



**EDUCATO**  
LEARNING STUDIO

# ENGLISH



## A TALE OF TWO BIRDS

~Summary~



-by Gordon B. Green

This story is about the importance of the companionship one has, how one's companionship can affect one's conduct and build a personality.

The story is about a **mother bird** and her **two newborn birds**. The **mother died in a storm**, and the sons got **separated from each other** in the **thunderstorm**. One of them reached near a **gang of robbers**, and the other one landed near the **Rishi's ashram**. One day, a king got weary while following a deer. He came and sat under the tree near the cave of robbers. There, the king heard a big brown bird's voice. It was calling the **robbers to rob the king**. The king speedily got up from there and rode away.

Next, he reached near the Rishi's ashram. Again he heard the bird's voice, but it was a complete contradiction to what he heard earlier. This bird asked the king to **take rest inside the ashram** and wait for the Rishi to come. The King was surprised to see the same appearance of the birds, but this voice was too kind. The bird told the king that his brother had learned that from the robbers. When the Rishi came, the king shared the story of the birds with him. The Rishi smiled and said it was the **consequence of the company that was being given back** on the actions of birds. That bird was not wrong. He was replicating what he had heard, and the forest was **full of surprises**.

~Conclusion~

The two birds show that our company determines our conduct. The story concludes that one ought to choose one's company wisely. While bad company corrupts us, good company makes us gentle and kind.



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# THE FRIENDLY MONGOOSE

~Summary~



-by Khushwant Singh

The story "**The Friendly Mongoose**" is taken from the collection of **fables** called "**Panchatantra**". There was a **farmer** and his **wife**. They lived in a village along with their **baby**. The farmer wished to have a pet in his home because he thought that it would be a good **companion** for his son. So he brought home a **small mongoose**. Within five to six months, the mongoose had grown to its full size.

One day, the farmer's wife had to go out to buy **groceries**. But she didn't want to leave the baby alone with the mongoose. So she asked the farmer to look after the baby till she arrives. But the farmer felt bored and went out to take a look at the fields. On his way, he met some of his friends.

When the wife got back home, she saw the mongoose's face **smudged** with **blood**. She screamed, believing that it had **harmed** her baby. She threw the basket full of groceries at the mongoose and **killed** it. Then she ran towards her baby's cradle. When she saw the dead snake near the baby's cradle, she realised the truth; the mongoose was **innocent**, and it had saved her baby's life by killing the snake. She also realised her **mistake**. She acted rashly without knowing the truth.

The moral of the story is: "**Look before you leap.**" It means that any person must always think **twice** or **thrice** before they do something to avoid **problems**.



Think twice or thrice to avoid problems.

### ~Conclusion~

The story concludes that trust is very important in any bond. The Mongoose was loyal to the farmer's family but the wife's mistrust of him led to its unfortunate death. Loyalty should be repaid with trust and understanding. It also teaches us that our actions should not be guided by quick and reckless judgements. We should think responsibly before we act.



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# ENGLISH



# THE SHEPHERD'S TREASURE

~Summary~



-by Khushwant Singh

This story 'The Shepherd's Treasure' is a famous **Iranian** folk tale woven around an Iranian **shepherd**. The story brings out the meaning that high **values** or **virtues** will lead you to a high position. In this story, the shepherd had risen to a higher **position** through his **wisdom** and **humility**.

The shepherd though **uneducated** and poor, remained wise. He solved the **problems** of people who came to him. The **solutions** given by him gave them full confidence and courage. He treated everyone with equality. Soon, the shepherd's intelligence and helping nature gained him **popularity**. Also, it reached the king of the country.

The king wanted to check his intelligence personally. He **appointed** him as a **governor** of a small district after **testing** his intelligence. The new governor worked hard using his potential and intelligence. He treated everyone equally. His humility and intelligence reached all over the country.

People **praised** him and acknowledged him for being so kind and wise. This made the governors of other provinces grow **envious** of him. So, they narrated some **false** stories, accusing him of saving **money** from the tax and hiding it in the iron chest that he carried along every time.

When the shepherd proved him to be an honest person by unveiling the iron chest, everyone was shocked. The king was pleased with his intelligence for the **second** time and rewarded him for the second time. This time, the shepherd was appointed as a governor of a **bigger** district. Hence, the story ends with a moral that good virtues will always be recognised and **rewarded**.

~Conclusion~

By proving his honesty, the shepherd became the governor of a bigger district. This tale of the shepherd teaches us the value of wisdom and humility. It reminds us that we ought to remain humble even when we reach the peaks of success.



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# ENGLISH





# THE OLD-CLOCK SHOP

~Summary~



-by Khushwant Singh

The **story** took place in an **old-clock shop** in **Salt Lake City** during the **Christmas Eve**. Ray, its owner, was an **old deaf man**. Having finished the work, Ray stood up and was on his way to the **backroom** when the **front door opened**. There were two men: one was in his **twenties**, and the other was about **fifty**. The **younger man** stood at the **door** while the **older one** approached **Ray**. The latter looked **unfriendly**, and his eyes suggested that they were there to **steal**.

Hiding his **fear**, Ray pushed his **notepad** and a **pencil** across the counter to communicate with his visitor. He then explained to the **man** that he was **deaf**. Meanwhile, Ray took a closer look at the man and realised that he held a **gun** in his **right coat-pocket**. Though Ray knew the ill-intentions behind the men's visit, he wrote a **message** pointing at the '**loan board**'. He asked whether the man had come back to **retrieve** his **clock** or watch that he had **pledged**.

Though Ray wasn't a **pawnbroker**, he loaned **interest-free money** to the **needy**. The man soon **started** to feel at ease. He looked at his **wristwatch** and asked him how much it was **worth**. Ray gave him a **fifty-dollar note** though the watch wasn't of much **value**. Meanwhile, the man's **unfriendly eyes** had turned **grateful** as he experienced **kindness** and **compassion**. He promised **Ray** that he would come back to **pay** him **back**.

As the story ended, all the **clocks** and **timepieces** struck 12 in **harmony**. The music from the clocks filled the shop with **hope**, and the three men realised the **timeless message** of Christmas: '**Peace on earth, goodwill towards all**'.



### ~Conclusion~

Ray's story shows that good behaviour and kind treatment can melt every heart. With his good nature, he manages to thwart the bad intentions of the two men. Instead of resorting to violence or bloodshed, they leave amicably.

This also teaches us that we should not panic or allow fear to overcome our senses in difficult situations. When handled with alertness and humanly understanding, even the most dangerous situations can be resolved peacefully.



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# ENGLISH



# TANSEN

## ~Summary~



-by Khushwant Singh

The story 'Tansen' is about the greatest **musician** of **India**. He was the only child of his parents. His father was a singer named **Mukandan Misra**. As a child, he spent a lot of time in the forest playing and **imitating** the **voice** of **birds** and **animals**. **Swami Haridas** recognised his talent and **assured** his father that he could make Tansen into a great **singer**. Tansen's father agreed to it. Thus, Tansen **left** his parents and stayed along with Swami Haridas for **eleven years** and became a good singer. Unfortunately, Tansen's **parents died** around this time. Tansen decided to live along with a holy man named **Mohammad Ghaus** to fulfil his father's **dying wish**. After some time, Tansen married Hussaini and had five children. Tansen's **family members** had a good **musical background**.

When **Akbar** noticed Tansen's talent, he **appointed** him to his court. Although this paved the way for a strong **musical bond** between Tansen and Akbar, Tansen's fellow **courtiers** were envious on him. They **plotted** to kill him by making him **sing Raga Deepam**.

Tansen had a thought after some time. He gave practice to his daughter and her friend to sing Raga Megh in order to balance the warm effect of Raga Deepam. The **nature** of these two Ragas are, **Raga Deepak** will create a **warm** atmosphere and **burn** the singer into **ashes**; whereas, Raga Megh produces rain. On the appointed day while singing Raga Deepak, Tansen was **saved** but was fell ill. He got **recovered** after some time. Also, Akbar **punished** the **enemies** of Tansen. He served Akbar's court till 1585 until his death. His **tomb** in **Gwalior** is still a **pilgrimage** centre for **musicians**.

## ~Conclusion~

Tansen went on to become even more popular for his music. He had given an excellent display of talent as well as wisdom. The Emperor punished the courtiers who had devised the plan and he honoured Tansen by keeping him in his court until the day the great musician died in 1585. Tansen's tomb in Gwalior remains a place of importance even today.



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# ENGLISH



# THE MONKEY AND THE CROCODILE

~Summary~



-by Paul Galdone

The story, "The Monkey and the Crocodile" is an **excerpt** taken from 'Panchatantra stories'. The story starts with a monkey's **desire** of wanting a **friend** for itself near his place. There came a day when a **crocodile** comes on its way. The innocent monkey **introduces** himself to the crocodile and makes him a good friend.

The monkey **regularly offers food** for himself and his wife. Both the monkey and the crocodile **discuss** a lot of things on a **routine** basis. Then came a day when their **conversation exceeded the usual time**. The **crocodile's wife** was **angry** because she struggled hard with the little ones. She **demanded** for the **monkey's heart** when her husband returned home.

Initially, the crocodile was **adamant** in **fulfilling** his **wife's wish**. Still, his wife didn't listen and **dived** into the **water**. As a **dutiful husband**, the crocodile chose to accept his wife's demand instead of safeguarding his friendship. The crocodile invited the **innocent monkey** for a meal the next day. The crocodile revealed its plan in the middle of the river. The **intelligent monkey** used his **presence of mind** and managed to **escape** from the **situation**. The monkey tactfully told the crocodile that it **kept his heart away** on the **tree it resides**.

The **foolish crocodile** took him **back**; the monkey **jumped** on to the **tree quickly** and **relaxed** for a while. It bade **farewell** to the crocodile offering few fruits. The crocodile **realised** its **mistake** and felt **terrible** for **losing** such a **great friend**. The heartbroken crocodile **returned home** with an **anger** towards his **wife**.

Meaning of difficult words:

S. No.	Words	Meaning
1.	<b>Excerpt</b>	A short piece or a segment taken from a book, document, music or a film

~Conclusion~

On reaching the tree, the monkey says a final goodbye to the crocodile. The crocodile sheds tears for having betrayed and lost a true friend. Their story teaches the value of trust and loyalty in friendship. It also shows that our wisdom can save us from dangerous situations and foolish friends.



**EDUCATO**  
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# ENGLISH



# THE WONDER CALLED SLEEP

~Summary~



-by Edward Thomas

The lesson "**The Wonder Called Sleep**" talks about the concept of **sleep**. Sleep is a state of **unconscious rest**. During this state, our body and mind drift into a state of **unconsciousness**. When we **sleep**, our body starts **recovering** from the **tiredness** caused by the day's **activities**. Several things happen to our body while we are sleeping. Our **biological system** repairs and rejuvenates, our **muscles** relax, our **heartbeats** become slower, our **temperature** and **blood pressure** go down, our **minds** and **bodies** grow stronger, and we gain more **immunity power** during our sleep. The ever-active brain also slows down so that we won't be able to think or act **consciously**. Moreover, we have **dreams**.

Dream, an **activity** of **mind**, is a **series** of **events**, **thoughts**, **images**, and **sensations** that happen in our mind when we are **sleeping**. Dreams can be probable or improbable in nature, but they can **never** reveal anything about the **future**. Dreams are **essential** because it can help us **sleep** through the night **without disturbances**. Also, it can tell a lot about one's **problems**.

Though sleep is a common experience, it is filled with **wonders** and **packed** with **power**. The poem "Lights Out" by Edward Thomas describes the **concept** of **sleep** at its best. It tells us the **experience** of **falling asleep**, and it makes us wonder at the **beauty** and the **mysterious nature** of **sleep**. At the same time, the poem also explains how **inevitable** the sleep is. Once you are in the border, you cannot **refrain** yourself from falling **asleep**.

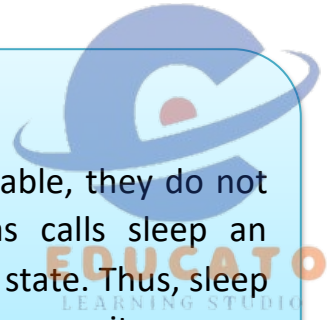




Sleep: a state of unconscious rest

### ~Conclusion~

Though some of the events or incidents that we see in our dreams are probable, they do not predict the future. In his poem "Lights Out", the poet Edward Thomas calls sleep an "unfathomable deep", referring to the impossibility of fully understanding this state. Thus, sleep is a state of stillness, a temporary pause and rest. It gives the body time to renew its energy. Hence, a good sleep is a must for us to wake up fresh and active.





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# ENGLISH



## A PACT WITH THE SUN

~Summary~



-by Khushwant Singh

The story "A Pact with the Sun" is written by Zakir Husain. It revolves around the characters Saeeda and her sick mother.



Saeeda and her mother

Saeeda's mother was suffering from several kinds of **ailment**. She was so **pale** and **weak**, and she was always **confined** to her tiny room with windows shut. Various **physicians** had treated her, and yet she was never completely cured. It came to the point that it seemed as if she would **die**. Later, some of her relatives convinced her to consult a **specialist**. She **sold** some of her **jewellery** to pay for the doctor's **fees** and the **medicine**.

The doctor **examined** Saeeda's mother and prescribed some **costly medicines**. In addition to that, he had also asked her to get an hour's worth of **sunlight** and **fresh air**, between eight and

nine in the morning. Despite the **opposition** from some of the elders in her house, Saeeda's mother had decided to follow the doctor's **instructions**. Unfortunately, the next two days remained cloudy and gloomy. The sky was filled with **clouds**, and the sun was well **hidden**. Saeeda's mother was **heartbroken**.

**Saeeda** had **heard** what the **doctor** had said, and she was also aware that her mother was feeling very **sad**. Later in the same afternoon, she **discovered** a spot on the **courtyard** where the sun rays were **retreating**. She called out to one of them in a **secret language** known only to the children. She asked the little **ray** to come back tomorrow to help her sick mother **recover**. The little ray **promised** her the same and left.

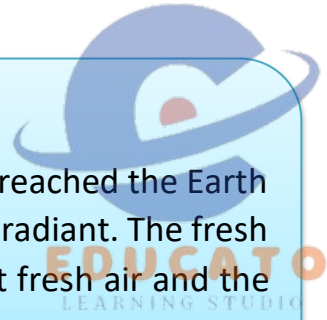
On the next day, the sky remained **cloudy**. The sun was **hidden** behind them. However, to keep her **promise** with Saeeda, the little ray and her **sibling** rays convinced their father, the sun, to visit the earth. They also pushed through the **thick clouds** and reached Saeeda's **courtyard**. Saeeda and her mother were very **happy** and **grateful**. As time went by, Saeeda's mother **recovered**. Plenty of **sunlight** and lungful of **air**, along with the proper **medicine**, and **healed** Saeeda's mother.



Saeeda makes a pact with the Sun

### ~Conclusion~

The sun's rays were so strong and united that they penetrated the clouds and reached the Earth as promised. The Sun shone bright and Saeeda's pale and weak mother looked radiant. The fresh air and the warmth of the mighty Sun helped her recover. This concludes that fresh air and the sun's warmth are good for our health.





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# ENGLISH



# WHAT HAPPENED TO THE REPTILES

~Summary~



-by ZAI WHITAKER  
EDUCATO

In this **moral** story, the **narrator** Prem, by narrating his own **experience** with a story he had told by an old man, shows us the importance of '**Unity**'.



Unity in diversity

The story reflects the importance of **religious harmony**, as, the author points out the fact of how everyone shares an equal role in the society irrespective of their **colour, creed, race, religion, ranking**, etc., and it would result in a huge **disaster** if this system is **disturbed**.





### Religious Harmony

Here, by inserting a story (story of **Pambupatti**) inside a story, the author tries to raise his voice against dictatorship, which is a lesson to the human beings themselves. It also reflects the advantages of unity and disadvantages of disunity. Though people belong to different categories, they **all** share the **same position** and deserve equal respect, importance, freedom, etc.

The narrator in this story, by portraying the character **Makara**, brings out how people suffer due to **ineffective** leadership and bad decisions. In this story, Makara being powerful, held the position of a leader and ruled the whole forest **dominantly**.



Makara, the arrogant leader

It ruled so **arrogantly** in a way that it did not allow the fellow speakers to talk against its decision when expelling the other animals from the forest. It spotted out drawbacks in the other animals' behaviour and chased them one by one which includes **tortoises, snakes, and lizards**. These decisions taken by Makara had created trouble for itself and others as well, and so lost its power. Only when the animals had taken a group decision, the situation came back to **normal** at last. The story **emphasizes** the importance of being **united**.

### ~Conclusion~

Happiness and peace returned to the jungle as all the reptiles came back to their homes. Through this story, Prem understands that it is important for all people to coexist peacefully. He resolves to head back with the hope of retelling the story of the reptiles to the people of his village.



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# ENGLISH



## A STRANGE WRESTLING MATCH

~Summary~



-by Indira David

The story 'A Strange Wrestling Match' is about a **wrestler** named Vijay Singh. Vijay Singh likes to boast things. This habit landed him in **trouble** once. He openly challenged in front of his village, that he had the guts to meet a ghost and fight with it.

As a result, he travelled to a **haunted** desert and encountered the **ghost**. Fortunately, an old woman gave him an egg and lump of salt when he started his **journey**. Vijay Singh used it as a key to cheat the ghost. He made the ghost believe Vijay Singh is much **stronger** than the ghost; and, than any person, the ghost met in its life.

When the ghost believed Vijay Singh's power, it **felt** no one could **defeat** him. It then planned to kill Vijay Singh through a **trick**. So, the ghost invited Vijay Singh to spend a night in its place. Vijay Singh accepted the ghost's request with a **demand** to make it as his prisoner the next day.

When Vijay Singh stayed in its place, he set up his bed with **bolsters** and closed it with a bedspread, to make it look like a sleeping man. The foolish ghost attempted to kill Vijay Singh by beating him seven times with a club.

After some time, when the ghost noticed Vijay Singh sitting on the bed **alive**, it was **shocked**. Vijay Singh **informed** the ghost that he had seven flappings on an insect's wings, which refers to the ghost's seven blows. The ghost finally ran away from its place, **leaving** the looted things behind.

Vijay Singh distributed much of the looted wealth to its owners. He also married the old woman's **granddaughter** in return for her timely **help**. From then, Vijay Singh became **cautious** and **never** used to **boast** things.

~Conclusion~

Vijay Singh took back all the wealth that the ghost had acquired by looting people and returned most of it to the rightful owners. He thanked the old woman whose packet had helped him in his quest and also married her granddaughter. Besides earning the respect of the villagers, Vijay Singh also learned the lesson to never be boastful in future.