

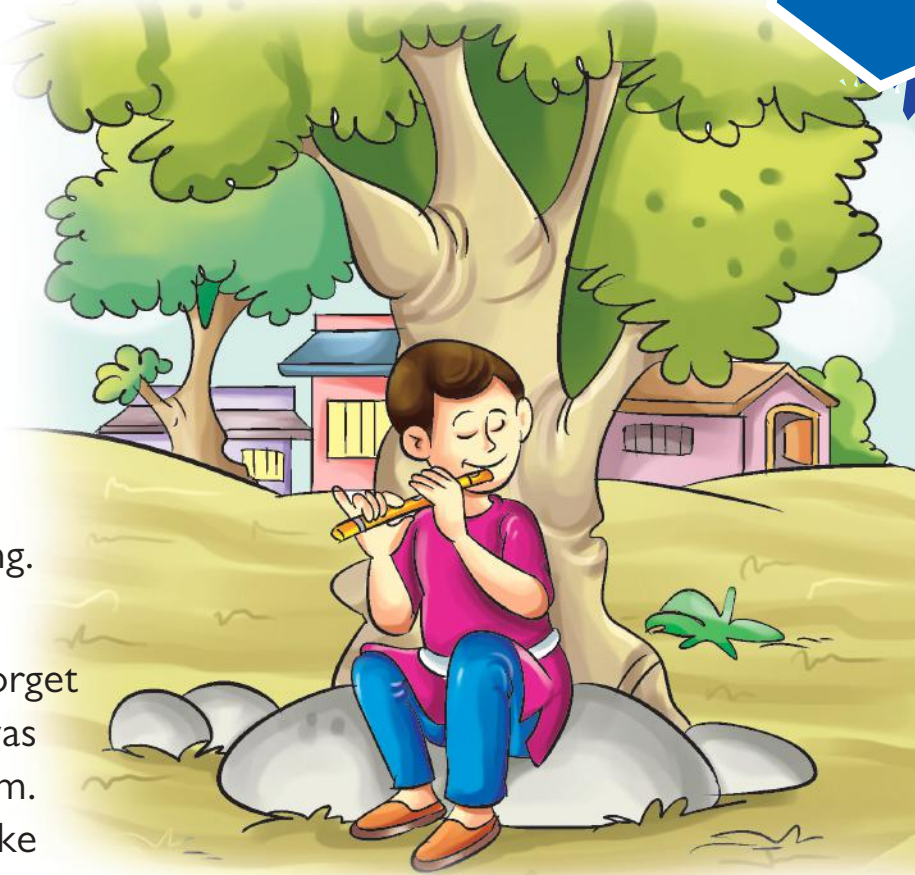
The Flutist And The Princess

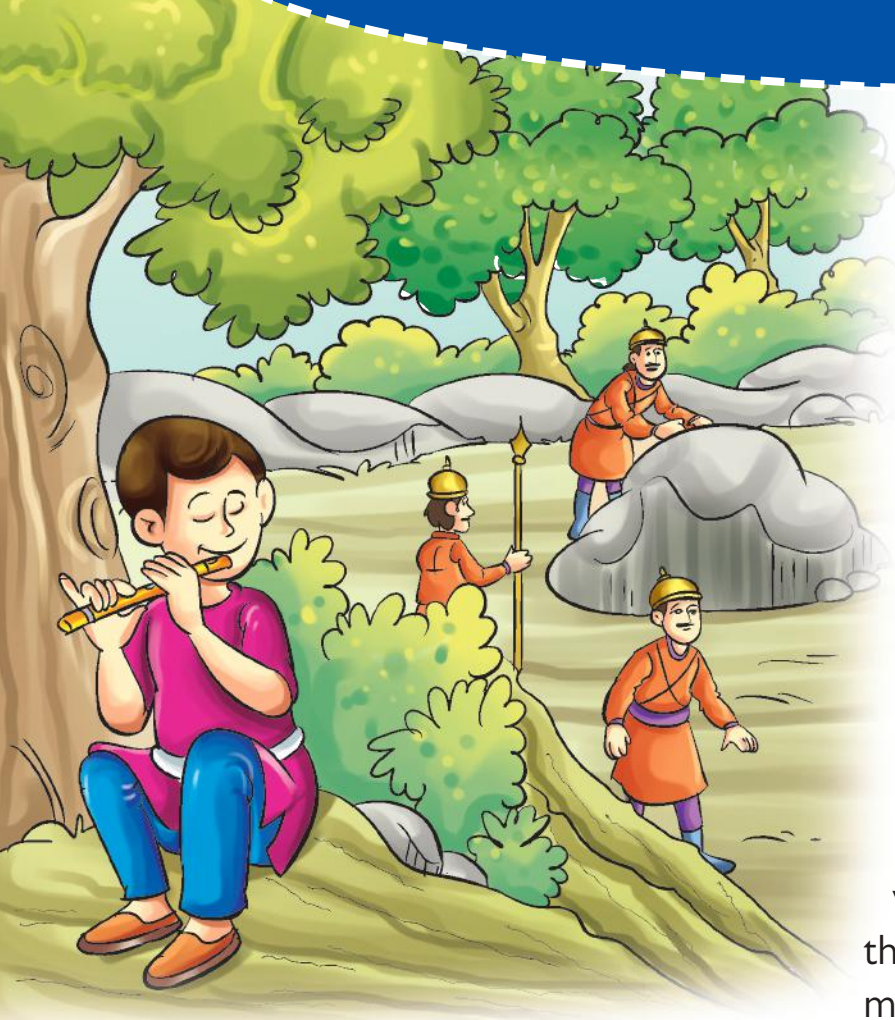
Once upon a time, there lived a young *orphan* boy in the beautiful city of Vindyanchal. His name was Ajay. He was very poor and often lived without food. He had one passion in life, and that was playing the flute. Unlike woodwind instruments with reeds, a flute is an aerophone or reedless wind instrument that produces its sound from the flow of air across an opening. Ajay loved to play flute very much.

When Ajay played flute, he would forget that he was hungry or that there was nobody in the world to love him. Though nobody was there to take care of the orphan boy, the birds and animals of the forest would listen with *spellbound* attention.

His music was so *mystic* and awesome that people would also stop working to listen to his music. Everyone in Vindyanchal said there was no one who could play the flute like Ajay. They thought that there was a magic in his flute which attracted them to the cores of their hearts.

There was a magician named Kundra who lived in the same city, and who was well known for his art of black magic. He wanted his son to become a famous flutist. He was jealous of Ajay's growing fame. So, he cast a black magic on Ajay. Ajay's skin became red and full of spots. The magician made only one special consideration for Ajay that he would be amazingly cured if a princess called him her maestro.





As the disease spread to his hands, Ajay left the village in *humiliation* and started living in a forest. He had discarded his relations with the outer world. There he would play his flute and soothe himself. And when he played, he would forget all his worries and feel at peace. He started living a peaceful life and he was satisfied with his vulnerable life.

One day, a beautiful princess named Selina and her friends came out for a hunt and camped in the same forest where Ajay was living. That night as they sat around the fire, they heard the mystical *composition* of the flute which

was being played by Ajay.

Everyone was *fascinated* by the melodious sound but they could not see the flutist. Puzzled, the princess ordered her soldiers to find the person who played such heart touching music. The soldiers set off on horsebacks and searched the forest *meticulously*.

Finally, they found Ajay sitting on a rock, playing flute freely. After some time, when he stopped playing, the guard captain approached him.

Ajay tried to cover his body with a shawl to hide his ugliness. In the bright moonlight, the guard captain could not help himself to see the ugliness of Ajay and stepped back to keep some distance between them.

“The princess wants to meet you,” he told Ajay.

“I can’t go before her like this.” Ajay replied.

“We can help you in covering yourself completely with a shawl, but the princess must be obeyed,” The captain said.

So Ajay covered himself completely and set off with the captain to meet the princess. When the princess saw him, she was perplexed by his mysterious appearance. She asked him to play music.



Ajay played his magic again and everybody was *enchanted* by his music. Overwhelmed by his music, princess Selina asked him to teach her the flute.

Ajay nodded his head in affirmation and was accompanied by the hunting party to the royal palace. There he started teaching the princess how to play the flute.

The princess was an attentive student, and soon she was playing beautifully. Everyone was full of admiration for her. Even the king and the queen considered their daughter as the best flutist and told her that she played like a *cherub*.

As her fame grew, princess Selina became overconfident. One day she asked her father, the king, “Father, organize a competition inviting all famous flutists and princess from all over the world and neighbouring kingdoms. I want to compete with the best flutists. I will marry the man who will beat me in this competition.”

The king was very happy as for a long time he and the queen had been trying to find the best match for Selina but she had always refused being focused on her music instead.

People came from all over the world to Vindyanchal. There was a huge response. Well known flutists and handsome princes well versed in the art of playing flute gathered in a public hall to compete against the princess.

They had all heard of princess Selina's prettiness and astonishing endowment with the flute. One by one they competed, but there was no one who could win the heart of the princess by his talent. The public watched the contest and voted for Selina again and again over the other flutists.

One by one all the flutists lost their temperament and left thwarted. The princess was overjoyed with her talent. When she had beaten the last contestant, she raised her arms to a *prolonged* applause, the public approved her talent. Suddenly, sweet and captivating notes of a flute filled the ambience and people stopped to hear in spellbound attention. Selina too picked up her flute and started playing in hope that she would beat the new contestant.

She was very *baffled* as she could not see the flutist but could only hear the miraculous notes. As the two were engaged in a non-stop playing, the invisible flutist started playing difficult notes and the princess was trying to match with that flutist, but in vain.

At last, she stood in anger and **annoyance** as the public sat holding their breath to the mystical notes of the flutist.

Now Selina became impatient and she started walking towards the music of the flute. She came across her ugly teacher who was engaged in his music.

She closed her eyes for the music which she had never heard before. She looked up as the music of the flute ended. "You are my maestro," she cried and held Ajay's hands and kissed them. In this way, Ajay beat her in the competition.

As she called him her maestro, she cried out in surprise, for instead of an ugly man, there stood an attractive joyful youth, Ajay.

Princess Selina had succeeded in breaking the curse on Ajay. They both got married and lived happily ever after.



Word Treasure

orphan : a child without parents

mystic : spiritual

composition : piece of music

meticulously : carefully

cherub : angel

baffled : puzzled

spellbound : lost as by magic

humiliation : disgrace

fascinated : attracted

enchanted : charmed

prolonged : tried to kill

annoyance : irritation



EXERCISE TIME

Comprehension Skills

A. Tick (✓) the correct option :

- Ajay had one passion in life, and that was playing the _____.
a. guitar b. flute c. combo
- The birds and animals of the forest would listen with _____ attention.
a. spellbound b. surprised c. good
- He started living a _____ life and he was satisfied with his _____ life.
a. miserable, peaceful b. happy, miserable c. peaceful, miserable
- Everyone was _____ by the melodious sound but they could not see the flutist.
a. surprised b. fascinated c. attracted
- _____ by his music, princess Selina asked him to teach her the flute.
a. Overwhelmed b. Irritated c. Annoyed
- They had all heard of princess Selina's prettiness and astonishing _____ with the flute.
a. practice b. relation c. endow

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

- Ajay had one passion in life, and that was playing the flute.
- The magician didn't make any consideration for Ajay.
- Everyone was fascinated by the melodious sound but they could not see the flutist.
- Ajay didn't try to cover his body with a shawl to hide his ugliness.
- The princess was a careless student.
- Princess Selina had succeeded in breaking the curse on Ajay.

C. Answer the following questions :

- Who was Ajay ?
- Where did Ajay live ?
- What was the name of the magician ?

4. What was the princess's name ?
5. Did Ajay teach Selina ?
6. Who was maestro ?

Fun with Words

D. Find the antonyms of these words from the story :

1. Frustrated -
2. Free -
3. Sunlight -
4. Beauty -
5. Visible -

Essential Grammar

E. Rewrite the following sentences using Singular forms :

1. We are playing in the garden.

2. I have many stones.

3. The women are gossiping in the party.

4. My teeth are missing.

5. The babies are crying.

6. The children of this class are very naughty.

7. Aditya is running after the monkeys.

Essential Writing

F. Look at the following picture. Write a description of this picture :



Fun to Do

G. Name these instruments :