

Sindbad Tells His Story

Let's Begin 

Read this famous quote by Sir Walt Disney.

All your dreams can come true if you have the courage to pursue them.

Look at the words **courage** and **pursue**.

What do you think they mean? Discuss with your teacher.

In ancient Baghdad, there lived a rich and famous sailor named Sindbad. Sindbad had gone on many wonderful voyages in his days as a trader and seafarer.

One day, a poor porter named Hindbad was walking past Sindbad's house with a very heavy sack on his back. The smell of good food and the sound of music and laughter made Hindbad burn with anger. Here he was, struggling for even one meal a day, and there were people like Sindbad who didn't have to do any work at all. Hindbad sat down on the pavement outside Sindbad's house to rest for a while. "Why is he rich and why am I poor and hungry?" said Hindbad. "Is he better than me?"

Sindbad happened to overhear Hindbad's words.

He invited the poor man in, gave him a splendid meal, and told him his story. Here is what he said—

I was born wealthy. As a child, I was lazy and spoilt. Suddenly, my parents died. In a very short time, I had used up my father's hard-earned money. I was forced to sell everything I owned to repay my debts. Very soon, I was a pauper.

I then decided to become a trader to earn back my lost wealth. So, I set sail on a ship going to the East Indies.

voyages: journeys by sea

seafarer: sailor

burn with anger: become very angry

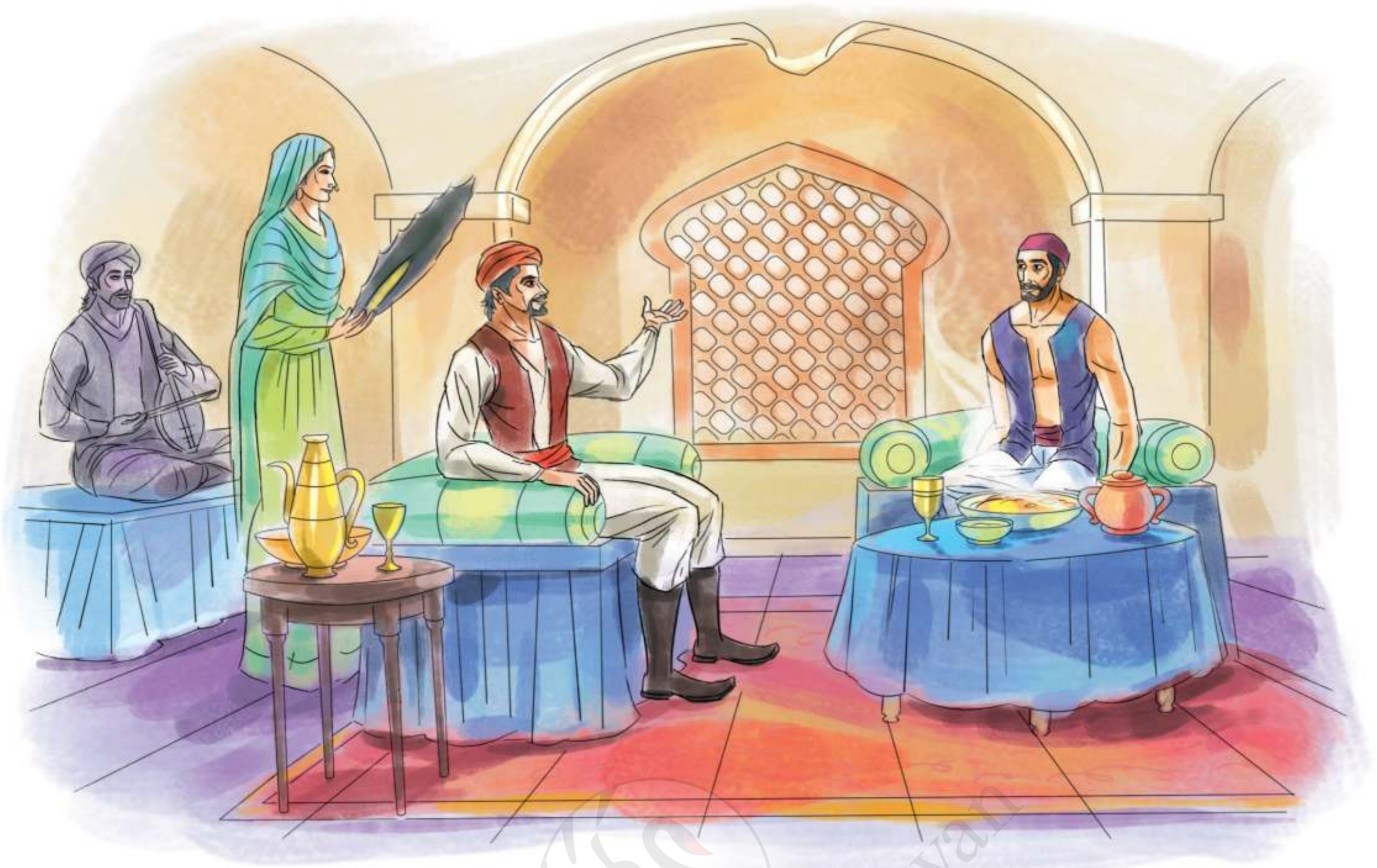
happened to overhear: hear by chance

debts: money that we owe (say *dets*)

pauper: a very poor person

set sail: started a voyage

East Indies: the way India was referred to by people in Europe



We stopped in different lands and bought and sold goods of various kinds.

After a particularly long journey, we came upon a smooth island. The cool rock surface tempted us to get off board. Our captain gave us permission to do so. As a few of us relaxed on this massive, treeless rock, suddenly, the island began to move! It was then that we realised that we were not on an island, but on the back of a sleeping whale that had just woken up! A couple of my mates, who were close to the ship, ran fast and went back to the ship. I was not so lucky. With a violent flip of its tail, the whale dived underwater. I was flung off the whale's back, flew up into the air and landed with a terrific splash. Miraculously, I found a piece of wood and clung on to it for dear life. I shouted for help but no one heard me.

To my horror, the ship set sail. No one had realised that I was missing!

goods: things to buy and sell

off board: off the ship

mates: companions

flip: quick movement

miraculously: with great luck

clung on: held on



After several hours of being tossed about by the waves, I passed out. When I came to, I realised that I had been swept to the sandy shores of some unknown island. Though I was very tired, I started looking around. I found some herbs and fruit and ate them hungrily. Walking about, I saw some men on horseback. I told them my story. They said that I was in the Kingdom of Mihrage.

“We will take you to our king,” they said.

The King of Mihrage met me. He was a good man. When I told him my story, he said that Mihrage was a very busy port. So it would be easy for me to find my way back home. I was happy to hear this.

I went to the harbour. The place was bustling with activity. People were busy loading and unloading ships. A lot of money was being exchanged. This reminded me of everything I had lost.

tossed about:
thrown about up
and down by the
waves

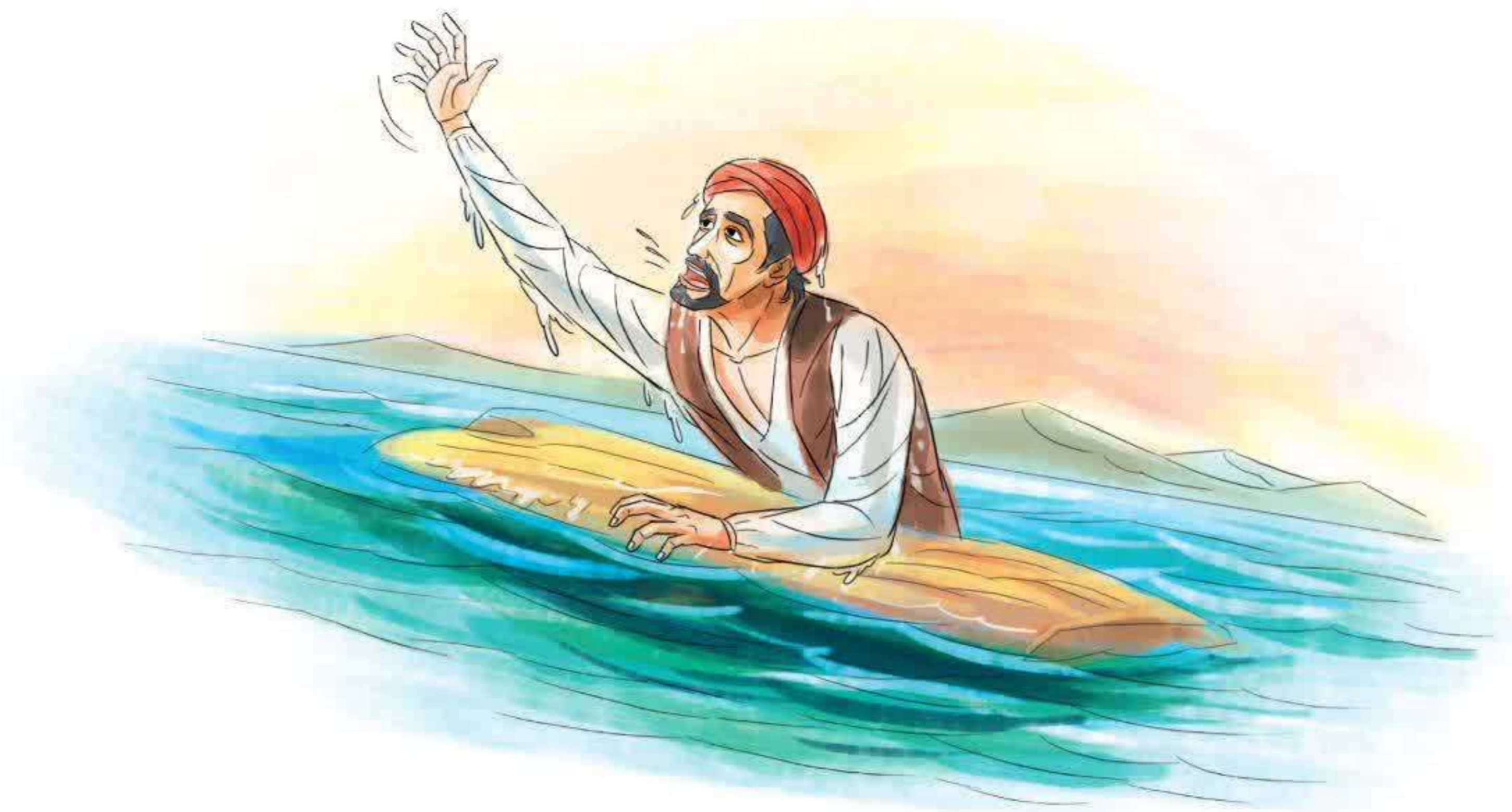
passed out:
became
unconscious

came to: became
conscious again

on horseback:
riding horses

harbour: place
of shelter for
ships

bustling: busy



I wandered about through the harbour when something familiar caught my eye. On looking closely, I found that they were boxes of goods with my name on them. This meant that my ship was here! And I could go back home!

I started looking for members of the crew. Standing right there, barking out instructions was my captain. I ran towards him and hugged him. The man jumped as though he had seen a ghost. I told him what happened and my captain was overjoyed that I was alive. So were all my mates. I now had all my goods back with me. I could continue my trade. I sold all my goods for a large profit. I kept the most valuable silks I had and presented them to the King of Mihrage. In return, he gave me a bag of gems and I became richer. We sailed back home and I started life again with my new-found riches.

Sindbad stopped the story here. He told Hindbad to come back the next day promising to tell him about the dangers he faced in his next voyage.

caught my eye:
attracted me

crew: group of people who work on a ship

barking out instructions:
calling out orders loudly and rudely

profit: extra money

gems: precious stones

Let's Understand

A. Complete these sentences.

1. In the ancient city of _____, there lived a rich man named _____. He was a famous _____.
2. The sound of _____ and the smell of good _____ made Hindbad burn with anger.
3. _____ invited _____ in, gave him a splendid _____ and told him _____.
4. Sindbad was born wealthy. He said he was a _____ and a _____ child.
5. The men on the _____ told Sindbad that he was in the Kingdom of _____. They took him to the _____.

B. Answer these questions in a few sentences.

1. After his parents died, Sindbad lost all his money. What did he do to earn back his lost wealth?
2. ...suddenly the island began to move. Where did Sindbad and the other sailors actually land?
3. Why couldn't Sindbad manage to get on the ship like his mates?
4. How did Sindbad manage to survive on the unknown island after his ship sailed away without him?
5. Describe what happened at the port. What and whom did he see?

Let's Think

Answer these questions.

1. How did Sindbad regain his riches finally? Do you think it was just luck or was it due to his courage to pursue his dreams? (Refer to the **Let's Begin** section)
2. Sindbad says he kept the most valuable silks and presented them to the King of Mihrage.
 - a. Why do you think he did it? What does it tell you about Sindbad?
 - b. What did the king give in return? What does it tell you about the king? How does it help Sindbad?



Read these sentences.

- ❖ I told them **my** story.
- ❖ We will take you to **our** king.

The words **my** and **our** tell us that a thing or a person belongs to someone. In other words, we use them to show possession. They come before the noun they describe, so we call them **possessive adjectives**.

Your, his, her, their, its are some other possessive adjectives.

A. Underline the possessive adjectives these sentences.

1. This is my ball.
2. This is his phone.
3. This is its bone.
4. This is our teacher.
5. Here is your book.
6. That is your pup.



B. Work in pairs. Look around the class and make seven sentences, one for each possessive adjective above.

Let's Use Words



Two different words can be brought together to form one single word. These are called **compound words**.

Here are some examples—

- ❖ sail+boat = sailboat
- ❖ every+day = everyday
- ❖ door+step = doorstep

Now make compound words from these phrases. The first one has been done for you.

1. light from the sun sunlight
2. a person who tells stories _____
3. a snack made by popping corn _____
4. wood used to light fire with _____
5. paper on which news is printed _____

Let's Listen

while-listening task

Listen to this passage and complete the sentences.

I climbed a tall tree. From high up, I looked over the ^{1.} _____.
Far off I saw a strange thing. It was big and dazzling white. I left at once to see what it was.

From near, it looked like a big ^{2.} _____! I touched it. It was ^{3.} _____. I tried to get inside it. But there was no opening.
I tried to climb it.

But it was too slippery.

Suddenly, the sky turned dark. Dark clouds seemed to have covered the sun. I looked up. It was a giant ^{4.} _____. The bird was flying down to the island.

I remembered that some ^{5.} _____ had told me about a bird called roc.

This was the roc! It came closer and sat gently on the white ball.

The roc was warming the ball with its body and wings.

Now I understood. The big, strange, white ball was the roc's ^{6.} _____!

Let's Speak

asking for information

When Sindbad was at the Kingdom of Mihrage, here are some questions he might have asked.

1. To the men on the horseback: **Could you tell me** which place this is?

2. To the king: **I'd like to know** where the nearest port is.

Sometimes we need to ask people for information. There are many ways of asking. Here are some—

❖ **Can/Could you tell me...?**

❖ **I'd like to know...**

❖ **Have you any idea...?**

If we have the information and the answers to the questions, we can tell the person what he or she wants to know. If not, we tell politely that we do not have the information. Here are some phrases we can use—

❖ **Sorry, I don't know.** ❖ **(I'm sorry,) I have no idea.**

Role play these situations with your partner.

1. You were absent the day before. Ask your classmate for the math homework. (He tells you what the homework is.)
2. Ask a stranger on the road for directions to the library. (She doesn't know.)
3. Ask the salesperson of a bookshop at what time the shop closes in the evening. (He tells you.)

▶ Say it Right

sack; ship

A. Listen and repeat.

sack sandy sail sea set several grassy horseback

B. Listen and repeat.

ship permission shake dash shore instruction special vacation

C. Read the words in exercises A and B again and note the difference between the **s** and **sh** sounds.

D. Practise saying these pairs of words with a partner.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. seer - sheer | 2. sift - shift | 3. sip - ship | 4. scene - sheen |
| 5. sign - shine | 6. so - show | 7. lease - leash | 8. seep - sheep |

E. Now say these phrases aloud.

- ❖ sandy shores
- ❖ sail on a ship
- ❖ seek permission
- ❖ shells on the seashore

Know Your Heritage

Right from the ancient times, India has traded with China, West Asia and Europe. Indians sold cotton, gold and spices to these countries. The oldest port is said to be near Ahmedabad in Gujarat. It was used around 4500 years ago. Calicut, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, Goa and Tuticorin are supposed to be the oldest ports in India that are still active.



A painting of trading ships



Reorder these sentences. Write them as a paragraph in your notebooks.

The men on horseback took me to the king of Mihrage. ■

At the port, I saw boxes of goods with my name on them. ■

The King of Mihrage gave me a bag of gems. ■

When I came to, I realised that I had been swept to the sandy shores of some unknown island. ■

I ran towards my captain and hugged him. ■

We realised that we were not on an island but on the back of a sleeping whale that had just now woken up. ■

We sailed back home and there I bought a house and started a new life. ■

I was flung off the whale's back. I passed out. ■

I sold my stock for a large profit. ■

Know Your Values



coping with hard times

In the text **Sindbad Tell His Story**, we saw that he first faces a lot of difficulties when he loses all the wealth his father had earned. Then, he loses all his goods when he gets lost at sea.

How do you feel when you have a problem? Would you blame anyone for your problems? What will you do with your anger? Can you talk about your problems to someone?

We all face difficult times. There is no use blaming our luck. We must stay strong and calm, take help from others if needed and hope that things get better.