

# 9. Nature's Message to Mankind

## Worksheet 1

### COMPREHENSION

Read the passage and answer the questions below.

Leela wanted to win the Elocution Competition, not because it was very grand, but because it would make her grandmother so proud. Grandma worked in people's houses, washing dishes and sweeping floors. She had pleaded with Mrs Dixit, one of her employers, to put Leela into a good school. There was nobody in the neighbourhood who spoke good English and could teach Leela. Then a miracle happened. Grandma happened to mention Leela's forthcoming competition to Mrs Dixit. "Bring Leela this evening," Mrs Dixit said. Grandma dressed her up and took her, carrying her book of poems. Mrs Dixit smiled warmly and made her sit at the dining table. Then she selected a poem from the book. 'Casabianca' was by Felicia Dorothea Hemans. It was a tragic poem about a loyal little boy who died waiting for his father, the Captain, on the deck of a burning ship but refused to disobey him. She taught Leela the poem. On the day of the competition, Leela recited it, every word spoken correctly and with feeling. Mrs Dixit sat in the audience with Grandma, who cried softly when Leela got the First Prize!

#### A. Answer the following questions.

1. What was the poem Leela recited?
2. Do you think Mrs Dixit was a kind lady? Why?
3. Why do you think Grandma cried?

#### B. Complete the sentences below with the correct options.

1. Leela wanted to win the Elocution Competition because it would make her famous/grandmother so proud.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. There was nobody in the neighbourhood/school who spoke good English.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. It was a tragic/comic poem about a naughty/loyal little boy who died waiting for his father, the Captain.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

---

---

## Worksheet 2

### GRAMMAR

**A. Change the following sentences to passive or active Voice, as directed.**

1. Parul left the bicycle beside the gate. [Passive]
2. The basket of oranges was brought by Jamini. [Active]
3. Tamal will fetch his mother from the station. [Passive]
4. All the mangoes have been pecked by the parrots. [Active]

**B. Change the following sentences into reported speech.**

1. "Go and fetch the cushion for me!" ordered Grandma.

---

2. "It is raining heavily," said Fanny. "I can't go to the market today."

---

3. "I will help you with your homework," suggested Neeraj.

---

## Worksheet 3

### VOCABULARY AND WRITING SKILLS

**A. Make sentences using the following phrases meaning what is given in brackets.**

1. Work out [solve] \_\_\_\_\_
2. Work up [build up] \_\_\_\_\_
3. Get on [progress] \_\_\_\_\_
4. Get away [escape] \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Match each metaphor to its meaning.**

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. He is a wolf in sheep's clothing. | (a) Life is characterised by sudden changes. |
| 2. Life is a roller coaster.         | (b) She is very energetic.                   |
| 3. She is a live wire.               | (c) Good outside but evil inside.            |