arrow and take some water to my parents and tell them the sad news."

The king sadly removed the arrow and went to Shravan's parents with water. He silently gave them water to drink, which they refused to accept unless the carrier revealed his identity. The parents had in fact grown suspicious of some foul play. Their intuition had warned them that the carrier was not their real son. He conveyed the message about the death of their son. Shravan's old and blind parents were shocked and were in utter grief. They cried out loud and told the king to take them to their dead son.

King Dashrath carried them on his shoulders to the place where Shravan Kumar had died. Just then, Shravan Kumar spoke to his parents, "Through my services to you I have attained a place in the heaven. Do not worry about me. I shall wait for you both and provide my service to both of you when you come to me."

Shravan's mother and father both took a dip in the Sarayu River. Soon after, they died by their son Shravan's side because of unbearable shock. But before dying they cursed Dashrath, "Just as we are dying because of our son's loss, you would also die one day for the same reason, O' King." Their curse came true and King Dashrath died when Lord Ram was sent out in exile for fourteen years to the forest.





# Bala Hero

## Story of Dhruv

One time long, long ago, a while after the Earth was created, there was a kingdom ruled by King Uttanpad. The king had two wives, Suruchi and Suniti. The two queens each had a son. Queen Suruchi was the second wife of the king and had a son named Uttam. Queen Suniti was the first wife of the king and had the eldest son, Dhruv.

Queen Suruchi was the king's favorite queen. It is important to know what the name Suruchi means; it means to desire what the senses ask for, which could be a possible reason why the king had a weakness for her. The name Suniti however means that which is correct. While the king loved her and her son Uttam, he ignored his first queen Suniti and her son. Once, Uttam sat in his father's lap, Dhruv also tried to sit beside his stepbrother. When queen Suruchi saw this, she shouted at him, "You cannot sit there. If you want to sit in the king's lap you shall have to prove your worthiness and undergo serious penance or be born from me."



Dhruv was humiliated and ran to his mother, Queen Suniti crying. He was trying to fight back the angry tears that were streaming down his eyes as he told his mother what had happened. She comforted him and told him, "Pray to Lord Vishnu, he will help you if you can pray long and hard enough." Dhruv couldn't bear this and went to the forest to please Lord Vishnu, just as his mother had said.

On the way he met Naradji, who tried to stop him. He said to Dhruv, "You are just a small child. How will you bear the winter's cold and the summer heat? Go back home." Dhruv replied to Naradji, "O learned sage! Even at the cost of my life and all the harsh conditions of the forest, I will prove myself worthy to sit in the lap of the king, my father, by undergoing great penance and pleasing God." Penance means to fast, to meditate and to live a very simple life.



Naradji was pleased with Dhruv's dedication and fearlessness and he showed Dhruv the place and the method to practice penance. Naradji taught Dhruv, the technique of prayer and asked him to chant the mantra: 'Om namo Bhagvate Vasudevaaya"

Dhruv reached a place in the forest called Madhuvan. He stood on one leg and started praying to God. Dhruv was so absorbed in his penance that the difficulties of forest life did not affect him at all. For the 1st month he subsisted on fruit and meditated for 3 days at a stretch. For the 2nd month, he meditated for 6 days at a stretch. For the 3rd month, Dhruv meditated for 9 days at a stretch and subsisted on only leaves. For the 4th month, he meditated for 12 days at a stretch and subsisted on only water from the Yamuna River. For the 5th month Dhruv meditated for 15 days at a stretch, and renounced water as well. By the 6th month Dhruv decided that he would stay put in the same position until Lord Vishnu appeared.



One day Lord Vishnu stood in front of Dhruv, he did not open his eyes as he was already seeing Lord Vishnu within his own heart. Lord Vishnu made the form that Dhruv was witnessing within himself, disappear! Dhruv became restless and opened his eyes and behold, Lord Vishnu was standing outside! Pleased with his devotion, Lord Vishnu appeared before Dhruv. "I am pleased with your devotion. Tell me, what do you wish?" Lord Vishnu asked Dhruv. Dhruv asked for that which the Lord wished to give him. Lord Vishnu's wish was that Dhruv should return to his kingdom.

In the meantime, King Uttanpad repented the injustice done to Dhruv. He was heartbroken and very worried that his son might be killed and eaten by wild beasts. Naradji consoled him, telling him that Dhruv's resolve was firm and that he had received Lord Vishnu's blessings and be protected by him.

When Dhruv finally returned home safely, King Uttanpad went personally to greet him. Queen Suniti was overjoyed at her son's safe return. As time went on, Dhruv became the king and ruled wisely for many years.

Lord Vishnu knew that Dhruv had started his penance because he had wanted to sit in his father's lap. Dhruv was transported to the highest point of heaven, where he sits on Lord Vishnu's lap as the North Pole Star. The Dhruv tara (star) is the brightest star which will guide the misguided to their final divine destination.

Dhruv's story shows us that at one point or another of our life we all encounter situations that are unfair. Instead of focusing on our misfortunes, sincere meditation on God can help us to overcome the obstacles of our daily lives through God's grace.





## Skit

### Shiva, Parvathi Ganesh, Karthikeya, Peacock, Mouse

This is the play to exhibit that there is no match for parents love.

**Scene:** Shiva and Parvathi are relaxing in Kailash. Ganesh and his brother Karthikeya (Subrhamanya) enter the stage together.

**Ganesh and Karthikeya:** Pranam Matha, Pranama Pith (they both do namaskar to Shiva and Parvathi)

**Shiv and Parvathi:** Chiranjeev Bhava putra Did have fun playing together?

**Ganesh:** Yes Matha we did, but we are hungry. Do you have something for us to eat?

**Karthikeya:** Matha - we want to play some more games.

**Parvathi:** Oh...yes. I do here you go. ( She gives them Modakas. Karthikeya takes only one, and Ganesh takes the whole plate) I think I have a game for both of you

**Ganesh:** If I win - do I get something?

**Karthikeya:** Is that right? What is it?

**Shiva:** What do we have for the winner?

**Parvathi:** (Showing her necklace) - here it is: the beautiful the Hara for winner

**Karthikeya:** That's wonderful, then why wait! Let start.

**Shiva:** Let your Matha me explain the game rule.

**Parvathi:** That's right! The game is to go around the most important and the largest thing I the world 3 times. Whoever completes 3 rounds first they will get the Hara.

**Karthikeya:** That's easy! The Brahmanda (Universe) is the most important and the largest. I will go around the Brahmanda and finish 3 rounds - at the speed of the light

Ganesh are you ready?

**Ganesh:** (Eating is modaka) ..Yes....

**Karthikeya:** (laughing).. Ha...ha.. Ganesh how can you win this race with your bigg tummy and

little mouse.

**Ganesh:** I will try my best..

**Partvathi:** OK - ready 1, 2, 3. let the race begin.

(Karthikeya Sits on his peacock and goes around the universe (go behind the stage) Ganesh is eating modakas - not bothered about the race)

**Shiva:** Parvathi, look at Ganesh.. so lazy. He does not want to win the race.

**Parvathi:** No.. I think Ganesh has something in his mind . Let's wait and see.

(Karthikeya (enters the stage and looks at Ganesh): Ganesh .. why are you lazy. I am done with my first round..)

**Ganesh:** That good.. (busy eating his modakas)

**Karthikeya:** goes for the second round (exit the stage)

(Ganesh is still eating, Parvathi and Shiva are smiling at Ganesh)

**Karthikeya:** (enters the stage).. Matha, Pitha I am done with my 2 rounds. Ganesh - you did not start yet! How can that be! You are so lazy! Matha - don't you think - I should get the hara? I will go for my last round (He exits the stage)

**Ganesh:** Gets up and goes around shiva and Parvathi 3 times.

**Parvathi:** Ganesh - here you go (Gives her necklace)

**Ganesh:** Dhanyavad matha.

**Karthikeya:** (Enters the stage and looks at Ganesh) No .. this is not right. How can he get the hara. I am the winner. Something is wrong here.

**Shiva:** Karthikeya, Nothing is wrong. Ganesh considered parents are the most important and their love is the largest in the whole wide world, so he did went around his parents 3 times. There is nothing bigger than parents love. So he is the winner in this race. But - we love you too. Here you go you take my hara (necklace).

**Karthikeya:** I agree with you pitha. I learned a lesson. I do see the most the important and largest thing parents love is right here.

Both Ganesh and Karthikeya: Mathrudevo Bhava Pithru Devo Bhava.



## -: Exercise :-

### Fill up the blanks

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ was Hiranyakashipu's son.  
a) Shravan      b) Dhruv      c) Prahlad      d) None of these
- 2) Prahlad was a great devotee of lord \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) Vishnu      b) Shiva      c) Brahma      d) None of these
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ was Prahlad's sister.  
a) Holika      b) Kayadhu      c) Radha      d) None of these
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ is an example of ideal son.  
a) Prahlad      b) Shravan      c) Dhruv      d) None of these
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_ was King Uttanpad's son.  
a) Shravan      b) Dhruv      c) Prahlad      d) None of these
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_ want to take his parents for pilgrimage.  
a) Dhruv      b) Prahlad      c) Shravan      d) None of these
- 7) Dhruv prayed to \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) Rama      b) Krishna      c) Lord Vishnu      d) None of these
- 8) Lord Vishnu appeared as \_\_\_\_\_ to kill Hiranyakashipu.  
a) Vamana      b) Rama      c) Narsimha      d) None of these
- 9) \_\_\_\_\_ and Karthikeya were brothers.  
a) Shiva      b) Ganesh      c) Balarama      d) None of these
- 10) Shravan's mother and father both took a dip in the \_\_\_\_\_ River.  
a) Sarayu      b) Yamuna      c) Ganga      d) Krishna

**Match the pairs:**

- |                        |                                |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1) King Dashrath       | 1) sharIram .                  |
| 2) paropakArArthamidaM | 2) Vasudevaaya                 |
| 3) Om namo Bhagvate    | 3) devotee of lord Vishnu      |
| 4) Shravan kumar       | 4) brightest star              |
| 5) Bhakta Prahlad      | 5) cursed by Shravan's parents |
| 6) Dhruv               | 6) ideal son                   |

**Questions:**

- 1) What is the moral of Bhakta Prahlad's story?

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- 2) Why did Dhruv start penance?

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- 3) What mistake King Dasharath committed?

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**Identify true or false:**

- 1) Hiranyakashipu wanted to punish Prahlad because he was a bad guy.
- 2) Shravan Kumar wanted to take his parents for picnic.
- 3) Dashrath was the kind of Ayodhya and he was fond of hunting.
- 4) Dhruv is the brightest star.
- 5) Lord Narsimha escorted Prahlad to the throne of his father and made him sit on it and disappeared.
- 6) Ganesh and Karthikeya were Lord Shiva and Parvathi's children.
- 7) Holika was Bhakta Prahlad's sister.

**Unscramble following words**

pardhla

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hsravna

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hioalk

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adshatr

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

dvhru

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peneacn

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bhkataa

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## Shloka

गुरु (Guru - Salutation to Guru)

अखण्डमण्डलाकारं	akhaṇḍamaṇḍalākāraṁ
व्याप्तं येन चराचरम् ।	vyāptaṁ yena carācaram ।
तत्पदं दर्शितं येन	tatpadaṁ darśitaṁ yena
तस्मै श्रीगुरवे नमः ॥	tasmai śrīgurave namaḥ ॥

### Meaning:

Salutations to the respected Guru who showed us the place of the one who pervades the vast universe with all its movable and immovable things.

मंत्र ( mantra - for repetition /chanting )

हरी ॐ	harī om
नमो नारायणा ।	namo narāyaṇā ।

### Meaning:

Lord Vishnu (Hari, Narayan) I salute you, I bow to you.

## Subhashitam (Words of wisdom)

गुणाः सर्वत्र पूज्यन्ते ।

guNAaH sarvatra puujyante .

**Meaning:** Virtues are respected everywhere.

## रामा भजन (rAmA bhajana)

रामा हो रामा रे भूल मत जाना  
तेरी अयोध्या छोड के ।।

rAmA ho rAmA re bhUla mata jAnA  
terI ayodhyA ChoDa ke ||

फूल लाया फल लाया तेरे लिये  
तुझको चढाऊंगा वापस न जाऊंगा  
तेरी अयोध्या छोड के ।।

phUla lAyA phala laayaa tere liye  
tujhako chaDhAuuaMgA vApasa na jAuuaMgA  
terI ayodhyA ChoDa ke ||

धूप लाया दीप लाया तेरे लिये  
तुझको दीखाऊंगा वापस न जाऊंगा  
तेरी अयोध्या छोड के ।।

dhUpa lAyA dIpa lAyA tere liye  
tujhako dIkhAuuaMgA vApasa na jAuuaMgA  
terI ayodhyA ChoDa ke ||

दूध लाया दही लाया तेरे लिये  
तुझको खिलाऊंगा वापस न जाऊंगा  
तेरी अयोध्या छोड के ।।

dUdha lAyA dahI lAyA tere liye  
tujhako khilAuuaMgA vApasa na jAuuaMgA  
terI ayodhyA ChoDa ke ||

ईट लाया पत्थर लाया तेरे लिये  
मंदिर बनाऊंगा वापस न जाऊंगा  
तेरी अयोध्या छोड के ।।

iiTa lAyA patthara lAyA tere liye  
maMdira banAuuaMgA vApasa na jAuuaMgA  
terI ayodhyA ChoDa ke ||



## Bala Hero

### Story of Nachiketa

A while ago, there once lived a little boy named Nachiketa. He was the son of Rishi Udalak. Once, Rishi Udalak organized a yagna (a type of puja) to please the gods and gain a heaven. It was a custom in those days to donate cows to Brahmins at the end of the yagna. Udalak was a miser and he donated old and weak cows to the Brahmins. Since the cows were old and weak, they hardly yielded any milk. Nachiketa was puzzled by his father's action. "What does he mean by all this?" he said to himself. "What happened to all the useful cows? What does my father gain by gifting such useless cows? This is no, less than committing a sin. It is actually cheating. He should be gifting the things which are dear-ones. He intends to gain heaven by performing the sacrifice. But he will go to Hell instead through such actions."



He asked his father about this, "Father, to whom will you give me to as charity or gift?" This made his father very angry, but he decided not to say anything and got engaged in preparation of gifting ceremony. When Nachiketa repeated the question, Udalak lost his temper and said, "Get away from here. I will give you to Yama, God of Death." Yama is the king of Yamapuri and also the God of Death. "I should fulfill his wish," thought Nachiketa, even if it means leaving home and embracing death. Obeying his father, Nachiketa went to Yama's kingdom. It would not be proper for him to disobey his father.

His father, however, realized his mistake, but it was too late. He muttered, "Shame upon my anger! I should never have uttered those words. What will befall me now? I have asked death for my son!" With a blank head and a heavy heart he sat down and tried to stop Nachiketa.

But Nachiketa did not stop. He said, "Father! I must see Yama to obey your order." He reached Yama's kingdom but was told by Yama's guards that he had gone out for three days. Nachiketa decided to wait at his doorstep until he returned. He waited

for three days without any food or water. He basically fasted for three days!

Finally, Yama returned on the fourth day and saw little Nachiketa at his doorstep. He was saddened that he kept a Brahmin waiting without welcoming him and not giving him food and water. It was very bad not to welcome an atithi (guest) at the doorstep. He yelled at his wife, Yami for not welcoming him. The both of them rushed around the house to serve little Nachiketa. One of them went to fetch water while the other brought a mat for him to sit on.



Yama still did not feel completely satisfied in serving him, so he told Nachiketa, "Dear child, I have offended you by keeping you waiting for three days. To wash my sin I request you to ask for three boons."

Nachiketa answered to Yama by saying, "My first wish is that when I return home, may my father welcome me lovingly. My second wish is to grant me the knowledge so that I can be worthy of living in the heavens. My third and last wish is to grant me Atma-vidya (knowledge of the atma)."

Yama granted Nachiketa the first two boons immediately but tried to convince Nachiketa to give up his third wish. He offered Nachiketa gold, pearls, coins, horses, elephants and even the happiness of Swarg (heaven) instead. But Nachiketa firmly said, "No, I do not wish for anything else." Finally, Yama granted him the third boon too, and Nachiketa was enlightened with the knowledge of the atma (soul).

Nachiketa returned back to his parents. His father embraced his son with open arms and said, "My dear son, please forgive me." Mother overwhelmed with joy, enquired, "Dear child! How did you acquire this luster on your face?" Nachiketa narrated the entire story to all those assembled. Praise was showered on Nachiketa for his achievement.

The story of little Nachiketa teaches us to be kind to all creatures, to respect one's parents and to be strong willed to do something that has been decided. Even if it means facing difficulties and obstacles, one should stick to their decision. It always teaches to search for eternal happiness.





## Bala Hero

### Story of Ekalavya

A long time ago there lived a young boy named Ekalavya. He lived in the forest in a little hut. He was the son of a tribal chief, but had lost his father. He was very eager to learn archery. His mother gave him advice, to have a guru. He desired to have a great guru (teacher). He headed towards Hastinapur, which was the capital of a mighty kingdom. He wanted to meet Guru Dronacharya, who was an expert in archery. Guru Dronacharya was also the teacher of royal princes. Guru Dronacharya expressed his inability to take him as his student because he only taught the royal princes, but gave Ekalavya his blessings.

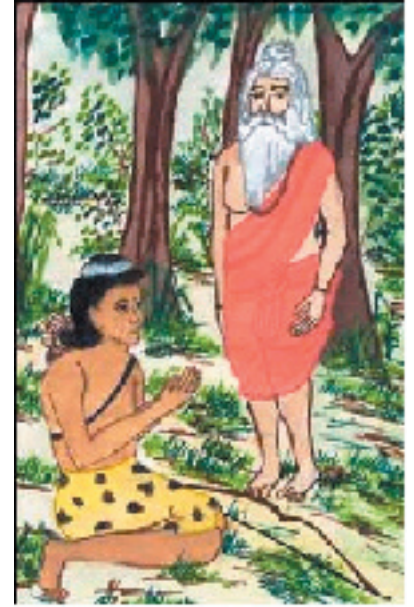


Ekalavya felt gloomy but did not give up. After returning to the forest, he made a statue of his Guru Dronacharya and prayed to the statue every day. He also practiced archery in front of the statue. He was determined to become an ace archer and was convinced that Guru Dronacharya, in a statue form, would teach him archery. When he faced a difficulty learning something, he would bow before his guru's statue, meditate, and then he would discover the right approach.

Meanwhile, Guru Dronacharya had been teaching the princes. The princes soon completed their education and Guru Dronacharya took them to the forest. One day, one of their hunting dogs went to where Ekalavya was practicing, and started barking. Ekalavya was enraged by this disturbance so Ekalavya shot arrows in the mouth of the dog. He shot the arrows with such skill that the dog was not hurt much but could no more bark.

The princes as well as Guru Dronacharya were surprised to see the dog returning back to them so quiet and not barking as he would normally do. Guru Dronacharya was surprised to see such a rare skill in archery. Guru Dronacharya and his students followed the dog trail and soon reached where Ekalavya was busy practicing his art. Arjun was very disappointed because his dream of becoming the greatest archer in the world was

shattered. He could not be a match to Ekalavya's archery. Guru Dronacharya asked the youth who he was and from who had he learned such an art. Ekalavya touched the feet of Guru Dronacharya and was in deep joy to see his guru. This surprised Guru Dronacharya. He showed the idol to Guru Dronacharya and told him about his request for accepting him as a pupil. On Guru Dronacharya's refusal, he practiced in front of the idol of Guru Dronacharya the archery regarding the idol as his teacher. Suddenly Guru Dronacharya realized his promise to make Arjun the greatest archer in the world and this would never be fulfilled as long Ekalavya was there.



Guru Dronacharya knew he must fulfill his promise to Arjun and decided to ask for his guru-dakshina from Ekalavya. It is said that no one is free of his debt to his guru unless he paid guru-dakshina at the end of his training. Young Ekalavya was very pleased to pay guru dakshina to his teacher. He asked Guru Dronacharya to ask for it. Guru Dronacharya very smartly asked for his right-hand thumb. Ekalavya without any hesitation gladly cut off his right thumb and offered it to Guru Dronacharya. Guru Dronacharya knew this would make Ekalavya lose his skill in archery. After this Dronacharya and his pupil returned back to their gurukul (school house).

Gurur-brahma gurur-vishnuh, Gurur-devo maheswarah

Guruh-sakshat parabrahma, Tasmai sri gurave namah

In Bharat (India) the teacher is held in very high esteem. The teacher is respected like a father. As the above saying describes, the teacher is considered as the 'trimurti'-Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh (Shiva) - all rolled into one.

In old times, children who received schooling had to live with their teacher faithfully and attend to the chores assigned to them and pursue their studies with concentration. The teacher was not merely teaching his pupil some subjects. He would actually shape the child's character and personality by instilling in him an awareness of the world around him, and how to lead a life useful to the society and face various problems one comes across in life. The teacher, who trains young children to face their life in the future with success, was given a revered place in our Hindu culture.





## Bala Hero

### Story of Abhimanyu

An epic battle, the Mahabharat war was fought for righteousness. In the eighteen-day Mahabharat war, the thirteenth day would be remembered because of a heroic sixteen year old boy, Abhimanyu, son of one of the Pandavs, Arjun. During the thirteenth day of the war, he fought courageously against might warriors. Despite his tender age, his mastery in warfare and phenomenal valor wrecked such havoc that it caused the enemy leaders to use the most treacherous and cowardly means to try to defeat him.

At dawn on the thirteenth day, the evil Duryodhan smartly arranged the Kauravs in a battle formation known as Chakravyuh, a circular formation. At the center Guru Dronarachya kept Duryodhan. To guard him, he arranged seven circular formations going outwards. In the outer circles, he placed terrifying warriors known as Maharathis, such as Dushasan, Karna, Guru Kripacharya, Ashwathama, Shakuni, Shalya, Bhurishrava and Jayadrath.

When the Pandavs and their leader Yuddhisthir saw the Chakravyuh their high spirits dropped. Nobody among them knew how to break the Chakravyuh except Arjun and his son Abhimanyu. That day, the war was purposely set up so that Arjun would be tied up elsewhere. Yuddhisthir appointed the sixteen year old Abhimanyu to break the Chakravyuh. However, Abhimanyu knew how to go in but did not know how to come out. They then formed a battle strategy. When Abhimanyu broke through, the Pandavs would follow him to create a wider opening and protect him. They would prevent the outer layer of the circle from closing in. Abhimanyu then climbed his chariot. In an instant he was streaking like a lightning bolt towards the Chakravyuh. The mighty warriors of the Pandavs army followed.



Young Abhimanyu clashed with the Kauravs at the outer ring. He charged through. The Chakravyuh was open! Like a mighty lion he entered under the nose of Drona, his 'grand guru'. A mere sixteen year old had managed to outwit the experienced Guru Dronarachya. Abhimanyu shot off arrows like flashes of lightning. The arrows smashed chariots and cut down soldiers. Those who dared fight him either died or went for a

hasty retreat. He was a tornado, whirling through and churning up the Kauravs army. Abhimanyu reached Duryodhan finally. The seventh layer of the circle had been broken. The Maharathis rushed to protect Duryodhan.

Meanwhile Yuddhisthir and the other Pandavs clashed with Jayadrath at the outer layer, just after Abhimanyu broken through. Jayadrath, however effectively stopped their progress with a wall of elephants. The Pandavs could not help Abhimanyu, who had sped in the circle so fast. He was crashing through the ranks, deeper and deeper into the Chakravyuh. Abhimanyu did not know how to get out so he was basically on his own.



At the center, a gruesome battle took place. Abhimanyu fought valiantly. He smashed and destroyed the hundreds of arrows fired at him by Kripacharya, Ashwathama, Duryodhan, Shalya and Bruhadbal. On several occasions, all of them had to flee his tremendous volley of arrows. He cut down many other Maharathis. Karna then asked Drona how Abhimanyu could be defeated. Drona admired Abhimanyu's unexcelled valor and supreme archery. He had no other choice but to reveal the secret of defeating Abhimanyu. As the master of warfare, only he knew how. He said, "If you can, break his dense armor, kill his two charioteers and destroy his chariot. Then cut the string of his bow. So long as he sits in his chariot with his bow, nobody can defeat him!"

The six Kauravs Maharathis did just that. They attacked him mercilessly from all sides and all at once. They knew well enough that in war, only two people can fight each other at a time but they broke the rules of war. However the gallant young Kshatriya fought right until the end. The Pandavs had an intuition that their worst fears had come true. Soon the terrible news was confirmed. Yuddhisthir and Bhim fell down sadly. They had sent Abhimanyu to his death. The Pandavs had never sunk so deep in despair and sorrow, since the beginning of the war. They were unable to face Arjun on his return. Despite his death, he had fought for Dharma (righteousness). This is why a sixteen year old boy was the supreme hero of the thirteenth day and even perhaps the whole Mahabharat war.



**Color this picture**



## -: Exercise :-

### Fill up the blanks

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ is a God of death.  
a) Indra                      b) Yama                      c) Agni                      d) None of these
- 2) Nachiketa's third wish was to gain \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) Money                      b) Gold                      c) Atma-vidya                      d) None of these
- 3) Ekalavya learned \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) Archery                      b) Sword                      c) Piano                      d) None of these
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ refused Ekalavya to teach archery.  
a) Vasistha                      b) Dronacharya                      c) Durvasa                      d) None of these
- 5) Only Arjun and \_\_\_\_\_ knew how to break "chakravyuh".  
a) Abhimanyu                      b) Nachiketa                      c) Balarama                      d) None of these
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_ arranged a "chakravyuh" in the Mahabharata war.  
a) Dronacharya                      b) Balarama                      c) Vasistha                      d) None of these
- 7) Abhimanyu was \_\_\_\_\_'s son.  
a) Bhima                      b) Arjun                      c) Nakul                      d) None of these
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_ granted three boons to Nachiketa.  
a) Yama                      b) Indra                      c) Vishnu                      d) None of these
- 9) Abhimanyu fought courageously against might warriors on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of Mahabharata war..  
a) 10th                      b) 13th                      c) 12th                      d) None of these

**Match the pairs:**

- |                |                            |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| 1) Udalak      | 1) Ideal Shishya (student) |
| 2) Abhimanyu   | 2) Guru of Royal princes   |
| 3) Ekalavya    | 3) Brahma, Vishnu, Mahesh  |
| 4) Dronacharya | 4) Pandava's leader        |
| 5) Trimurti    | 5) A sage                  |
| 6) Yuddhisthir | 6) Chakravyuh              |

**Questions:**

- 1) Why was Nachiketa was unhappy about his father?

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- 2) Who was the super-hero of thirteenth day of Mahabharat war?

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- 3) Name the six warriors (maharathi) with whom Abhimanyu fought.

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**Identify true or false:**

- 1) Nachiketa wished happiness of heaven.
- 2) Nachiketa was unhappy about his father's donations in Yagna.
- 3) Nachiketa was firm to obey his father's words.
- 4) Nachiketa's last wish was "Atma-vidya" to be granted to him.
- 5) Ekalavya was a son of tribal chief.
- 6) Guru Dronacharya refused Ekalavya to teach archery.
- 7) Abhimanyu was Arjun's Son
- 8) Ekalavya gladly cut off his right thumb and offered it to Guru Dronacharya.
- 9) Guru Dronacharya was a teacher (Guru) of royal princes.

**Unscramble following words:**

nakchieat

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keyalava

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ambhiuany

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henave

--	--	--	--	--	--

rdonahcaray

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

guurlku

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ckhahravyu

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