

GENERAL ENGLISH – 6th STD

Topics covered:

- **Mystery of Language** (Helen Keller)
- **Kari the Elephant** (Dhan Gopal Mukerji)
- **Her dream bicycle**
- **The meaning of Education** (Cyril Anthony George)
- **Boat song**
- **Tsunamika**
- **An open letter**
- **The fairy crane**
- **The Unlucky Face** (Eunice de souza)
- **The cherry tree** (Ruskin Bond)
- **The colourful Sweet**

Poem:

- **Hopes and Dreams** (Adrey Heller)
- **Night** (William Blake)
- **With a friend** (Vivian Gould)
- **To cook and Eat** (Emma Richards)
- **Inclusion** (Dipthi Bhatia)
- **Granny Granny please comb my hair** (Grace Nicolas)
- **Going downhill on a bicycle**(Henry Charles Beeching)

Important Lines:

- **The most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched but can be felt in the heart**
 - Helen Keller
- **Success is not something to wait for, it is something to work for**
 - Jessica Cox
- **It rains because there are some good people in that place, but it benefits everyone who lives there**

- Avvaiyar

Her dream bicycle

- This is a true story from pudukottai in tamilnadu where many women learnt to ride a bicycle.
- This story describes how malar and her family learn to ride a bicycle.

Characters:

- Malar- 11 years old girl studying in 6th std
- Father- Kathirvel, Farmer
- Mother- Shanthi
- Elder sister- ponni and her son- Vikram
- Younger sister- Malika
- Younger brother-Arul

- They lived **at Keeranur Village in Pudukottai district**. As the rains were irregular they could not cultivate their two acre land. Ponni was married to a mason and lived in mathur with her son.
- Malika was **attending tailoring class** after completing her 10th std in mathur. Malika walk **9 Kilometres** everyday 4km to the tailoring class she often miss her class due to walking and 2km to fetch the water and 3km to take lunch for her father.
- **Malar walk 1km** with her friends to school and back.
- Her father told her mother that **collector wants** women to learn cycling and her father was interested in it. Malar, Malika and Arul was very interested to ride a bicycle. But her father angrily said “No women in this house will learn to cycle”.
- A week passed Women were being taught to cycle at no cost at all in pudukottai district. One day Shanthi told Malika to bring **Radhamma’s old bicycle** and bring it here. We are going to learn to ride it. By seeing their interest father also giving permission. Malar was dreaming herself riding a new bicycle to school and college and Maybe even cycle on a rainbow to the clouds.
 - The wheel was invented in Mesopotamia 6000 years ago.
 - Wheels are used for pottery.
 - Iron wheels were invented 3000 years ago.

Poem

Going downhill on a bicycle

With lifted feet, hands still
I am poised and down the hill
Dart, with heedful mind;
The air goes by in a wind.

Swifter and yet more swift,
Till the heart with a mighty lift
Makes the lungs laugh, the throat cry
'O bird see; see, bird I fly.

'Is this, is this your joy ?
O bird, then I though a boy
For a golden moment share your feathery life in air!'

-Henry Charles Beeching

This poem describes a bicycle ride. It explains how you feel if you were given bicycle to ride. The bicycle ride give us the feel of changing over from ground level to the slope with mounting tension and joy at the same time. The rider speaks to the imaginary bird in flight. The birds to often stops flapping its wings as the boy stops pedaling.

Supplementary Reader

The meaning of Education

-Cyril Anthony George

Characters

- Anitha
- Nandini

This story is about a two school going girls Nandhini and Anitha and describes how Anitha realizes not only knowledge will be important but being a good human being is also important.

- Anitha and Nandhini were studying in same class. The only thing Anitha cared about was coming **first in the class** and she didn't have many friends. But Nandhini was different from Anitha. Nandhini always had a smile on her face and ready to help anyone with their home work. All this made **Anitha envious of Nandhini**.

- Anitha couldn't understand the behaviour of Nandhini and asked her "**Why you want to teach them instead of studying by yourself?**" Nandhini would reply ' I can't change myself'.
- On the examination day **Nandhini was late to school** and couldn't write the exams. Anitha started laughing at Nandhini tears rolled down from Nandhini's eyes and she ran away.
- When Anitha went into her home she saw her father was lying on the bed and she asked about it .Her father told one of your classmates helped me. Her mother explained her that Daddy left for early morning walking when he suffered from a mild stroke and collapsed on the pavement. Your classmate Nandhini took your father to the hospital.
- The next morning a change had come over her. She apologized to Nandhini for her behaviour . Soon Nandhini **and Anitha became best friends**. Someone asked Anitha for her change she said' I have understood that it is not for knowledge alone that my parents are sending me to school. I have learn to become a good human being. Nandhini made me realize that.

Prose

Boat song

This story describes about the dreams of a Boatman Adityan and how he meet king Karikalan.

Characters

- Boatman-Adityan
- King –Karikala chola
- Karikala chola was the **greatest** among the chola kings of the **sangam age in South India**. He built **Kallanai ,the oldest dam** in the world. The cholas were experts in **ship building**,Sea trade flourished in their empire.
- Adityan, a boatman sat on his boat and waiting for his first customer. He loved his small boat that he made with his own hands. He loved his village, when he rowed he sang a song of the sea. He **dreamt** that one day he would leave his village and learn to **build a ship**. It would carry him to different places and also carry horses, elephants not only this but also the stories and songs of the Cholas, his people. He would learn about the places and share them with the children's of the village.
- Adityan saw his first customer on that day. There was something about this man that seemed to command respect. That man said 'you row the boat so well'!. Adityan smiled

widely and said I made the boat myself. **I am an orphan and I have only the boat and my hut to call my own.**

- That man asked about Adityan, he said I sing and make my own songs. He began to sing. He sang about dream of owning a ship some day and journey to different lands. The man asked” **Do you fell your dream will be realized one day?**”Adityan spoke” I hope so”. That man gave Adityan a few coins. Adityan ran after the man and said you have paid me more than the cost of ride. The man smiled and said ‘I am happy that you are honest. This is something that help your dream come true.
- “who are you?” asked Adityan. “**My name is Karikalan**”, said the man and walked away.

Poem

Hopes and Dreams

We all have our hopes and dreams
It makes life seem worthwhile
If we can adhere to that thought most of the time
We’d go that extra mile
Everyone needs an incentive in order to
Reach their goal
It’s worth fighting for
To have someone who will stand by you
Could you ask for anything more?
When you have encouragement
You begin to believe in yourself
There’s nothing you cannot undertake or do
So...keep up your hopes
Believe in your dreams
One day it will all come true

Audrey Heller

This poem explains that all have hopes and dreams in life. We should hold on to it and work hard to achieve it. We should believe in ourselves and always keep up our hopes and dreams and one day it will come true.

Supplementary reader

Tsunamika

- There was a little girl Tsunamika who lived on **the ocean floor**. She had never seen the sun, moon or stars. One day a starfish came to her and **said’Have you ever seen the sun’**. “No’ the little girl said. The girl looked for the sun everywhere but didn’t find it. She asked a sage who lived in Gaint conch about the sun. The sage told her that for **21 full days** she must think of the sun.

- The girl sat on the rock **under the sea** and thought of sun. on the 21st day the ocean floor shook powerfully and threw her upwards. She reached the surface of the ocean and there she saw the sun, bright and big. The **sun asked her** what she wanted. She told him that she wanted a lot of friends. Then, there come a giant wave that took her into the land and when she came off the wave **she saw people crying**. She went to one crying women and the women said “I lost my daughter in the waves”. The women asked her “will you be my daughter?” and Tsunamika said yes. **Then more children became her friends**. She looked up at the sun and realized that she should give her love to all the people in the world.
- [The doll Tsunamika was created by Upasana a group in **auroville ,Ponicherry** after Tsunami hit in **December 2004**. Tsunamika and her story brought smile to those who met her, transforming their bitter memories of the Tsunami.]

Prose

An open letter

An open letter is one that everyone can read, though it is addressed to one person.

- This story explains **chief Seathl** wrote an open letter to the **president of USA** explaining why he could not sell his land.
- The Europeans enter **into North America** and met the the people living there. The peoples had no sense of ownership of land. But the Europeans started fighting for the land. The people fight against them but couldn't win as they did not have any big weapon. Chief sheathl was the tribal leader of a tribe in North America. In **1854** he wrote a open letter to **president, chief in washington**.

The part of the letter

- In that letter he explained various resons. How can you buy or sell the sky or the warmth of land? **Every part of the earth is sacred to my people**. Every insects and evry tree is holy in experience of my people. We are the part of the earth. **The perfumed flowers are our sisters. The deer, horse, the great eagle are our brothers. The top of the mountain and grass on the earth are all part of one family of life. The river's murmurs is the voice of my father's father**. The river quinch our thirst, carry boats and feed our children.
- You are like a stranger. You came to take from the land what you can. You treat the earth like your enemy.you take the resources of the earth from the future that belongs to your children and don't care. We know the earth does not belong to us we belong to the earth. All things are connected like the blood that unites one large family.

The Mystery of Language

HELEN KELLER

Helen Adams Keller was born on June 27, 1880 in Tuscumbia, Alabama. In 1882, she fell ill and was struck blind, deaf and mute. Beginning in 1887, Keller's teacher, Anne Sullivan, helped her make tremendous progress with her ability to communicate, and Keller went on to college, graduating in 1904. In 1920, Keller helped found the ACLU. During her lifetime, she received many honors in recognition of her accomplishments.

Early Life

Helen Keller was the first of two daughters born to Arthur H. Keller and Katherine Adams Keller. She also had two older stepbrothers. Keller's father had proudly served as an officer in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. The family was not particularly wealthy and earned income from their cotton plantation. Later, Arthur became the editor of a weekly local newspaper, the North Alabamian. Keller was born with her senses of sight and hearing, and started speaking when she was just 6 months old. She started walking at the age of 1.

Loss of Sight and Hearing

In 1882, however, Keller contracted an illness—called "brain fever" by the family doctor—that produced a high body temperature. The true nature of the illness remains a mystery today, though some experts believe it might have been scarlet fever or meningitis. Within a few days after the fever broke, Keller's mother noticed that her daughter didn't show any reaction when the dinner bell was rung, or when a hand was waved in front of her face. Keller had lost both her sight and hearing. She was just 19 months old.

As Keller grew into childhood, she developed a limited method of communication with her companion, Martha Washington, the young daughter of the family cook. The two had created a type of sign language, and by the time Keller was 7, they had invented more than 60 signs to communicate with each other. But Keller had become very wild and unruly during this time. She would kick and scream when angry, and giggle uncontrollably when happy. She tormented Martha and inflicted raging tantrums on her parents. Many family relatives felt she should be institutionalized.

Educator Anne Sullivan

Looking for answers and inspiration, in 1886, Keller's mother came across a travelogue by Charles Dickens, American Notes. She read of the successful education of another deaf and blind child, Laura Bridgman, and soon dispatched Keller and her father to Baltimore, Maryland to see specialist Dr. J. Julian Chisolm. After examining Keller, Chisolm recommended that she see Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, who was working with deaf children at the time. Bell met with Keller and her parents, and suggested that they travel to the Perkins Institute for the Blind in Boston, Massachusetts. There, the family met with the school's director,

Michael Anaganos. He suggested Helen work with one of the institute's most recent graduates, Anne Sullivan. And so began a 49-year relationship between teacher and pupil.

On March 3, 1887, Sullivan went to Keller's home in Alabama and immediately went to work. She began by teaching six year-old Helen finger spelling, starting with the word "doll," to help Keller understand the gift of a doll she had brought along. Other words would follow. At first, Keller was curious, then defiant, refusing to cooperate with Sullivan's instruction. When Keller did cooperate, Sullivan could tell that she wasn't making the connection between the objects and the letters spelled out in her hand. Sullivan kept working at it, forcing Helen to go through the regimen.

As Keller's frustration grew, the tantrums increased. Finally, Sullivan demanded that she and Keller be isolated from the rest of the family for a time, so that Keller could concentrate only on Sullivan's instruction. They moved to a cottage on the plantation.

In a dramatic struggle, Sullivan taught Keller the word "water"; she helped her make the connection between the object and the letters by taking Keller out to the water pump, and placing Keller's hand under the spout. While Sullivan moved the lever to flush cool water over Keller's hand, she spelled out the word w-a-t-e-r on Helen's other hand. Keller understood and repeated the word in Sullivan's hand. She then pounded the ground, demanding to know its "letter name." Sullivan followed her, spelling out the word into her hand. Keller moved to other objects with Sullivan in tow. By nightfall, she had learned 30 words.

A Formal Education

In 1890, Keller began speech classes at the Horace Mann School for the Deaf in Boston. She would toil for 25 years to learn to speak so that others could understand her. From 1894 to 1896, she attended the Wright-Humason School for the Deaf in New York City. There, she worked on improving her communication skills and studied regular academic subjects.

Around this time, Keller became determined to attend college. In 1896, she attended the Cambridge School for Young Ladies, a preparatory school for women. As her story became known to the general public, Keller began to meet famous and influential people. One of them was the writer Mark Twain, who was very impressed with her. They became friends. Twain introduced her to his friend Henry H. Rogers, a Standard Oil executive. Rogers was so impressed with her that he offered her a scholarship to attend one of his universities in Glasgow, Scotland; Berlin, Germany; Delhi, India; and Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. Additionally, she was named an Honorary Fellow of the Educational Institute of Scotland.

Keller died in her sleep on June 1, 1968, just a few weeks before her 88th birthday. During her remarkable life, Keller stood as a powerful example of how determination, hard work, and imagination can allow an individual to triumph over adversity. By overcoming difficult conditions with a great deal of persistence, she grew into a respected and world-renowned activist who laboured for the betterment of others. Inspired by Keller's talent, drive and determination that he agreed to pay for her to attend Radcliffe College.

Name: **Helen Adams Keller**

Born: **27 June 1880 (Alabama, USA)**

Death: **1 June 1968** while sleeping (at age **87**)

- At one and a half year she lost her ability to hear and see.
- Till **age 6**, she spoke simple words – **Yes, No, Mother, Come, Go.**
- She learnt to do some household chores like folding clothes and putting them away.
- Her parents took her to **ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL** (Inventor of Telephone). His **wife Mabel** lost hearing at early age due to severe fever.
- Graham Bell suggested to **Perkins School.**
- Perkins School was established 200 years ago. It serves people who have problems with their **vision.**
- Her mother wrote a letter to the head of Perkins school.
- Helen's Mother: **Kate**
- Helen's Teacher: **Anne Sullivan**
- Anne was a **star student** from Perkins School. She was **21** when she came to teach her.
- She began to teach her by writing them on her palm. At first it was difficult to learn.
- 1st learnt word: **water**

Helen's words – **“Someone was drawing water and my teacher was placing my hand under the spout (pipe on a container)”.**

- As the cool stream gushed over one hand she spelled into the other the word water, first slowly, then rapidly. I stood still, my whole attention fixed upon the motions of her fingers. Suddenly I felt a misty consciousness as of something forgotten—a thrill of returning thought; and somehow the mystery of language was revealed to me.
- Helen learnt **30 words** on that day.

- She love to smell, touch flowers to respond to nature. She was a learner till the end of her life.
- Helen knows **3 other languages, Play Chess, Ride Horse.**
- Helen was the **first person** to go to college that could'nt hear or see.
- She was a graduate with distinction at **Radcliff College.**
- 1st Book – **The Story of My Life.** It was translated in **50** Languages.
- She went on many tours with her teacher, attended many lectures and even acted in a film.
- Statue of young Helen learning Mystery of Language at water pump unveiled – **Albama, 2009**

Other famous Persons:

Beethoven – German music composer who couldn't hear.

John Milton – English poet who couldn't see.

Poem

Night

Evening star- first bright star seen in west at night

The sun descending in the west

The evening star does shine

The birds are silent in their nest

And I must seek for mine

The moon like a flower

With silent delight

Sits and smiles on the night

William Blake

The poem explains the nature of night .

Supplementary reader**The fairy crane**

- Once upon a time there lived a old man and his wife in a small village. They had **no children**. One day while walking on a road the old man a **white crane** caught in a snare. He set the crane free and it flew into the sky.
- That night a **girl of 12 yr** knocked the old man house door. The old lady opened the door and the girl said ' I have lost my way please let me stay in . The girl told them that she did not have parents, the **old couple wanted to adopt her**. The girl agreed and stay with them.
- The old man **wove some cloth** and sold it to the market. One day the girl told them that she would help them by weaving cloths if you promise not look at me even once while I work. The girl give them most beautiful cloth they had everseen . Soon the oldman and his wife start to live more comfortably.
- The old woman was curious and peeped through the window to saw her daughter working. She saw a white crane working in the loom not her daughter. That night the girl said to them' **I am the crane that you have saved long ago**, I have been weaving cloth to repay your kindness, I cannot stay here longer'.
- The old people were feeling sad and their eyes filled with tears. They let off their their crane daughter. The girl wishing them Goodbye and Goodluck and changed into white crane and fly away.

Poem**Inclusion**

To be a part
And not stand apart
To belong
And not to be isolated
To have friends
And not just have companions
To feel needed
And not be just a person with needs
To participate
And not just be a spectator
To have responsibilities
And not just enjoy rights
To have opportunities
And not favours
Is to be really included

Dipti Bhatia

The poem explains that all should participate in every activities and have a companion.

Supplementary reader**Rajalakshmi - Kalpana chawla awardee,2009**

- From- usilampatti
- Struck by polio at the age of five.
- Won many medals for her achievements in athletics.
- Rajalakshmi says 'I may have been affected by polio, but education has helped me to realize my dreams'.

Jessica cox

- Born without arms.
- This American girl is the first pilot licensed to fly using only her feet.
- She can drive a car, write. She is also good at marital arts.
- Jessica cox says'Success is not something to wait for it is something to work for'

Poem**GRANNY, GRANNY PLEASE COMB MY HAIR.**

Granny, Granny
Please comb my hair.
You always take your time,
You always take such care.
You put me to sit on a cushion
Between your knees;
You rub a little coconut oil,
Parting gentle as a breeze.
Mummy, mummy
She's always in a hurry-hurry
She pulls my hair
Sometimes tugs
... Granny

You have all the time in the world,
And when you're finished
You always turn my head and say,
"Now, who's a nice girl?"

- Grace Nicholas

The poem describes the relationship between grandmother and grand daughter.
The Grand daughter explains how special was her Grandma .

The Unlucky Face

Adapted from stories of Birbal-**Eunice de Souza**

The story is about how Birbal saved Hirachand from execution and to made Akbar realize his mistake.

Characters

- Hirachant - Merchant
 - Akbar - King
 - Birbal
-
- There lived in Delhi a **merchant** called hirachand. It was once said that anyone who saw his face would go without food for a day. **Akbar wanted to see him.**
 - Next day Akbar was on his way to the dining room when Hirachand was brought to him. At the same time a courtier came to say that **the queen was ill.** Akbar spent the whole morning with his wife. By the time he returned **the meal was cold.** He ordered fersh meal. It took so long to get the meal ready that Akbar began to feel ill.
 - The doctor told Akbar to rest and not to eat anything for a day. The doctor asked **him'Whose face did you see this morning?'** Akbar told him about Hirachand. I shall **have him executed** because he has made me suffer said Akbar.
 - Hirachand fell at emperor's feet and begged for mercy. The guard dragged off him to be executed. The guard suggested him to ask help from Birbal. When **Hirachand told Birbal** what happened he consoled him and told an idea.
 - when Akbar came Hirachand says" Your Majesty", consider my fate which is worse than yours I saw your face and I have to be executed. "Someone taught you" Akbar said guessing who it was. **'You must have met Birbal'** asked Akbar to Hirachand. Hirachand confessed that he had.

"Birbal saved me from executing an innocent man" said Akbar and sent Hirachand away with gifts.

Prose

The Cherry Tree

Ruskin Bond - children's writer

Lives in Garhwali hill station of Mussoorie.

Ruskin Bond

characters

- Rakhi a girl
- Grandfather

The story is about Rakhi planting a Cherry tree and how it grows.

- When Rakhi was **six** she walked home from the **Mussoorie bazaar** eating cherries. Rakhi reached her Grandfather cottage, there were three cherries left. She placed the **seed on the palm** of her hand and studied it.
- Rakhi went to the **corner of the garden** and pressed the seed into the soil with her thumb. One spring morning Rakhi and Grandfather saw a small twig which is about 4 inches high and grandfather said **it's a cherry tree**, you should water it now and then.
- Rakhi gave it sprinkling and circled it with pebbles for privacy. When it was **about two feet high** a goat entered the garden and ate the leaves. Only the main stem and two thin branches remained.
- But the **cherry tree did not die**. By the time summer came it had sent out several new shoots. One february it was **Rakhi's birthday she was 10** and the **tree was nearly 4** but taller than the Girl. Grandfather saw the cherry tree and called out Rakhi to see pale pink blossom at the end of a branch. The following year there were more bossom and small cherries. It's too sour said rakhi. She wondered how a small seed had grown this much.
- Rakhi said to herself "one day I will tell my children how dada and I planted this cherry tree many years ago **when I was six**".

Poem

WITH A FRIEND

I can talk with a friend,
And walk with a friend
And share my umbrella
In the rain
I can play with a friend
And stay with a friend
And learn with a friend
And explain
I can eat with a friend
And compete with a friend
And even sometimes
Disagree
I can ride with a friend
And take pride with a friend
A friend can mean
So much to me!

-Vivian Gould

A friend in need is a friend indeed. This poem explains the relationship and importance of friends.

Kari the Elephant

- Dhan Gopal Mukerji

Characters:

Kari – Elephant – 5 months old

Author – **9 years old.**

Kari needs **40 pounds** of twigs a day.

Every day the author take him into river in morning for his bath. At that time Kari would ride on a sand bank.

Author take him **by the ear** because it is the easy way to lead an elephant.

Author's story:

- I left him (**Elephant**) in fringe of the Jungle to collect twigs and samplings for Kari. It was not an easy job.

- One day I was gathering some twigs, I heard Kari calling me. I thought somebody was hurting him.
- I came down from **the tree** and I saw something black struggling on the surface. I thought it was drowning. He (**Kari**) pushed me into the river. I saw **a boy** at the bottom of the river. Kari helped me to pull him into the shore.
- Suddenly I slipped, with my eyes shut. I felt like a rope around my neck. I thought it was a **water snake**, then realized it was Kari.
- The boy was from **my village**. Kari put his face down and shaken him 3 to 4 times and water came out from his mouth.
- Then author said "**Kari is the best friend I have ever had**".

The colourful Sweets

The story is about how Tenali Raman made the king Krishna Deva Raya to take back his orders which may harm people's health.

Characters

- Krishna Deva Raya- Vijayanagar Kingdom
- Tenali Raman
- Once King Ordered that the kingdom of vijayanagar would have a **food festival**. To celebrate the food festival the sweet shop must sell colorful sweets. They should be attractive to look at and good to eat.
- After the announcement the sweet shop owners became **busy in making colourful sweets**. For some days **Tenali Raman was not seen in the court**. The king sent guards to search for him but they **couldn't find him**. They went to the court and reported to the King. After some days the guards found Tenali Raman and informed the king.
- Guards told the king that **Tenali Raman has opened a shop of colour dyes** and spends the whole day dyeing people's clothes and he refused to come with us.
- The king got angry and said to the guards to bring Tenali Raman here as soon as possible . If he does not come with you bring him forcefully. Soon the guards fetched Tenali raman forcefully and brought him to the court.
- The king enquired him "**why did you refuse to come and see me?** And what has made you open this dye shop??

- Tenali Raman said "**I wanted to dye my clothes for the food festival** .I wanted to complete the dyeing quickly before all the dyes were used up". Then Tenali explained that after your orders for preparing colourfull sweets, the sweet shop owners are busy **buying the colour dyes for dyeing sweets**.
- The king realized his mistake and took back the orders for colourful sweets. Those sweet shop owners **who used harmful chemical dyes in sweets will be severly punished**. Thus once again Tenali Raman saved the lives of the people of vijayanagar through an intelligent plan.