

2.4 The Mouse Merchant

Once, a rich merchant was scolding his lazy son. "I gave you so much money to start a business and yet you have not earned anything. You are good for nothing! Look at this dead mouse. A capable man can start a business even with something as useless as this!"

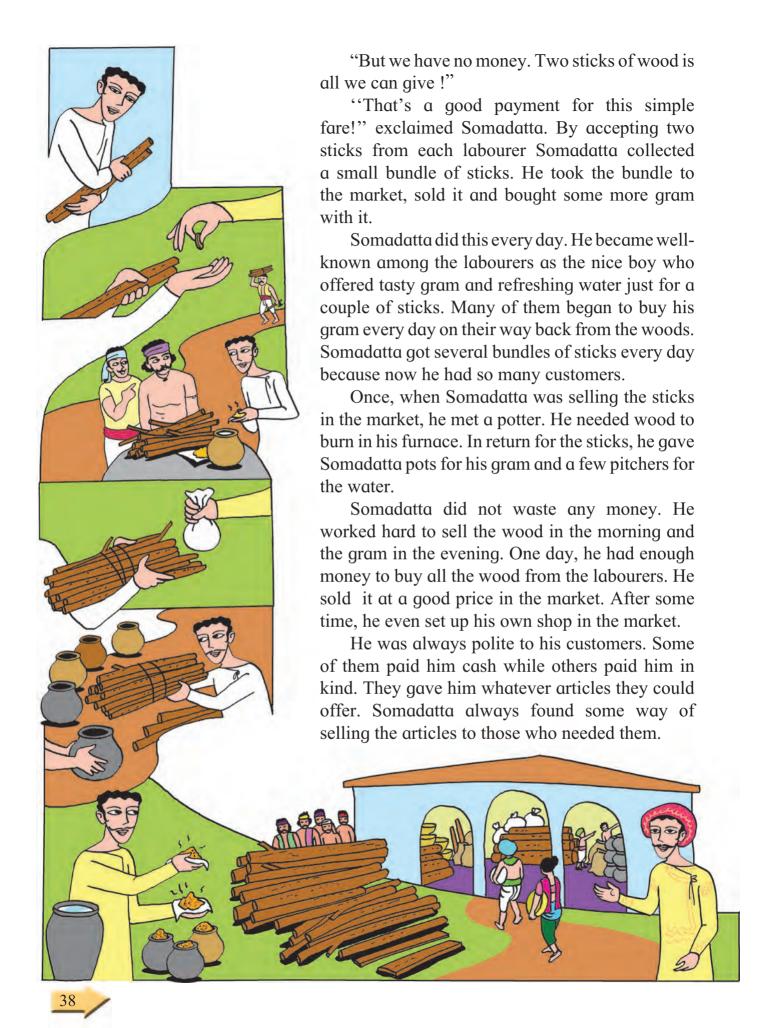
Somadatta who was a poor orphan boy heard his words. He went in and requested the merchant, "Please lend me this mouse as a capital and I will try my luck."

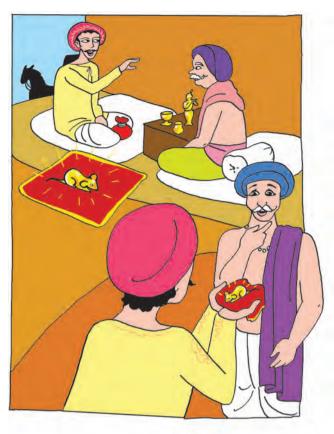
The merchant burst out laughing. But still, he gave the mouse to Somadatta and took the receipt that Somadatta wrote out to him.

Somadatta was walking down the street with the dead mouse in his hand, when another shopkeeper called him. "Come here, boy. I need the mouse to feed my cat. I will give you two handfuls of gram for it." Somadatta accepted the gram.

At home, Somadatta roasted the gram well. Then he took a pitcher of water and stood at the crossroads with his gram and the water. He waited for a long time.

In the evening, when the labourers were returning from the wood, they saw the boy with roast gram and water. Somadatta offered them the gram and water politely.





After a few years, Somadatta became a wealthy merchant in the town. One day, he asked the goldsmith to make him a small golden mouse. He took the mouse to the rich merchant.

"I had borrowed a dead mouse from you as capital many years ago. Today I have come to return it. Please accept this golden mouse."

The rich merchant was greatly surprised. He had a beautiful and intelligent daughter. She was so impressed with Somadatta's business skills that she asked her father if she could marry him, and he agreed. Thus Somadatta who was a poor orphan boy earned money and respect due to his intelligence, hard work and politeness.

It is not known whether the rich man's son learnt any of the skills from Somadatta.

POINTERS

1. Listen to the story carefully.

Underline or note the words that you do not understand.

Try to guess the meaning of each word.

You can look up the words in a dictionary.

Or, you can ask your teacher the meaning of the words.



2. Read the sentence in 'A' and find the word whose meaning is given in 'B'.

| ${f A}$ | В |
|---|---|
| • Once a rich man was scolding his lazy son. | shouting angrily |
| Somadatta was a poor orphan boy. | person who has no parents or close relatives |
| • That's good payment for this simple fare! | - food |
| • He needed wood to burn in his furnace. | place where a potter bakes his bricks, pots, etc. |
| • Some of them paid him cash while others paid him in kind. | in the form of things, articles, grain, etc. |

3. Quiz your Teacher (with the help of the lesson)!

Student: Teacher, / Sir, / Madam, ...



What does mean?/ What's the meaning of? It means

Look at it carefully. Try to remember it when I wipe it off.



How do we say (an expression / sentence from your mother tongue)?

We say ''.



How do you pronounce?/ What's the pronunciation of? 



How do you spell? / What's the spelling of?

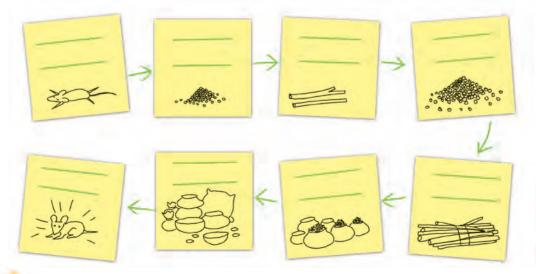


What's the English word for (a word from your mother tongue)?

It's / I'll have to find it out. I'll tell you tomorrow. / There's no English word for this. You can use the word as it is in English.

Now, make groups of five and play the role of Teacher and Students, turn by turn.

- 4. Read the story and list the objects that Somadatta sold.
- 5. Present the story of Somadatta in the form of a flowchart that shows his progress. (Use 5-8 steps.)



I'm going to start a business.

- 6. Use any one of the following as the starting point and build a story on what happens afterwards. You may present your story in the form of a flowchart / the main points / a few pictures with labels (and speeches).
 - 1. Children were playing cricket in the street.
 Their ball went in through Kale Aunty's window.
 - 2. Aneesh planted a mango seed on a hill.
 - 3. Anisha built a robot to do her housework.
 - 4. Sai found an ear of corn in her backyard.
 - 5. A leaf fell on Chicken Licken's head.



| LEARNING |
|----------|
| about |
| LANGUAGE |

ADJECTIVES

Many times we have to describe people, places, animals or other things. We use 'describing words' to do so. Given below are some such 'describing words'.

Read them and find at least three suitable nouns for each describing word. Example - beautiful : place, flower, handwriting.

a beautiful place, a beautiful flower, beautiful handwriting.

| poor : | | lazy : | |
|---------|------|-------------|--|
| dead : | | good: | |
| small: | | well-known: | |
| polite: | | golden: | |

Words that describe a noun or pronoun are called adjectives.

Now spot the adjectives in the following.

Anjita: Are you ready?

Ranjita: No. I am looking for my big blue

sharpener.

Anjita: Why don't you take this green

and small one?

Ranjita: Oh! It's old. It has become blunt.

Anjita: Be quick, please.

- How wonderful were the days we spent at Sagroli!
- Unforgettable moments!
- The jackal was very clever.
- I like fresh vegetables.
- We are sitting on this invisible bench.