

## Grade VII

### Lesson 7 : Chandni

#### Supplementary reader

#### SOUL OF THE CHAPTER

#### **Abbu Khan's Goats and their Mystery of Running Away**

An old man, named Abbu Khan, lived in Almora all by himself excepts for a few goats whom he kept as pets. He gave funny names to his goats and treated them like his children. During the day, he would take them out for grazing, while during the night he would tie a string around their neck. Abbu Khan gave choicest food to his goats, juiciest grass and grains. Also, the love he showered on these goats was beyond measure. Despite that, one after one, the goats would run away from Abbu Khan's hut, into the hills. Abbu Khan failed to understand why all his goats abandoned him, and for what.

#### **The old Wolf**

Abbu Khan became more and more sad because the goats that ran away from him were all devoured by a greedy old wolf. Abbu Khan failed to understand their love for freedom, for this freedom was really short lived.

#### **Chandni, the New Goat Left him Too**

When all his goats left him, Abbu Khan was so heartbroken that he decided to never have any more goats as pets. However, he felt so lonely that one day he bought a very young goat to his house. He named the goat Chandni.

He thought that the goat was so young that it would stay with him for a very long time and perhaps would be able to reciprocate his love and affection. Also, he told Chandni the stories of the dead goats as a warning.

As Chandni grew up, she kept observing the hilltops bathed in sunlight and began to desire the open field and fresh air. She stopped eating grass and lost interest in the stories Abbu Khan told her. She decided to convey her desires to Abbu Khan. On knowing about Chandni's desire for freedom, Abbu Khan warned her again, but to no avail.

#### **Abbu Khan Tried to Restrict Chandni**

When all his attempts failed, Abbu Khan decided to tie Chandni in the smaller hut in order to save her from a predictable death at the hands of the old wolf. However, he forgot to shut the small window, which Chandni used to run away into the open field that very night.

### Freedom to Chandni and her Death

At last, Chandni got what she wanted. She was finally breathing in the free air of the hills. It seemed to her as if she was meeting her parents after several years of separation. She was overwhelmed to see the tall grass, blooming flowers and the endless expanse of the green field. In comparison to this, she thought of Abbu Khan's compound as a prison. While playing in the grassy slopes, she came across a herd of wild goats who asked her to join them, but she denied wanting to be all by herself.

Very soon the day paved way for the night. She heard a strange sound, like a grunt. Instantly, she knew that this sound was neither of Abbu Khan nor of the other goats. She understood that this was the sound of the wolf. She pondered whether to go back to Abbu Khan or to be right there. Her heart told her to die in an open field was better than living in a small hut. Soon the fight between the wolf and Chandni ensued and thought Chandni put up a very brave front, she died. Next morning, she became a topic of discussion among the birds. Some saw her as the loser, while some saw her as a winner.

### Word Meaning

Word	Meaning in English
Grazing	scrape, eat grass
Breed	type
Hardship	difficulty
Narrate	describe
Jerk	jolt
Anguish	suffering
Obstinate	stubborn
Annoyed	irritated
Embrace	hug
Bloomed	blossom
Grunt	to make a murmur sound
Treacherous	unfaithful
Debating	examination



## NCERT FOLDER

### CHECK -1

#### 1. Why did Abbu Khan's goats want to run away?

##### What happened to them in the hills?

Abbu Khan's goats wanted to run away because they desired freedom. However, they had to pay the price for freedom with their lives. They were killed and devoured by an old and greedy wolf.

#### 2. Abbu Khan said, "No more goats in my house ever again." Then he changed his mind. Why?

When all his goats left him, Abbu Khan was heart-broken and he decided, "No more goats in my house ever again"

However, he was so lonely and did not know what to do without his pets, that he changed his mind.

#### 3. Why did he buy a young goat?

Abbu Khan bought a young goat thinking that she would stay with him for a long time and also she might learn to love Abbu Khan dearly and never run away from him.

### CHECK -2

#### 1. Why did Chandni hate the rope round her neck?

Chandni hated the rope around her neck because she wanted to run away into the fields but every time she did that, the rope stopped her with a jerk.

#### 2. "Now Abbu Khan understood Chandni's problem..." What was Chandni's problem?

Abbu Khan understood Chandni's desire for freedom.

She wanted to run around in the hills rather than stay in Abbu Khan's compound. The rope around her neck, stopped her from doing so. This was Chandni's problem.

#### 3. Abbu Khan pushed Chandni into a small hut.

##### This shows that he

- (i) Was cruel.
- (ii) Loved her and wanted to save her life

(iii) Was selfish

**Ans:** (ii) loved her and wanted to save her life

### CHECK -3

**1. Why did Chandni refuse to join the group of wild goats?**

Chandni wanted to enjoy her freedom all by herself. Therefore, she politely refused to join the group of wild goats.

**2. Chandni fought the wolf because she**

- (i) Was strong than the wolf
- (ii) Hated the wolf
- (iii) Had to retain her freedom at all costs.

**Ans:** (iii) had to retain her freedom at all costs .

### EXERCISES

**1. Why did the wise old bird say, "Chandni is the winner"?**

The wild old bird declared Chandni the winner because she fought till her last breath. She put a very brave front to protect her dream and desire for freedom.

**2. "Death in an open field is better than life in a small hut," Chandni said to herself. Was it the right decision? Give reasons for your answer.**

Had Chandni never ventured out, her dream and desire for freedom would have remain unfulfilled. Though short lived, she had the experience of living a free life, dancing in the grassy fields, admiring the beautiful flowers and being happy. Her decision was right to the extent that she dared, despite knowing the price cowardly and unhappy life fearing the consequences of her choice.

**3. Freedom is life discuss this with reference to 'Chandni' and 'I Want Something in a Cage.'**

In both the chapters, 'Chandni' and 'I want something in a 'the idea of freedom is discussed as a priceless possession. Its value is known only to those who do not have it but desire it. The strange customer in "I want something in a cage" spends his entire earnings to buy someone's freedom; the pair of doves. This was his way of appreciating freedom and expressing his joy at his new found freedom. Chandni, too, pays a price for

desiring freedom, but does so willingly. Paying a heavy price for gaining freedom is better than living a life in prison.

## CHAPTER PRACTICE

### VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE

**1. What kind of funny names did Abbu Khan give to his pet goats?**

Abbu Khan gave funny names to his pet goats, such as Kalua, Moongia or Gujri. The youngest goat he bought was named Chandni.

**2. How and why did Abbu Khan's goats run away?**

Goats in hilly regions hate to be tied. Very often, at night, the goats would pull so hard at the string that it would break loose and they would run away to the hills.

**3. What did Abbu Khan mean by goats "running straight into the jaws of death"?**

The goats ran away from Abbu Khan's compound and went to the hilly slopes. However, they were killed by an old and greedy wolf. Abbu Khan called this "running straight into the jaws of death."

**4. According to Abbu Khan what was the meaning of freedom?**

According to Abbu Khan, freedom meant struggle, hardship and even death.

**5. What was Abbu Khan's reaction on understanding Chandni's problem?**

On understanding Chandni's problem, the earthen pot that contained Chandni's breakfast fell from his hands and he became very upset.

### SHORT ANSWER TYPE

**1. Write a description of Abbu Khan's new goat, Chandni.**

Abbu Khan's new goat was very pretty. She was white as snow and had two little horns and gleaming red eyes.

Abbu Khan called her Chandni, which meant 'moonlight.' Chandni had a very friendly temperament and she listened to Abbu Khan's stories with a lot of interest and affections.

## 2. Why was Abbu Khan mistaken?

Abbu Khan had bought a young goat thinking that this goat would stay with him for a long time and would soon begin to love him and the food he offered her and therefore would never think of hills and grassy slopes. However, Chandni, too, began to desire freedom and wanted to run away.

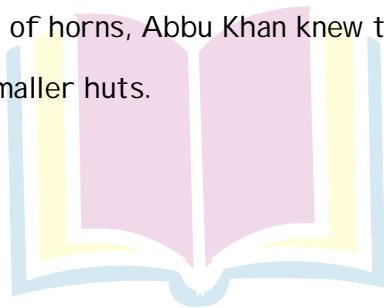
### LONG ANSWER TYPE

#### 1. What changes occurred in Chandni once she found the hilltops fascinating?

When Abbu Khan brought the young Chandni to stay with him, she heard the tales told by Abbu Khan with a lot of interest and affection. However, after her fascination for hills grew, she lost an interest in Abbu Khan's tales. Chandni used to relish juicy grass offered by Abbu Khan, but soon she lost her appetite and grew very thin. She moodily stared at the hilltops and imagined herself breathing in the free air of grassy slopes.

#### 2. Why did Abbu Khan restrict Chandni to his small hut?

On hearing Chandni's request to be freed, Abbu Khan became angry but was also concerned for Chandni's life. He tried to warn her by again telling her the tales of the dead goats. However, when Chandni refused to understand and told him that she would fight the wolf with her pair of horns, Abbu Khan knew the consequences. He, therefore, tied Chandni in one of his smaller huts.



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## Grade VII

### Lesson 7: Story Writings

#### Story writing

A Story is one of the most famous and oldest form of written composition. It is a creative art that requires a good sense of imagination, humour and language usage. A good story is well written, well organised and meaningful. It tells about an event, fact or it could be purely fictional. But all stories serve a major purpose: they have a moral and therefore teach a lesson.

#### Key Elements of Story

Just like a tasty dish requires several elements, similarly a good story has many key elements. Plot/Theme Every story should have a well outline theme or plot around which it is woven. The plot should be well thought out in advance so that there is no confusion while writing a story. It should be kept simple and interesting.

**Title** An interesting and relevant title gives a story a good boots and creates curiosity among the readers.

**Setting/time Period** A story is always set in a specific setting indicating time, place etc clearly.

**Characters** They are the lifeline of any story. So, they should be interesting, life like and inspiring.

**Dilemma/Conflict** Generally a story shows a dilemma or conflict between two sides i.e. good and bad through its characters, ideologies etc to serve its purpose.

**Structure** A well planned story has a proper structure: a beginning, middle and ending. The beginning should be 'punchy', it should be able to captivate readers' attention and introduce the theme of the story in few words, middle part should relate to the plot of the story and can have sub plots, the end should be appropriate and include the moral of the story.

A story can be written with or without the help of visual/verbal inputs. Here, we are going to see some stories based on guidelines given in the questions.

**To Conclude** A good story should be fascinating and well organised. All the details should be planned out in advance so as to rule out any discrepancy or irrelevant information. The ideas/events should be arranged sequentially with interesting twists and turns to maintain the element of surprise/expectation in the story.

## Solved Questions

### 1. Write an interesting story from the given outlines.

A group of merchants went on a voyage ..... one of them takes his monkey with him ..... a storm came and ship got wrecked ..... everybody drowns ..... monkey saved by a dolphin ..... dolphin takes it towards an island ..... asks monkey who lives there monkey spoke lie ..... says that he is the prince of that island ..... dolphin knows the truth ..... leaves monkey alone on the island ..... moral.

#### The Boastful Monkey

Once a group of merchants went on a voyage. One of them took his monkey along with him. During the journey, a storm wrecks their ship and everybody gets drowned away. The monkey was saved by a dolphin. The dolphin put the monkey on its back and swam towards the shore of a deserted island. To test the monkey, the dolphin asked him "Do you know anyone here?"

The monkey replied, "Yes, of course I do. This island belongs to me. I am the prince of this island." The dolphin calmly replied, "Well, you are right. Now, you would be the king of this island."

The monkey asked the dolphin how he can be the king to which dolphin replied with a smile". Its very simple. Since from now onwards, you will be the only creature living here, you would be the king of this island!"

With these words, it left the monkey and swam away with poor monkey staring away at the dolphin dumb founded!

Moral Those who lie and boast always end up in trouble.

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## Story writing Type II: Based on Visual Inputs

### Solved Questions

Type II: Based on Visual Inputs

1. Write a story in your own words keeping in mind the picture given below. The story should carry a title and relevant moral.



#### The Wise Man and Seventeen Camels

An old man has three sons, 17 camels ..... old man dies leaving his property to all his sons ..... sons faced with a problem ..... division of 17 camels according to the will..... 17 being an odd number ..... all of them go to a wise old man ..... the man gives a solution ..... adds his own camel ..... makes the odd number into 18..... then division is done ..... problem solved ..... moral.

Once upon a time an old man earned his living by rearing camels. He had a large fleet of camels reaching upto 17. In his will he left his entire property and the camels to his sons. But the will increased the difficulty of the sons.

The old man divided the camels in an odd way. He stated that the eldest son would get half of the total number of camels, the middle one would get one-third of them and the youngest had to get one ninth of them. Now the problem lied in the number 17! How to divide an odd number in such a manner baffled the sons. So, all of them went to an old wise man of their village. He instantly found a solution. He added one camel of his own to the existing number thus taking the count to 18. Now the division became simple. According to the clause, the eldest got half i.e. 9, middle one got one-third: 6 and the youngest got 2. (9+6=15, so left camels amounted to 2.) One camel brought by the old man taken back and the sons went away with their share happily. Moral Intelligent thinking leads to practical solutions.

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