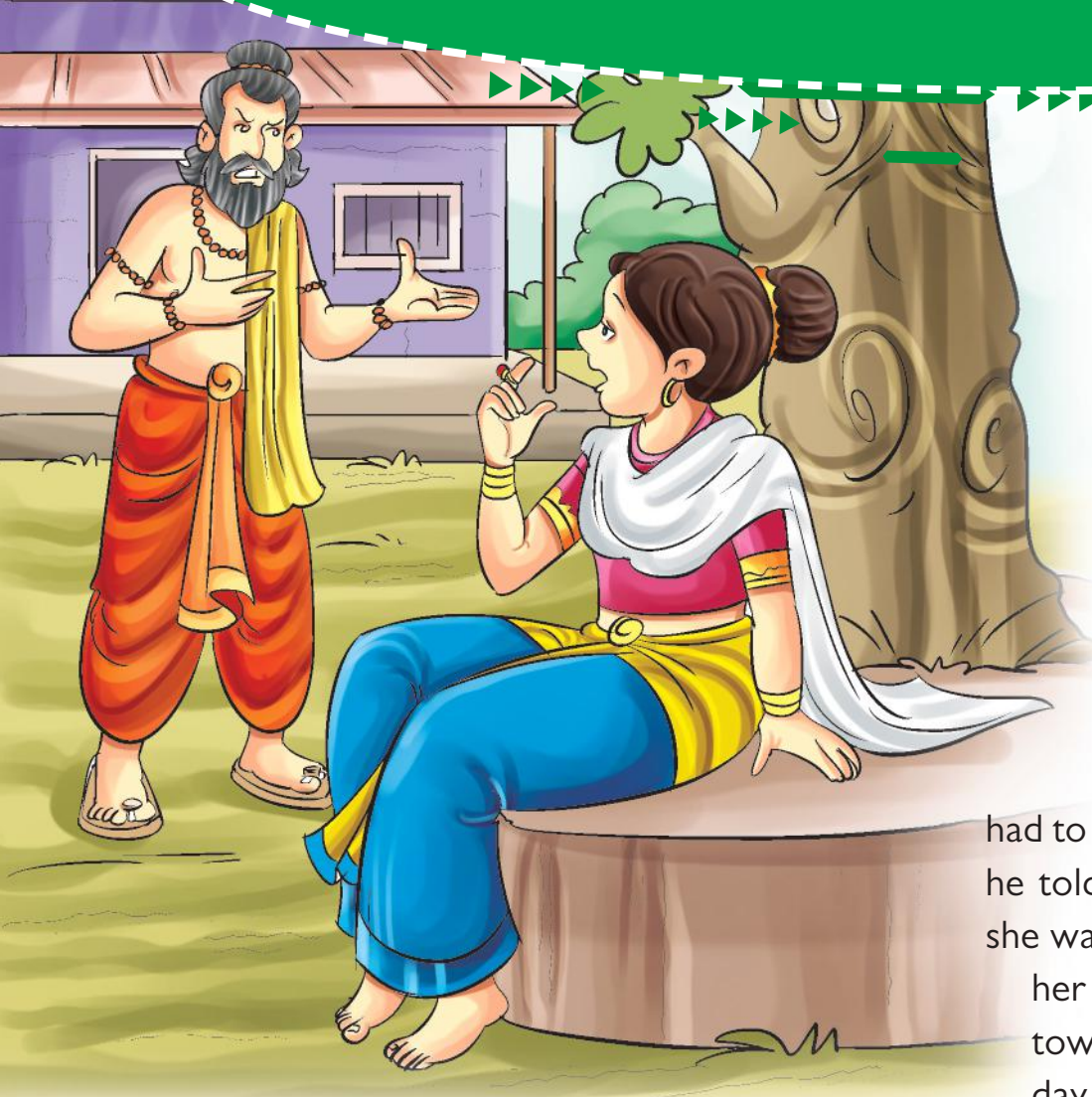


## King Dushyant and Shakuntala

Dushyant, the king of the Puru *dynasty*, ruled Hastinapur. He was a *proficient* administrator and a just ruler. Vidushaka, his friend, was always by his side. One day, king Dushyant made a plan of *hunting* in the forest; so he went into the forest with his huge army. After great efforts, he shot an arrow at a deer but the wounded deer ran away from his sight. He also started following the deer and reached an ashram. There he saw a beautiful girl, named Shakuntala, *nursing* the deer, her pet. Shakuntala was born to the sage Vishwamitra and Apsara Menaka. Menaka had come at the command of the king of gods, Indra, to distract the great sage Vishwamitra from his deep meditations.







King Dushyant **profusely** begged her forgiveness for harming the deer and spent some time at the ashram.

Shakuntala's beauty was so captivating that the king fell in love with her. Shakuntala too, was enchanted by his **majestic** personality. They married right there in the ashram. But as the king had to go to look after his kingdom, he told this to Shakuntala. At this, she was heartbroken but she knew her husband's responsibility towards his kingdom. The day of his **departure** arrived. Shakuntala was in utter **agony**.

Dushyant was also emotionally disturbed. When Dushyant left Shakuntala, he gave Shakuntala a royal ring as a sign of their love, promising her that he would return to her soon.

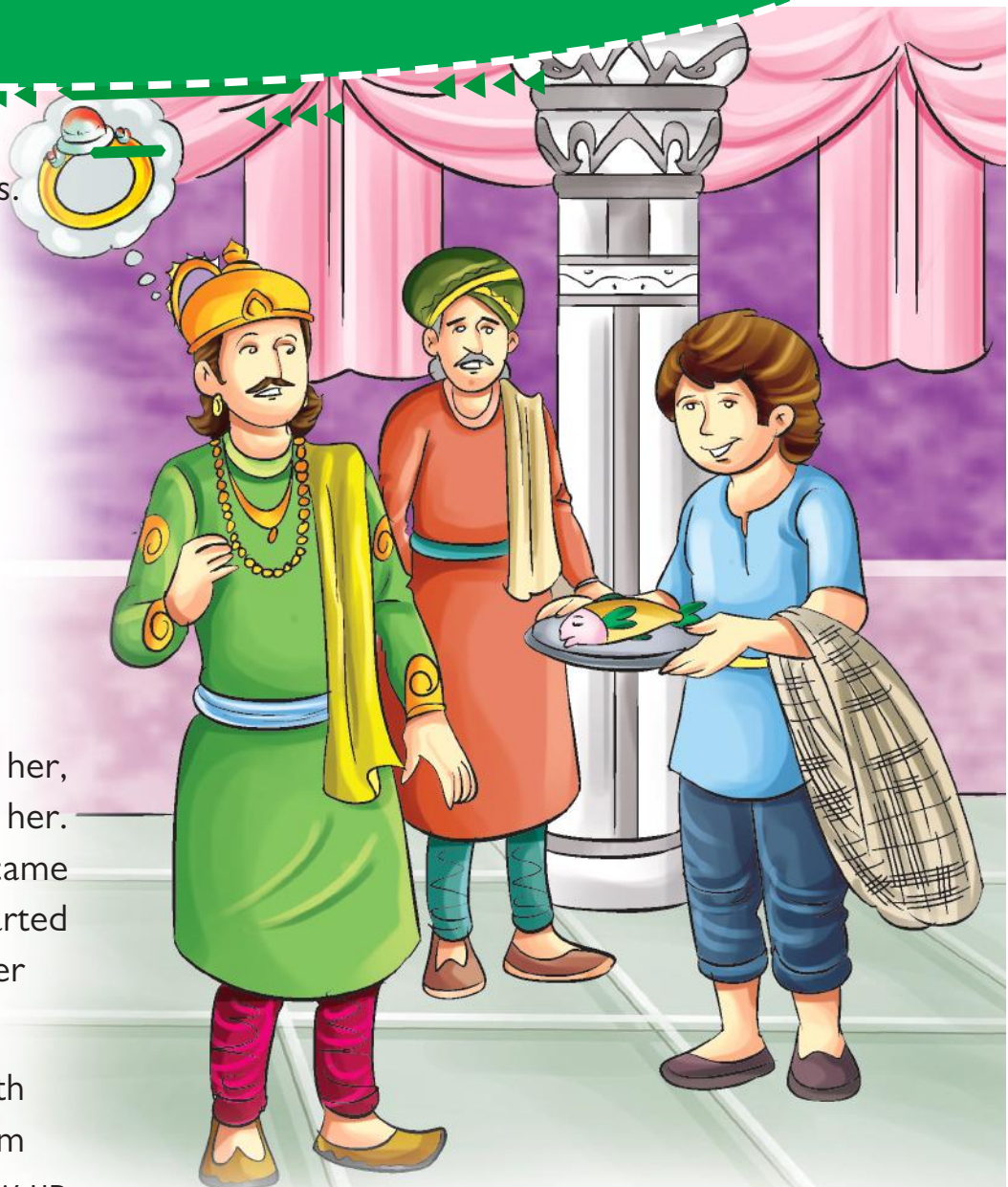
Shakuntala was so dispirited by Dushyant's separation. One day she was sitting in the garden and recalling her sweet memories with her husband, King Dushyant. In the meantime, a great sage Durvasa was passing through the same garden where Shakuntala was sitting under a banyan tree. She failed to notice the arrival of sage Durvasa. She did not receive him with due respect. Sage Durvasa was famous for his angry behaviour. So, the **short-tempered** sage became furious and **cursed** her that the person she was thinking of would forget her. Shakuntala, still lost in her thoughts, did not realize what had happened. But Ansuya and Priyamvada pleaded with the sage to calm down his anger and reduce the **harshness** of the curse. Sage Durvasa felt pity for Shakuntala and said that on seeing the ring which was given by the king as a sign of his love, Dushyant would recognize her. Time passed, and Shakuntala, wondering why Dushyant did not return for her, finally set out for the capital city with her father

and some of her companions. On the way, they had to cross a river by a boat. Attracted by the deep blue water of the river, Shakuntala ran her fingers through the water. Her ring slipped off her finger without her realizing it.

Arriving at Dushyant's court, Shakuntala was hurt and surprised when her husband neither recognized her, nor **recollected** anything about her. Disheartened Shakuntala came back to the forest and started living with the memories of her husband.

After sometime, she gave birth to a beautiful child. She gave him the name of Bharat. Bharat grew up without any human company other than that of her mother. All around in the jungle, he **encountered** wild animals, plants and trees. He developed into a fearless, healthy, and active child. Lions and tigers were his friends, and he used to ride them as we ride horses! The mother taught him, as a prince should be taught, skills in archery, and use of other weapons; as also **acquainted** him with scriptures: Vedas, and Upanishads. Bharat soon grew up as handsome, intelligent and fearless youth.

Meanwhile, a fisherman was astounded to find a royal ring in the belly of a fish he had caught. Recognizing the royal seal, he took the ring to the palace. On **perceiving** the ring, king Dushyant remembered Shakuntala and their marriage. He immediately sent his troops to the hermitage of sage Kanva. He also joined them. Arriving at Shakuntala's father's ashram, Dushyant found that she was no longer there. He continued deeper into the forest to find his wife and came upon a surprising scene in the forest; a young boy had opened the mouth of a lion and was busy counting





its teeth! Dushyant was surprised to see so courageous a boy. He approached him and asked his name. He politely replied that he was the son of King Dushyant and Shakuntala and his name was Bharat.

Dushyant was delighted to know that his son was so brave. He entered the hermitage and greeted the sage. After blessing him, sage Kanva handed over Shakuntala to him. Sage Kanva then explained why Dushyant forgot Shakuntala.

Later, Bharat became the king of ancient India. His rule *extended* over vast area, almost all over India. Righteousness and justice prevailed everywhere. There was no want, no misery, nor any disease in his kingdom.

## Word Treasure

*dynasty* : royal family

*hunting* : chasing and killing animals

*profusely* : generously, very much

*short-tempered* : having a tendency to become angry

*cursed* : damned, said evil words in anger

*acquainted* : made familiar

*perceiving* : becoming aware of through senses

*proficient* : skillful

*nursing* : treating, looking after

*majestic* : royal

*agony* : pain

*harshness* : roughness

*encountered* : came across



## EXERCISE TIME

### Comprehension Skills

#### A. Tick (✓) the correct option :

- King Dushyant \_\_\_\_\_ begged her forgiveness for harming the deer and spent some time at the \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. profusely, ashram  b. politely, village  c. politely, ashram
- Shakuntala, too, was enchanted by his \_\_\_\_\_ personality.  
a. royal  b. majestic  c. unique
- Her ring slipped off her \_\_\_\_\_ without her realizing it.  
a. toe  b. nose  c. finger
- Recognizing the \_\_\_\_\_ seal, he took the ring to the palace.  
a. royal  b. golden  c. yellow

5. He immediately sent his \_\_\_\_\_ to the hermitage of sage Kanva.

a. men

b. troops

c. soldiers

6. Dushyant was \_\_\_\_\_ to know that his son was so brave.

a. sad

b. happy

c. delighted

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

1. King Dushyant was a administrator and a just ruler.

2. When he shot an arrow at a deer, the deer ran away from his sight.

3. Dushyant gave her a royal necklace as a sign of their love.

4. Her ring slipped off her finger with her realizing it.

5. The name of their son was Ram.

6. Dushyant saw a beautiful girl at the ashram.

**C. Answer the following questions :**

1. Who was the king of the Puru dynasty?

2. Who was always by Dushyant's side?

3. Whom did king Dushyant meet in the ashram?

4. What did Dushyant give Shakuntala as a sign of their love?

5. Who cursed Shakuntala?

6. Who was Bharat?

**D. Describe the character of each of the following :**



King Dushyant : \_\_\_\_\_

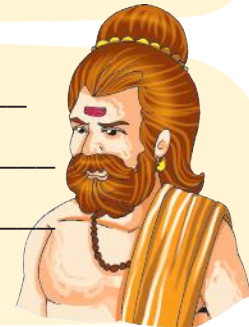
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sage Durvasa : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





Shakuntala : \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Fun with Words

**E. What do we call to a story with following effect :**

Myths    Comedy    Novel    Drams    Horror

1. A story with ghost and devils.
2. A story of Fake beliefs about religion.
3. A story with enactment.
4. A long story of hundreds pages.
5. A story of funny episodes.

## Essential Grammar

**F. Give plurals of the following :**

- |           |       |           |       |
|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|
| 1. boy    | _____ | 2. woman  | _____ |
| 3. child  | _____ | 4. brush  | _____ |
| 5. leaf   | _____ | 6. wife   | _____ |
| 7. story  | _____ | 8. tooth  | _____ |
| 9. foot   | _____ | 10. cat   | _____ |
| 11. goose | _____ | 12. mouse | _____ |
| 13. lorry | _____ | 14. house | _____ |
| 15. deer  | _____ | 16. wolf  | _____ |

**G. Fill up the correct form of Adjectives given in the brackets :**

1. Prevention is \_\_\_\_\_ (good) than cure.
2. Sachin Tendulkar is the \_\_\_\_\_ (good) batsman in the world.
3. This pen is \_\_\_\_\_ (costly) than the other.
4. Mount Everest is the \_\_\_\_\_ (high) peak in the world.
5. This book is very \_\_\_\_\_ (interesting).
6. Ooty is \_\_\_\_\_ (cold) than Delhi.
7. This apple is \_\_\_\_\_ (good) in taste.
8. Anu is \_\_\_\_\_ (beautiful) than Priya.

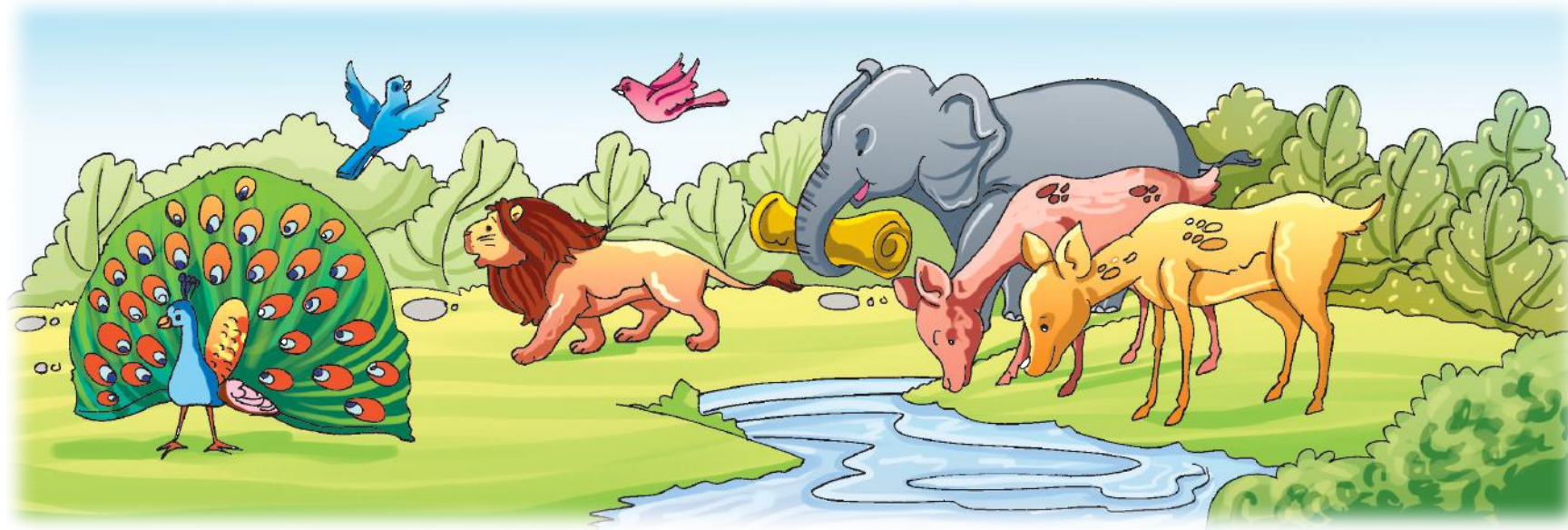
## Essential Speaking

H. Say an event when you got short-tempered :

I. To avoid anger suggest some **do's** and **don'ts** to your classmates.

## Essential Writing

J. Look at the following picture related to forest life. Imagine a short description on the basis of the picture and write it in your own words :



A large, rounded rectangular area with horizontal lines for writing, intended for the student to describe the forest scene.