

Friendship

■ *Reading*

A friendship is a bond between two living beings. Friendships are formed irrespective of age, status, caste, creed and gender. A child, a teenager, a young man or even an old man can find a friend according to his feelings and wishes. True friends share feelings such as happiness, sadness and affection. Friends should be trustworthy and loyal to each other. Caring and sharing make a friendship healthy and it uplifts the lives of friends and it will give colour to life.

As the proverb says “**A friend in need is a friend indeed**”

Playwrights have written plays on friendship, lyricists have woven lyrics on friendship, poets have written poem on friendship and novelists have made friendship the theme of their novels.

Activity 1.12

■ *Reading / Speaking*

On April 26th 1564 a name was added to the register of the village Stratford-upon-Avon in England as William Shakespeare. Nobody could foresee that this baby boy would be world famous as the greatest writer in the language.

“The Merchant of Venice” is one of the 37 plays written by William Shakespeare between the years 1598 and 1612. This play highlights the strong bond between two friends.

In the city of Venice there lived two friends Antonio and Bassanio. Antonio was a ship owner and Bassanio a nobleman who was not as rich as his friend.



William Shakespeare

True Friends

Adapted from “The Merchant of Venice”

■ *Role play*

- Bassanio : Antonio, I heard that many suitors are trying to win Portia.
Antonio : Portia? The daughter of the wealthy nobleman who died recently?
Bassanio : Yes, she is Portia. Many young men in Venice try to win her. I’m interested too. We have met each other when her father was living. But I cannot present myself as I don’t even have the money to go ahead. I need three thousand ducats.
Antonio : I wish I could give you the money, but I don’t have that much now.
My ships haven’t returned yet. Shall we ask Shylock, the money lender, the richest money lender in Venice?
Bassanio : I don’t think so. Shylock doesn’t like us. We don’t like him either.
Antonio : Bassanio, we are only borrowing the money. Shylock can charge an interest. I’m ready to sign an agreement.
Bassanio : But I don’t like to see you fall into trouble. Let’s forget about this.

Antonio persuaded Bassanio and the two friends went to meet Shylock. He agreed to give money on one condition.

- Shylock : Yes, I will give you money, but on one condition. Antonio, you must give me a pound of flesh if you fail to repay by the due date. That’s the interest I want.
Antonio : I’m ready to sign the agreement.
Bassanio : I disagree with you. I don’t like to see you face danger, in case you fail to pay back the loan.



But Antonio did not listen to his friend. He wanted to help Bassanio somehow. Antonio borrowed the money from Shylock and handed it over to Bassanio. Portia accepted Bassanio as her husband. Time passed. Antonio however could not pay back the loan. A court case was filed by Shylock.

Activity 1.13 Group Work

■ *Speaking*

- a) **Role play the dialogue.**
- b) **What happened to Antonio afterwards? Discuss with your teacher and write a short paragraph.**

Now read and find out whether your answers are correct.

Portia and Nerissa

■ *Reading*

Portia, the beloved wife of Bassanio was the most concerned about the court case. She was worried about her husband's life long friend, Antonio. She wrote a note to Nerissa, her maid.

Nerissa,

I have learnt the cause of Antonio's mental agony, from my dear husband Bassanio. Antonio is in danger, because of my husband. The condition laid down by Shylock requires Antonio to give a pound of flesh in return. So to relieve him my cousin and I worked out a plan. Both of us, you and I will dress as male lawyers and appear for Antonio. Be ready. But keep everything secret.

Portia

Activity 1.14 Comprehension

■ *Reading / Writing*

Read the note and construct **WH** questions using **who, what, when, where** and **why** in your writing books and then write the answers.

eg: Who is Nerissa? – Nerissa is Portia’s maid.

Activity 1.15 Writing a note

■ *Writing*

Imagine you are Nerissa and write a note to Portia as a reply.

Activity 1.16 Composition

■ *Writing*

1. Prepare a write up about your best friend in the class.

Why you have selected him/her as your best friend.

Write the composition using Simple Present Tense and Simple Past Tense.

Activity 1.17

■ *Writing*

Imagine that you have a pen-pal abroad. Write the very first letter to him/ her

- describing - yourself/ school/ class
- your country
- what you like and dislike in your country
(150 words)

Kalidasa - the great poet

■ *Reading*

Kalidasa, the world famous Indian poet lived during the first half of the fifth century. This century is known as an era of brilliant achievements in literature, science and the arts.

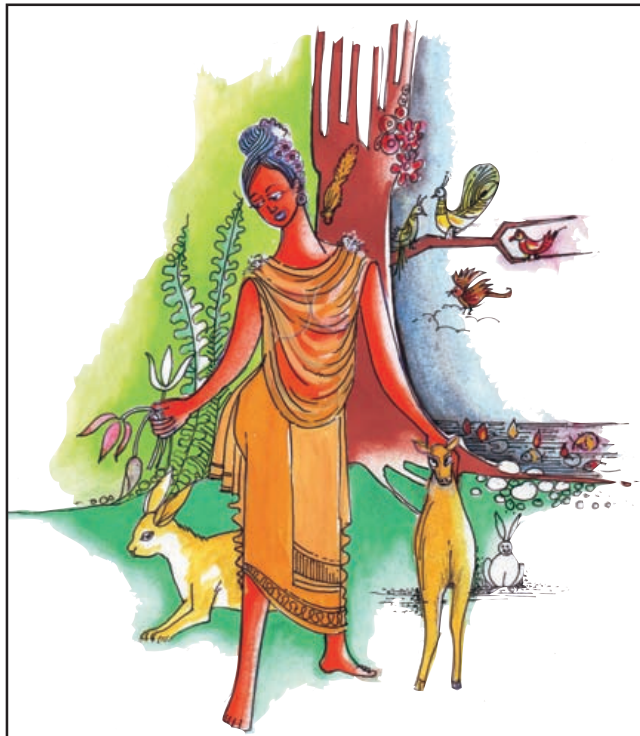
The play *Shakuntala* is considered as the greatest literary text written by him in the Sanskrit language. *Meghadutha* and *Iruthu Sanhara* are two other texts composed by this great poet, Kalidasa.

Shakuntala

The play *Shakuntala* is woven around the love and life of an extremely beautiful maiden. She was the daughter of the goddess (apsara) Menaka and Kashyapa, an erudite *rishi*.

Shakuntala was brought up in the forest by *Kanva rishi*. She spent her time amidst nature - among flowers, birds, trees and animals. She had a happy childhood with her friends Anasuya, Priyanwada and other companions-the disciples of Kanva rishi, her foster father .

Prince Dushmantha, a handsome young man saw her and was struck by her beauty. It was an unexpected meeting.



The prince sought the hand of this beauty. The story of their love is famous in Indian Literature.

The most emotional moment of the play emerges when Shakuntala bade farewell to her beloved companions, who had been with her, and all the animate and inanimate things. The play brings to focus the stilled voice of the birds, the immobility of the jungle as they share with her the sorrow of parting. Kanva rishi though an ascetic could not bear to part with his adopted daughter. She bade farewell to the does, the deer, the rabbits, the trees, the flowers and the pond that she intensely loved.

Some of the most poignant lines in the play are, when Kanva rishi reflects how laymen can bear to separate from their daughters, to whom they have given their life and blood. Kanva rishi found it very difficult to face this situation of Sakunthala leaving him.

This play highlights the strong bond between a foster father and his adopted daughter.

Activity 1.18 Comprehension

■ *Reading / Writing*

1. Construct two sentences on Kalidasa, the great poet.
2. Pick up the phrase that describes Shakuntala.
3. Why would you say that Shakuntala was a nature lover?
4. Name the two sets of companions who had been with Shakuntala. Give an example for each category.
5. What is the most emotional moment of the play?
6. Do you think Kanva rishi should not feel the separation so much? Why?

Activity 1.19

■ Reading / Writing

Companionship

A companion is a person who keeps company, who comforts us, who cares for us. Sometimes a companion can be an animal. This story tells us about the companionship between animals and a human being.

The loneliest years of my life

My dog and my mongoose were my sole companions, fresh from the jungle. The latter grew at my side, slept in my bed, and ate at my table. No one can imagine the affectionate nature of a mongoose. My little pet was familiar with every minute of



my day-to-day life. She trampled all over my papers and raced after me all day long. She curled up between my shoulder and my head at siesta time and slept there the fitful, electric sleep of wild animals. She accompanied me on my long walks by the sea shore. I learned what true loneliness was in those days and years in Wellawatte. During all that time

I slept on a field cot like a soldier. All I had for company were a table, and the two chairs for my work, my dog, my mongoose and the boy who did the household work. Strolling up the shore I would come to the elephants' bathing hole. With my dog alongside, my companion I couldn't get lost. He was my companion, my guardian who always protected me.

In 1929, Ceylon, the most beautiful of the world's large islands had the same colonial structure as Burma and India. The English had entrenched themselves in their neighbourhoods and their clubs. Caught between the Englishmen dressed every evening in dinner jackets and the Hindus I couldn't hope to reach their fabulous immensity, I had only solitude open to me and so that time was the loneliest in my life.



This story was written by Pablo Neruda in 1929. He was the greatest poet in Chile who wrote in Spanish. (This was translated into English by Hardy St.Martin) How many of us know that Pablo Neruda- the poet, a social thinker, the winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1971 spent some years in Sri Lanka (Ceylon) as a diplomat in the company of a mongoose and a dog?

Activity 1.20 Comprehension

■ *Speaking / Writing*

- A. 1. Where did the writer spend his loneliest years?
2. Who were the living companions of the writer?
3. How did the mongoose provide companionship to the writer?
4. Which sentences show us the companionship between the writer and the animals?
5. How does Neruda describe Ceylon in 1929?

- B. 6. What kind of a man is the writer Pablo Neruda?
7. How do dumb friends (animals) keep company with human beings?
8. Why does the writer say “I learned what true loneliness was”?

Activity 1.21 Vocabulary - Pair work

■ *Writing*

Find phrases from the text similar in meaning to the phrases given and write them in your writing book.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1. only companions | - | sole companions |
| 2. untamed creatures | - | |
| 3. very quick sleep | - | |
| 4. walks of long distances | - | |
| 5. daily routine | - | |
| 6. being alone | - | |
| 7. work in the house | - | |

Activity 1.22 Listening and composition

■ *Speaking / Writing*

- **Arrange a debate in the class based on the topic**
- **Who is more cruel, animal or man?**

Guidelines - Discuss the nature of animals and man.

eg: Why are humans more cruel or self centered in nature?

- **Take down notes for the proposition and opposition views and write a composition on one view.**

Guide lines

- 1) Animals and humans are all living beings.
- 2) They belong to one family.
- 3) It is the family of Mother Nature
- 4)
- 5)

■ **Enrichment**

Read and enjoy this poem.

To Tikki – for loving without self love

- by Kamala Wijeratne

- 01** There was no self
In your love
You gave all
No coquetry, no archness
No holding back
For the title you got
You gave so much and more
- 02** The gladness in your voice
Was unmistakable
The pain of yearning
For the days missed
The loneliness all told
In that single stentorian bark
- 03** Canine you may have been
But you taught us
Dogs can have standards
The settee you appropriated to yourself
And the new bedside carpet
The way you partook of your meals
Morsel by morsel, unhurried, decorous
- 04** Gentle to us householders
Hostile to strangers
You established your writ
All over the avenue
Strays-dogs and cats
Found no mercy
- 05** Protector and avenger
You fought fiercely for us and ours
Friend- we wait defenceless
The drawing room carpet is bare
And as I sit at the table
My feet recoil from the cold cement floor
The last twelve years
When ever I sat at table
And stretched my legs
Your softness was there
To warm my feet.



Activity 1.23

Paraphrase the poem and write a paragraph on ‘My loving pet - Tikki’

Activity 1.24

■ *Speaking*

Relationship – A broader sense

Relationships are built in different ways

(1) Relationships are built through communication

When people meet for the first time they come to know each other, by obtaining information.

At a Prize Distribution Ceremony

- Sujani : Hello, I am Sujani.
Maduri : Hello, I am Maduri. I'm from Girls' High School, Kandy
Sujani : I'm from Sujatha Vidyalaya, Matara. Are you a member of the Science Society?
Maduri : Yes, I'm the Secretary. That's why I am invited.
Sujani : I'm a member of the Young Inventors' Club. We got the prize today because our invention won the first place.
Maduri : A girl in our school has won the third place in the Science Essay Competition. I came with her.
Sujani : They're going to start the ceremony. We've to go and sit.
Maduri : Don't forget you have to sit according to the number given. Let's keep in touch.
Sujani : Yes. We'll meet after the ceremony. After all we are young inventors.
Maduri : It's nice to have met you.
Sujani : Nice meeting you too. See you later!
Maduri : See you!

Activity 1.25

■ *Writing – A dialogue*

Imagine you met another child of your age for the first time in the examination hall. Write the dialogue.

(2) Relationships are built through letters

Writing to friends or relations } - within the country /
abroad

Activity 1.26

■ *Writing*

*Letters help to strengthen the bonds between friends or relations.
Read the letter written by Yasmine to her friend, Sujatha.*

Dear Sujatha,

Thank you for the *araksha gatha* (the hymns for protection) you had sent me. I would not call myself a very religious person, nor am I an irreligious person. However I was **deeply touched** by your gesture.

Your friendship has brought me a lot of happiness, **the caring** you have extended to me in these last few days is specially touching. I am now at **the end of my life**, my children have gone their own way, as they should. They talk to us of course, regularly, **almost too regularly**. We are in good health, and enjoy a comfortable life, **we want nothing**. However every now and again I feel that I do not need to strive any more. Without the noise of children around **life seems empty**.

So your gesture has brought **a new dimension** to my life. Your selfless caring for others, your contribution to the school play practices, **your bounty** in readily sharing a meal with another have taught me how I can **bring life** to my activities.

Please give my regards to your cousin, Neela; we knew you as the Palipana cousins. Tell her what you have done, I shall now be chanting the *gatha* at least before I go to bed. I shall be thinking of you of course, then.

Yours affectionately,
Yasmine.

Activity 1.27 Comprehension

Read the letter and answer the following questions.

1. What had Sujatha sent to Yasmin?
2. How old do you think the writer is?
3. List what you learn about Sujatha's character.
4. How does the writer describe herself?
5. Who is a religious person? Who is an irreligious person?
6. What is Sujatha's surname? Write the clue that helped you to guess it.
7. Write in your own words the meaning of the phrases given in **bold**.

Activity 1.28

■ *Writing*

Imagine you are Sujatha and write a reply to the letter.

(3) Relationships are built through modern methods of communication - Modern technology

Telephone- After the invention of the telephone by Alexander Graham Bell, it has helped people in numerous ways to build up relationships, to continue relationships. The telephone helps modern people immensely.

Activity 1.29 Pair work

■ *Writing / Speaking*

- A. List five uses of the telephone in the modern society.
eg:- It helps us to contact people who associate us.
- B. Write a telephone conversation that takes place between two friends after a long time. Role play the conversation.

(4) Relationships are built on legal connections.

Activity 1.30 Pair work

■ *Writing*

Write down the ethics to strengthen the bonds that should be there between

a) employer and employee

eg:- Should be courteous

.....
.....

b) Bank officer and a customer

eg:- Should be polite

.....
.....

(5) Relationships are built on promises/ oaths

Unlike the relationships built on acquaintances there are relationships with the society which are one sided. These are called promises or oaths.

The oath given by a doctor is called - The Hippocratic oath

The Hippocratic Oath

1. I shall abstain from whatever is harmful and mischievous to my patients.
2. I will give no deadly medicine to anyone.
3. With purity and holiness I will pass my life and practise my Art.
4. Into whatever house I enter, I will go into them for the benefit of the sick.
5. I will abstain from every voluntary act of corruption.

Activity 1.31 Group Work

■ *Writing*

1) Complete the promises/oaths given below in your writing book.

- (i) Head Prefect/ Prefects - Sometimes it is the custom in the schools to take oaths when appointing the Head Prefect / Prefects etc.
- (ii) Guide - A guide gives the oath after completing the different stages.
“I promise on my honour to do my duty to my religion and to my country and to help others at all times and to obey the law”
- (iii) prefect - I, Chandana Wijethunga consider it a great honour to be a prefect of Sangamitta Balika Vidyalaya. I promise to be loyal to my school , my teachers and to my fellow students, at all times and to do everything I can , to bring honour to them
- (iv) Nurse - Find out the oath given by a nurse.

Activity 1.32

■ *Writing*

Fill in the blanks with the correct relative pronoun / conjunction (who/which/because/as/when)

1. Mr. Tulliver was a miller _____ owned the Dorlcote Mill.
2. Mrs. Tulliver did not like Maggie’s hair _____ it was black and straight.
3. _____ Tom goes to school I will look after the rabbits.
4. Mrs. Tulliver did not show her love for Maggie _____ she was untidy and mischievous.
5. Tom and Maggie did not like their aunts _____ they were always critical.

Activity 1.33 Pair work

■ Writing

Match the punctuation marks in 'A' with the descriptions in 'B'

| Mark (A) | Description (B) |
|----------|-----------------------|
| ? | full stop |
| ! | comma |
| . | possessive apostrophe |
| “ ” | colon |
| , | semi colon |
| ; | inverted commas |
| : | exclamation mark |
| Navin's | replacing apostrophe |
| don't | question mark |

Identify the punctuation marks

“Miss Maggie, you're to come down at once,” said Kezia entering the room hurriedly at this moment. “Lawks! what have you been doing? I've never seen such a fright!” “Go away, Kezia ; I don't want any dinner,” said Maggie, “I shan't come.” “Oh! well, I can't stay. I've got to wait at dinner,” said Kezia, going out again.

Re-write the following passage correctly using punctuation marks.

come come my little lass said her father gently putting his arm around maggie never mind you were right to cut it off if it bothered you stop crying father will take your part delicious words of tenderness. maggie never forgot any of these moments when her father took her part she kept them in her heart and thought of them years after

Grammar - Prepositions and prepositional phrases.

Read the text “The loneliest years of my life” and pay attention to the sentences given below.

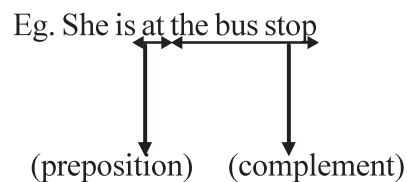
1. The latter grew at my side, slept in my bed, and ate at my table.
2. She trampled all over my papers and raced after me all day long.
3. She accompanied me on my long walks by the sea shore.

The underlined words in the above sentences at, in, over, on and by show the different physical positions which are known as prepositions. Prepositions are words placed before nouns or pronouns.

Now look at these phrases given below

- at my side
- in my bed
- over my papers
- on my long walks
- by the sea shore

These phrases are called prepositional phrases. A prepositional phrase consists of a preposition followed by a prepositional complement.



- (a) **Find out the prepositional phrases in the following sentences and write them in your writing book.**

1. The book is on the table.
2. Nimal is a student of Vijitha Maha Vidyalaya.
3. Our school is beside the river.
4. The post office is near the People's Bank.
5. The aeroplane flew over the island.

- (b) **Read the following passage and underline the prepositional phrases.**

I have no idea of the extent of this zoo. I know only my corner and whatever passes before me. On the day, I was wheeled in, I only noticed two gates opening to admit me. When I stood up, I caught a glimpse of some cages ahead and also heard the voice of a lion. The man who had transferred me from the forest stepped out of his jeep and said after a glance in my direction, "He is all right....."

(A Tiger for Malgudi by R.K. Narayan)

- (c) Write five sentences using prepositional phrases in your writing book.