

The Squirrel's Judgement

Once upon a time, a tiger was *roaming* through the forest in search of food. Suddenly, he fell into a deep pit. He tried over and over to get out but could not jump high enough to reach the opening of the pit. He cried and shouted for help but none came.

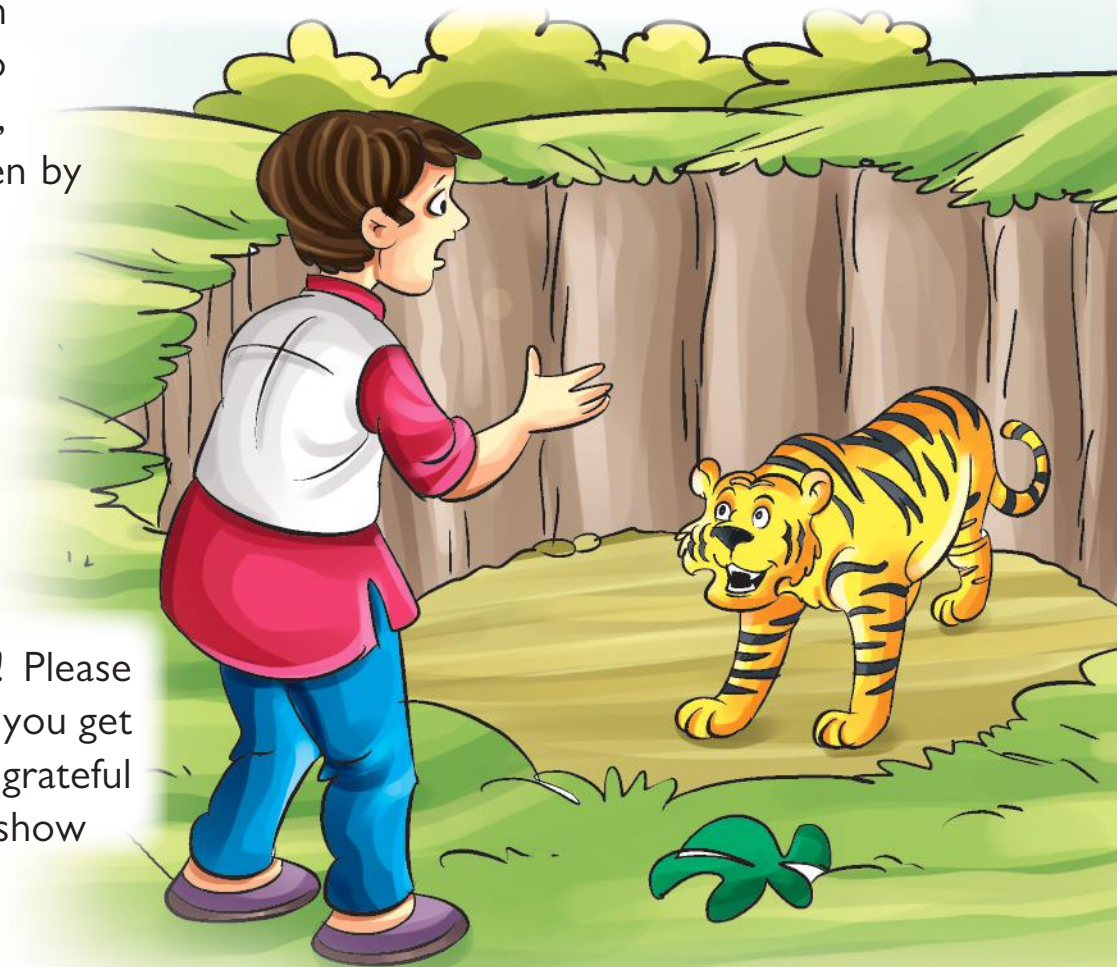
The next morning, he called for help until he was gruff. He was very exhausted and feeling helpless. He was thinking that he was *doomed* to die in the pit. Suddenly, he heard some footsteps. A man was passing by that pit.

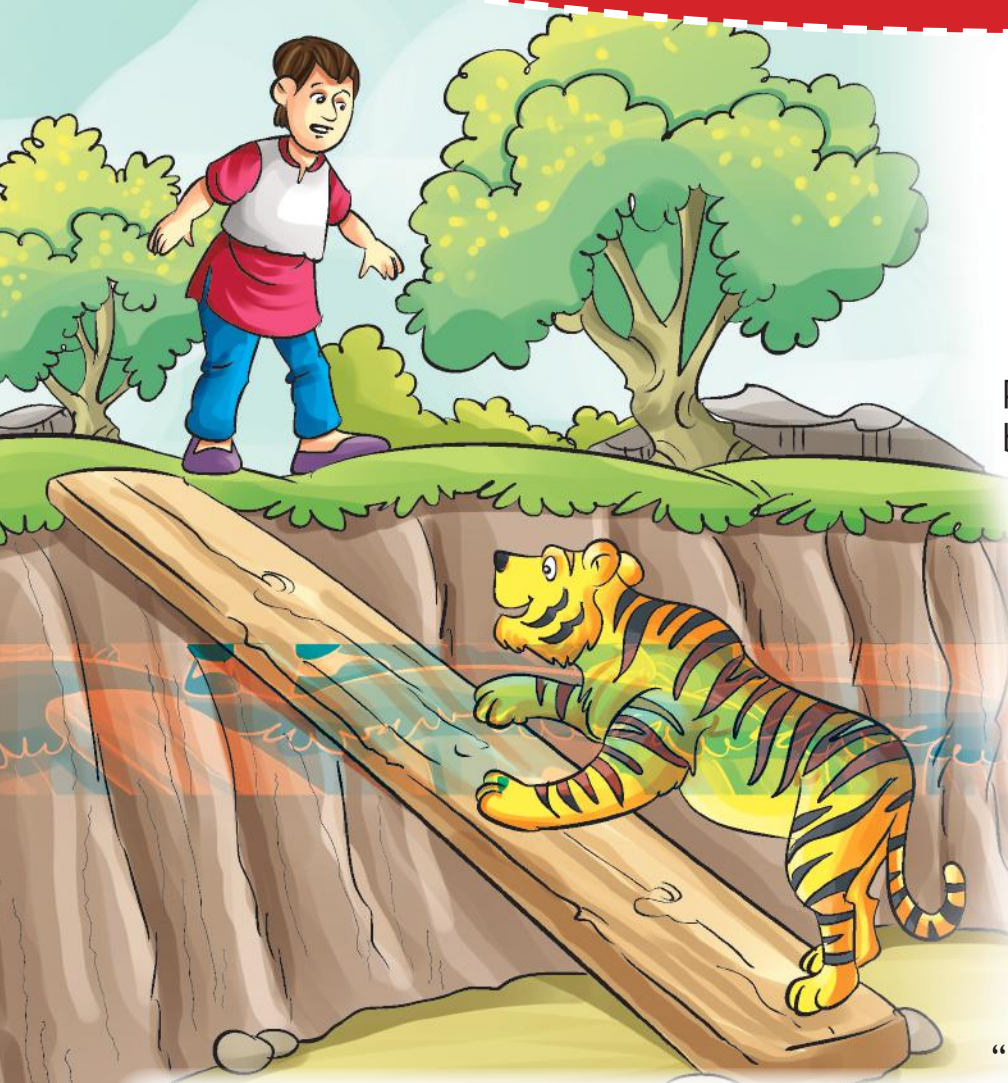
“Help! Help!” the tiger cried desperately.

The man heard a loud shriek of tiger. “Oh! A tiger!” said the man.

“Please, help me out of here! If you help me, I will be very *grateful* to you. Also, I will help in your bad time,” requested the tiger. The man felt sad for the condition of the tiger but he thought that if he helped the tiger out of the pit, the tiger would eat him definitely. “I would like to help you, but I'm sorry, the thought of being eaten by you makes me afraid. Please forgive me. I must be on my way,” said the man and he began walking down the path.

“Please listen to me. You don't have to worry! I won't hurt you! Please help me out! I beg you! If you get me out, I'll be forever grateful to you! And also, I will show





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you a hidden treasure in this jungle,” cried the tiger.

The request of the tiger was so *pitiful* that the man turned around and walked back to the pit. The man also got tempted by the mention of treasure. The man started searching for something here and there near the pit and suddenly he found a big log. He lowered the log into the pit and said, “Here, climb up this.”

The tiger climbed up the log and came out of the pit. Now, he was ready to attack the man.

“Oh! What are you doing? You have promised me that you would not hurt me. Is this your style of showing gratefulness?” the man said.

“Why should I care for my promise when I’m hungry? I haven’t eaten four days. And now, you are the only one who can satisfy my hunger.”

“Wait for a minute. This is not the justice,” cried the man. “Let’s ask that mango tree if it is right for you to eat me.”

The tiger started thinking for a moment. “All right, but if the result will be done in my favour, I’ll not give myself any time to satisfy my hunger. I’m extremely hungry,” said the tiger.

The tiger and the man explained the whole matter to the mango tree.

“What do men know about gratefulness?” said the mango tree. “Why do you take our leaves and branches to make fires to heat your homes and cook your food? And it takes us years to grow big but then you cut us down to make timber for houses and furniture. Thankfulness indeed! Don’t give him any excuse, Tiger.



You just go ahead and satisfy your hunger!”

“Now get ready for satisfying my hunger,” said the tiger, circling his lips hungrily and slipping towards the man.

Just at that moment a donkey roamed by. “Wait, let's ask that donkey to solve this problem,” cried the man.

The tiger agreed; so they explained everything to the donkey and asked for solution.

The donkey turned towards the tiger. “You should eat him up without having a wait. You see, from the time we're born, we carry heavy loads on our backs, but these men are so cruel to us. They don't know the definition of gratefulness. So, don't talk to me about being grateful to him. Just eat him and satisfy your hunger.”

“See! Everyone is in my favour. Now get ready to satisfy my hunger,” said the tiger, crouching to pounce.

The man thought that it must surely be his time to die. But then a squirrel came *hopping* by.

“Wait! Please give me one last chance. Let's ask that squirrel to judge whether should be eaten or not,” begged the man.

“You know the answer will be the same,” said the tiger.

“Please, give me the last chance,” pleaded the man.

“Alright, but this is your last chance. I'm hungry,” said the tiger.

The tiger and the man explained the whole situation to the squirrel.

The squirrel listened to them carefully. Then she closed her eyes and after a few seconds she opened her eyes and spoke deliberately, “I understand what both of you have said. But if you want a wise judgment, we should go to that pit and you should tell me again what happened. So guide me to the way.”

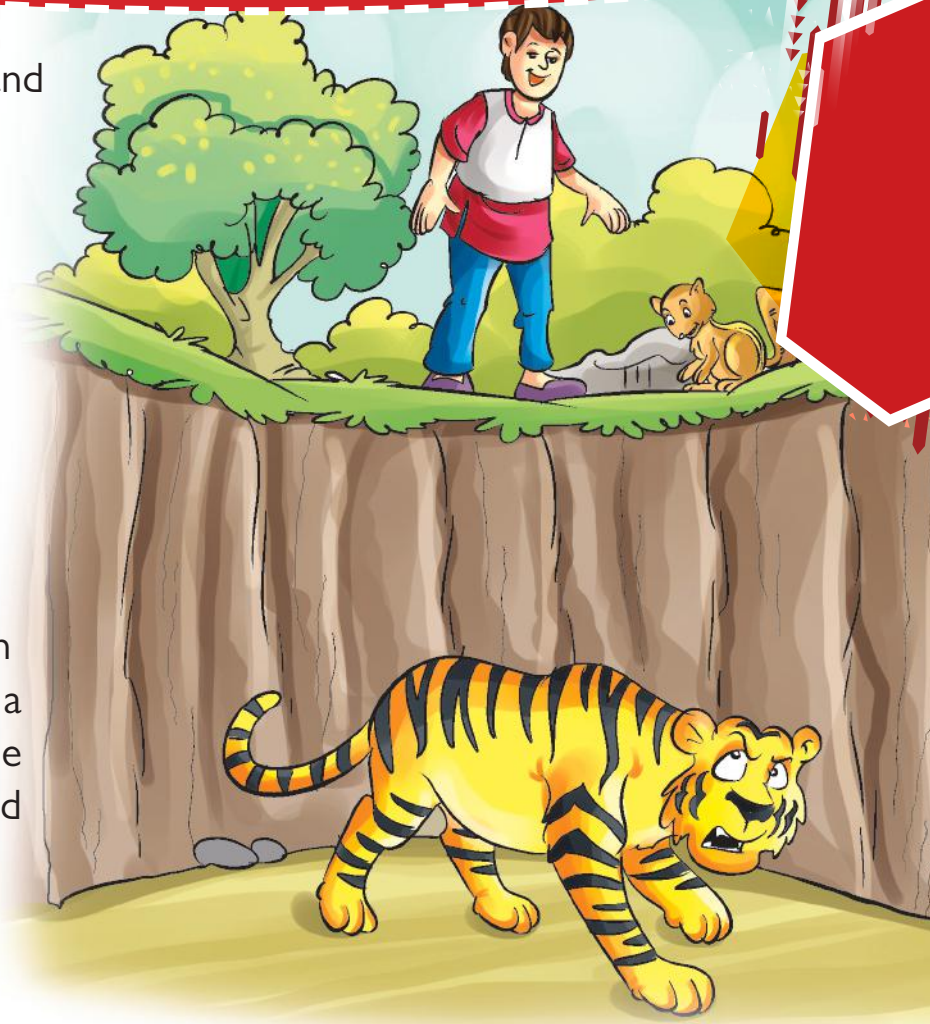
The tiger and the man led the squirrel the few short steps to the pit.

“Well, certainly it is deep,” said the squirrel, looking down into the pit. “Let's see, you say that the tiger was inside the pit and you were standing here like this?” she said to the tiger and then to the man. “Now I want to see the same

situation you were in at that time and then I can make a wise judgment.”

On hearing this, in no time the tiger jumped down into the pit while the man with the squirrel stood on the edge of the pit.

“Now I can judge. The problem started when this man helped that tiger out of this pit. It means, if the man had not shown any *kindness* and had left the tiger in the pit, there wouldn't have been a problem. So what think is that the man should continue his journey and the tiger should remain in the pit,” said the clever squirrel and hopped away.



Word Treasure

roaming : wandering

grateful : thankful

hopping : to spring on leg

doom : death

pitiful : pathetic

kindness : gentleness



EXERCISE TIME

Comprehension Skills

A. Tick (✓) the correct option :

1. The tiger was very _____ and he was feeling helpless.

a. happy

b. sad

c. exhausted

2. The man also got _____ by the mention of treasure.

a. injured

b. tempted

c. irritated

3. The tiger and the man _____ the whole matter to the mango tree.

a. revised

b. explained

c. told

4. The man thought that it must _____ be his time to die.

a. surely

b. completely

c. partially

5. The tiger and the man led the _____ the few short steps to the pit.

a. rabbit

b. squirrel

c. lion

6. I can make a _____ judgement.

a. bad

b. wise

c. good

B. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements :

1. We should help the needy people.

2. We should be selfish.

3. We should not be grateful to others for their kind deeds.

4. We should not trust anybody without knowing their behaviour.

5. We should do justice to others.

C. Answer the following questions :

1. Who was roaming through the forest?

2. Who was passing by the pit?

3. Did the man help the tiger?

4. Who carry our loads on its back?

5. Who gave clever judgement in the story?

Fun with Words

D. Circle the words related to the sky :

star

clouds

river

wind

tree

moon

stone

sun

rainbow

rain

mountain

stick

Essential Grammar

E. Rewrite the following sentences using opposites of the underlined words.

The sense of the sentence must be same

Example : The boy is not thin.

The boy is fat.

1. Vishakha has long hair.

2. Kristina is not pretty.

3. This coffee is hot.

4. Gurleen is an honest lady.

5. The line is not black.

Essential Speaking

F. Discuss the scene given in the picture the class in the class :



Essential Writing

G. Here are given some pictures related to a famous story. Recall the story and write it in your own words :

