

1 Kabir

Get Started



Discuss in groups:

1. Who are these people?
2. Why do we remember them?
3. Do you want to be like them? Why?
4. What would you like to do?



5. Do you know of any great person from the past? How has he/she influenced you?

It was a hot summer day. Niru, a poor Muslim weaver and his wife Nima were going to Varanasi. The sun was shining brightly, so Nima felt hot and thirsty. They walked in search of water and reached a pond. The water in the pond looked cool and clear. There were lotus flowers in it. They were in bloom. Both Nima and Niru drank the cool water and splashed some on themselves. Suddenly they heard a faint cry. It came from the tall grass near the edge of the pond. "Listen, Niru," said Nima, "It is a baby crying." They walked round the pond and saw a pretty baby hidden in the grass. "Oh God!" thought Niru, "Who would leave a child in a place like this?"

At first the couple did not know what to do with the baby. They were poor folks. Would they be able to bring up the child? But they could not leave the baby there. If they left him there, the baby would surely die without food and shelter. "He shall be our son," said Nima. And they took the baby home with them to Varanasi. At home,



splashed *threw or poured* | faint *not very clear* | folks *people*



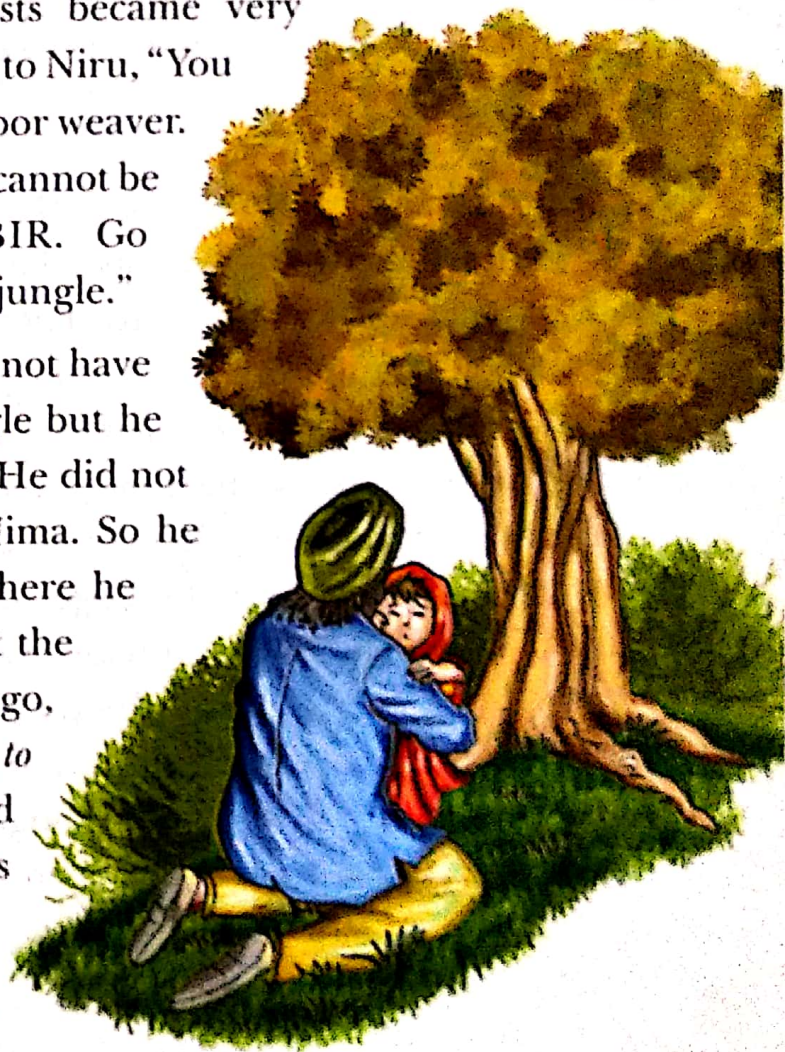
Nima bathed the baby, dressed him up and fed him.

“What shall we call him?” she asked her husband. “We shall ask the priest,” replied Niru.

The next day, Niru took him to the priest and asked him to give the baby a name. The priest opened his holy book and found the name KABIR. Kabir, in Arabic, means ‘Great’. The priest was not sure. He did not want to give this name to a poor man’s son. So he called the other priests. One after another, they opened the holy book and found the same name. The priests became very

angry and said to Niru, “You are just a poor weaver. Your child cannot be called KABIR. Go and leave him in the jungle.”

Niru was frightened. He did not have the heart to leave the child in the jungle but he could not dare to **displease** the priests. He did not have the courage to tell anything to Nima. So he quietly took the child to the jungle. There he spread out a mat under a tree, and put the sleeping child on it. When he turned to go, he heard a voice. “*This child will grow up to become a wise and holy man.*” Niru looked around but could not see anyone. “This must be the voice of God,” he thought. He pressed the child close to his heart, **hugged** him and ran home as fast as he could. He decided that no matter what, he would never separate the child from himself.



displease annoy or upset, make someone unhappy | **hugged** put arms tightly around somebody out of love



Respond and Reflect

A. Answer each of the following questions.

1. Where did Nima and Niru find the baby?
2. Why did they take the baby home?
3. What name did the priests find for the baby?
4. Why were the priests angry?
5. Why did Niru take the baby to the jungle?
6. What happened after he had placed the baby on the mat?
7. What did he do at last?

B. Should someone be ill-treated because of the name? Discuss.

C. If you find a baby alone in the park, what would you do?

1. You will take the baby home.
2. You will take him to a policeman.
3. You will leave the baby there and go.

Give reasons for your answer.

D. Find out the meaning of your name. Take the help of your teacher and parents if you cannot find out on your own.



Learn New Words

A. Match the words in Column A with their meanings in Column B.

- | A | B |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. edge | (a) open out over an area |
| 2. folks | (b) put arms around someone
to show that you love him/her |
| 3. faint | (c) people |
| 4. pretty | (d) border |
| 5. hugged | (e) surely |
| 6. spread | (f) not heard or seen clearly |
| 7. certainly | (g) beautiful |

The Brave Boy

A boy was taking his cattle
To graze in the ground,
When on the track
A broken tree he found.

He heard the train whistle
And looked at it with fear,
Helplessly he cried for help
Found no one far or near.

Tying his bright red shirt
To a long piece of wood,
He waved at the speeding train
As swiftly as he could.

The driver saw him wave,
Running forward and back,
So he stopped the train
Close to the blocked track.

The boy jumped with joy
And ran towards the train,
The driver came out at once
Hugged him again and again.

graze eat grass | **swiftly**
quickly | **hugged** (here)
took in arms out of love and
affection





Understand and Enjoy

A. Read the sentences given below. They are not written in the order as they appear in the poem. Write the correct number in the boxes given against each sentence.

1. The boy tied his shirt to a piece of wood.
2. The boy was taking his cattle to graze.
3. The boy heard the train whistling.
4. The boy ran towards the train.
5. The boy saw the blocked track.
6. The boy waved his shirt at the train.
7. The driver hugged him.
8. The driver stopped the train.



B. Brave children from all over India get awards every year. When do they get them? Who gives them the awards? Where do they get them?

C. Do you know the names of the two National Awards which are given to brave children under the age of 16?

Clue: The awards are named after two brave children (brother-sister) who lived in Delhi.

D. Strike off one letter from each word given in the box and get a new word. Make sentences with any three of these new words and write them in your notebook.

Example: Track → rack.

I keep my shoes in the shoe-rack.

driver	train	graze
fear	pride	again
close	smile	ground