

## TOPIC: Respecting the Nation

Value	Age Group	Type of illustration
Respecting National Bird	G3: 6, 7 & 8	Classroom Discussions

**Teacher enters the class and greets everyone.**

Teacher: Students, today I am going to tell an interesting incident about a girl named Preeti who is also in 4th standard.

**Narration begins..**

Preeti comes back from school and tells her mother that she needs pictures of any five national symbols as her teacher has given a project for Independence Day and she needs to submit it before 14th August.

Once Preeti got the pictures, she started pasting them in her book and decorating them with different colours. Her father was sitting beside her and was having coffee.

Preeti asked her father, why can't the eagle be our national bird as it flies so high and fast. Peacock can't even fly so it is not suitable to be our national bird.

Preeti's father Mohan told her, peacocks are found everywhere in Bharat and Bharat is the country where peacocks are found the highest in the world. That is the main reason for making it our national bird.

Preeti said that we find so many eagles also in Bharat.

Mohan replied back saying, eagles are found in great numbers too in our country but peacock represents the real essence of our country.

Preeti asked, what is the real essence of Bharat?

Mohan answered saying, Bharat is the only country in the world which has never attacked or invaded any other country. It shows we are a peaceful nation just like the peacock which is a peaceful bird unlike an eagle which is ferocious and attacks small creatures.

Preeti was still not convinced and she thought the peacock is made the national bird because it is very beautiful. Her father had told her in the past that beauty is not everything and we shouldn't just see things by how pretty they look. So, she felt it is wrong to have a bird as a national bird just because it is beautiful.

**Narration paused...**

.....  
*Here the teacher will pause the narration and ask a few questions to the students.*

1. Which is the national bird of Bharat?
  2. What was the project assigned to Preeti?
  3. Why did Preeti feel peacock should not be our national bird?
  4. Do you agree with Preeti? Justify your answer.
  5. Why is the peacock our national bird?
  6. How does the peacock represent the essence of our country better than an eagle?
  7. Do you agree that we should not judge a thing only by its external beauty?
- .....

**Teacher continues:**

Mohan understood the confusion in Preeti's mind so he asked her why she feels peacock feathers are beautiful?

Preeti answered that peacock feathers have so many colours and all the colours are blended together so well.

Mohan replied that it shows how our country also has different kinds of people speaking different languages and eating different food and wearing different clothes. But still we all live together as one and that makes our country great. So, the peacock gives us a message to stay together. It is a symbol of Unity in Diversity.

Preeti's mother, Lakshmi told her that a peacock is not only beautiful and peaceful but it is also a divine bird.

Preeti didn't know about divinity so Lakshmi explained that divinity means Godliness and we Bhartiya see Godliness everywhere in nature. Every living creature is divine to us and peacocks are more divine because our Gods also love peacocks.

She asked Preeti if she remembers the vehicle of Lord Kartikeya.

Preeti said excitedly that it is a peacock and she also mentioned that Lord Krishna wears a peacock feather on his head.

Mohan added further that even Goddesses Lakshmi and Saraswati are associated with Peacock. Peacock feathers are considered a symbol of good luck and also used in Ayurveda to remove toxins from our body.

Preeti was finally convinced and she exclaimed that one bird has so many qualities and she agreed that peacock is the most suitable bird to be our national bird.

**Narration ends...**

.....  
*Teacher has to ask the following questions to the students.*

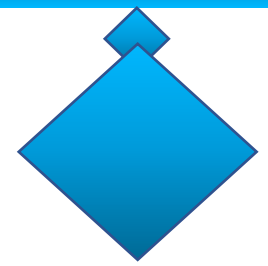
1. Do you think peacock is our national bird just because its feathers are beautiful?(Answer is Yes/No)
  2. How do peacock feathers represent Unity in Diversity?
  3. Why is peacock considered a divine bird?
  4. Why was Preeti convinced that the peacock should be our national bird? (Name the qualities of peacock)
  5. Do you agree with Preeti that peacock should always remain our national bird?
- .....

### Quotes:

1. “The pride of the peacock is the glory of God.” — William Blake  
[**Meaning:** It means that God has given special qualities to some special persons on which they feel proud.]

### Activity 1

1. Students can be asked to observe other national symbols and mention their significance.
2. Students can be asked to make a collage on national symbols.



## TOPIC: Respecting the Nation

Value	Age Group	Type of illustration
Respecting Indian Army	G3: 6, 7 & 8	Classroom Discussions

**Teacher enters the class and greets everyone.**

Teacher: Students, today I am going to tell you all a story of a birthday party which turned into an eye-opening incident for two children Dhatri and Dheeraj.

**Narration begins...**

It was Dhatri's birthday party. All her friends were there and they all happily sang "Happy birthday to you!!" Once the birthday party was over, Dhatri's mother, Ramya asked her to open her gifts.

Dhatri said "No Amma, I am not in a mood to open the gifts. Appa promised me he won't miss my birthday party, but he didn't come home, just like last year. He never keeps his promise." Dhatri said with mixed hurt and anger.

Her 16-year-old brother, Dheeraj joined her "Yes Amma. Dhatri is right. Appa never keeps his promise. He didn't attend our sports meet or annual day. He didn't even come when I was receiving an award for winning the state level chess championship".

Ramya was taken back from her son's response. "Come on Dheeraj, your sister is young, she doesn't understand, but you are mature enough and I am surprised even you are speaking like this. Don't you know your father is so busy and doing such important work!".

Dheeraj smiled sarcastically, "Yes I know he is busy. He is always busy. He has no time for us. He didn't come when Dhatri was hospitalized last

year or when grandfather passed away before that or when Rashmi akka got married. Sometimes I feel he loves his job more than us”.

Ramya said in a calm tone, “Yes kids, he loves his job more than us. But you know what his job is, it is to protect us. And by ‘ US ‘ I don’t mean just his family but the whole country”.

Suddenly the phone started ringing. Ramya said happily “Looks like your father is calling to wish you Dhatri.” And picked up the call. The call was from an Army base.

“Yes, this is the wife of Captain Ramakrishna. Is everything OK?” Ramya said in an anxious voice. The excitement in her tone moments ago suddenly vanished.

In a moment her kids came near her and watched their mother with worry. After a few word exchanges, Ramya ended the call and told the kids to turn on the TV and put on some news channel.

Kids were confused but silently did as their mother asked.

The TV screen was showing a house somewhere in Kashmir valley surrounded by the Indian army and the reporter was saying “On the TV screen you can see our soldiers surrounding a house where three terrorists have taken hostage a family with five adults and four kids. This operation is led by Captain Ramakrishna and we can see how our soldiers are fighting bravely”.

Ramya and the kids held their breath and watched in silence as soldiers fought bravely risking their lives to save people. Suddenly the live telecast stopped and the reporter in the studio informed the viewers “Due to safety reasons, our reporters from the location have been evacuated but we assure you that our army will soon complete this mission with flying colors” and they started showing other news.

## **Narration paused...**

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*Here the teacher will pause the narration and ask a few questions to the students.*

1. Why was Dhatri upset?
  2. Why did the kids feel their father didn't love them enough?
  3. Were they feeling right?
  4. What was Dhatri and Dheeraj's father's profession?
  5. Which is the first priority for a soldier? Family or a country?
  6. What was Captain doing when his daughter was celebrating her birthday and waiting for him?
  7. Why couldn't her father attend Dhatri's birthday party even after promising? Justify whether his action is acceptable?
  8. What should be the attitude of the family of a soldier ?
- .....

## **Narration continues...**

For a long time, there was no update and everyone were worried and anxious. Suddenly the news reporter announced, "We are glad to be the first one to inform our viewers that our Indian soldiers have been successful in capturing the terrorists and releasing the hostages. It was told that these terrorists were headed to Delhi and were planning to create havoc at the Republic Day celebration. We must congratulate the whole team led by Captain Ramakrishna who not only saved lives of hostages but were also responsible for saving thousands of people present at the celebration along with many children who have won National Bravery Award this year. We salute our soldiers and are proud of them who stay away from their family to protect our country. We salute their families as well who support these soldiers."

That night, Dheeraj and Dhatri went to bed with regret for their words spoken earlier and with their hearts full of pride and gratitude for their Appa with a conviction to write to their father and tell him the same.

## Narration ends...

.....  
*Teachers can ask the following questions to the students.*

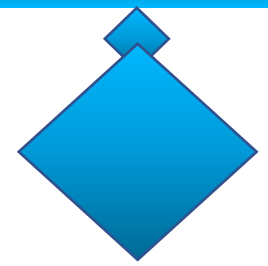
1. Why couldn't the kids understand the importance of their father's profession?
  2. Do you think Captain Ramakrishna is placing his country above his family?
  3. Do you think the Captain is right in doing so?
  4. How the kids must have felt after they witnessed their father's bravery on TV?
  5. Suppose Captain visited home for the birthday party instead of leading the mission and in case the other team failed in the mission, what could have happened?
  6. What is the role of the family in the life of soldiers?
  7. Imagine yourself as Dheeraj/Dhatri and talk about what you want to say to your father?
- .....

## Quotes:

1. "Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it, it flies with the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it."
2. "Sleep peacefully at your homes. The Indian Army is guarding the frontiers."
3. "Either I will come back after hoisting the Tricolor, or I will come back wrapped in it. But I'll be back for sure." – Captain Vikram Batra (Param Vir Chakra).

## Activity

3. Students can be asked to talk to someone from defence and know about their experience.
4. Students can be asked to talk about any defence person whose sacrifice made a great difference.



## TOPIC: Respecting Human Beings

Value	Age Group	Type of illustration
Respecting Self	G3: 6, 7 & 8	Classroom Discussions

**Teacher enters the class and greets the students.**

Teacher: Students Today I am going to tell you an interesting story of a girl named 'Sudha'.

**Story begins...**

Sudha was from Tamil Nadu but settled in Mumbai. She wanted to be a classical dancer since her childhood so she was getting trained in Bharatanatyam.

She used to give dance performances and was very happy with her life. At the age of 16, when she was going to Chennai, she met with an accident and her legs were injured. She was hospitalized and doctors gave her some initial treatment and she was recovering. But later they came to know that there was gangrene (Gangrene is death of body tissue due to a lack of blood flow or a serious bacterial infection) formation on her right leg, Because of which doctors had to cut her right leg. And with that, all her dreams for the future were cut down.

The people who used to appreciate her talent saw her with pity. The family and friends who supported her would just tell her sympathetic words. Sudha who was so confident to make it big as a dancer was completely down with depression.

**... Story paused**

.....  
*Teacher will stop the narration at this point and will ask the following questions.*

1. What were the options for Sudha after her accident?
  2. How did one incident change the life of Sudha?
  3. What do you think is the mental status of Sudha?
  4. How do you think Sudha can come out of her mental state?
  5. How do you think Sudha can get back her life and come out of her tragedy?
  6. Do you think it's advisable to be pitied by others?
- .....

Now the teacher can continue with narration of the story.

Teacher: Let us see what happens to Sudha.

### **Story continues...**

Sudha was completely devastated after the accident and had lost all hopes.

The ever-confident Sudha had turned into a depressed under confident girl. It took an accident to change a dancing star to a cripple.

It took Sudha some time to come out of depression and think about her future. She wanted to walk and dance and become a dancing star just like she dreamed. So first she started walking using a prosthetic Jaipur Foot(The Jaipur foot, also known as the Jaipur leg, is a rubber-based prosthetic leg for people with below-knee amputations.)

It took Sudha two years to get back to dancing but she didn't lose hope. She wanted to see herself perform on the stage. She didn't see herself as a cripple anymore. Instead of becoming a weakness, her prosthetic leg became her support and she practiced day and night.

With her dedication and self-confidence, she became a famous classical dancer and performed in India, Saudi Arabia, United States, UK, Canada, UAE and many other countries.

Soon after Sudha acted in a Telugu movie named Mayuri which is her own story and for which she got a special jury National award. After that she continued her acting and dancing career and became a household name as Sudha Chandran.

### ... Story ends

Teacher: Students, this is a real-life story of dancer and actress Sudha Chandran.

.....  
*Teacher can further ask the following questions to students.*

1. What are the qualities Sudha exhibited in handling her tragedy?
  2. Which was the one decision that changed Sudha's life?
  3. Can you briefly talk/ visualize about the efforts taken by Sudha to become a dancer again? Quote 3-4 points.
  4. Which are the qualities that you can learn from Sudha's life?
  5. If you meet Sudha ji, what will you tell her?
- .....

### Quotes:

Teacher: There is quote in Sanskrit which says,

“सर्वं परवशं दुःखं सर्वमात्मवशं सुखम् ।

एतद् विद्यात् समासेन लक्षणं सुखदुःखयोः ॥”

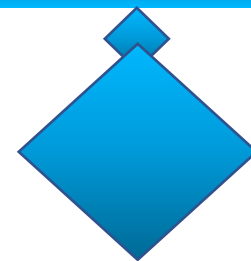
It means “Everything that depends on other's will is misery, but all that is under our will is happiness. This is the definition of happiness and misery.

Life situations are not under anyone's control, the will of the destiny may be anything but, if we have the will power to perceive it in a positive way

and make best of the situation it leads to happiness. This decides happiness or misery as a take away out of any given situation.

### Activity

5. Teachers can ask the students to watch the movie Mayuri (Telugu) or Nache Mayuri (Hindi) to learn more about Sudha Chandran's life.
6. Students should be asked to collect similar real-life stories and should be asked to narrate in the next class.



## TOPIC: Respecting Nation

Value	Age Group	Type of illustration
Swaccha Bharat	G3: 6, 7 & 8	Classroom Discussions

**The teacher enters the class and starts telling a story.**

Rahul and Gautam had just completed their 10th standard examinations. It had been 2-3 months since they had played at the nearby ground. They were now relaxed and free and decided to cycle to the ground and meet their friends. As they cycled, they had to pass alongside the nearby park. They found many children playing and people walking in the park. They also found some children and elders having juice and eating snacks and food items. They also found so many plastic covers and bottles littered all over. Though there was a dust-bin, most of the litter was outside the bin.

Rahul said, "Gautam, let's go to the park and play or sit for some time". Gautam said, "No, I don't want to come inside. The park is so dirty".

**Story is paused...**

.....  
*Teacher can now start asking questions*

1. What did Rahul and Gautam want to do?
  2. What did they see in the park?
  3. What do you think about the dirty park?
  4. What do you think are the responsibilities of people who come to the park?
  5. Why don't people put waste in the dust bin?
  6. Do you think food items should be allowed in the park?
- .....

**Teacher continues:**

Rahul said, "Yes, the park is very dirty. But still the park is so close to our home. How nice it would be if the park was cleanly maintained. Why don't we clean up the mess ourselves?"

Gautam replied, "Why should we clean the park? It is the duty of the Government to maintain cleanliness. Also, why should we only clean when somebody else has littered the park. It is not our work anyway...."

Rahul says, "You're right, but if everyone has the same indifferent attitude, the park will never be clean. This time let us take it up as our duty to clean the park and also educate the people to keep it clean henceforth".

Both of them parked their cycles along the road side. They brought a huge bag to gather the litter. Covering their hands with gloves, they picked up all the waste, plastic bottles, covers etc and put it into the bag and finally emptied it into the waste bin. Others who had gathered there also gave a helping hand to these children and cleared up the mess. They lauded the efforts of Rahul and Gautam. After clearing up the park, Rahul and Gautam decided to campaign for a clean park.

Rahul: Let us put a few placards and posters near the park asking people not to litter.

Gautam: Very good idea. Since it is vacation and we are free, we can come here in the evening for some time and campaign for a clean park.

Rahul: Once, people are all aware, they will not litter the park and keep it clean.

Rahul and Gautam campaigned for a clean park and within a week, there was no litter. All the people started throwing the waste into the waste bin only. Finally, the efforts of Rahul and Gautam ensured a clean park in their neighborhood.

.....  
*Teacher again asks questions.*

1. What did Rahul want to do? Was he right?
  2. How did Gautam reply? Whose responsibility is it to clean the park?
  3. Don't you think it is people's responsibility to keep their premises clean instead of blaming the Government?
  4. How should people behave when they visit the park/public places?
  5. How does the dirty park reflect on our country's image?
  6. How does a dirty park reflect on children's health?
  7. Observe the park near your house. What will you do if it is dirty?
- .....

### **Hurdles:**

#### **Hurdles faced by children to clean the park**

1. Fear of infection (Appendix – 1)
2. Laziness (Appendix – 2)

### **Quotes:**

1. Cleanliness is next to Godliness
2. Stay clean stay healthy
3. A clean community is a strong community
4. Healthy habits start with cleanliness

## Activity

7. Visit the park near your house and report on its cleanliness. If it is not clean try to clean it with your friends. Take some photos and make a collage out of it and display it on your school board. Also educate the people in the park about cleanliness.
8. Write quotations on cleanliness on the white boards displayed in the park.
9. Make a model of a well-maintained park and display it during School day or during Dussehra festival in your home.

## Appendix 1

### **Fear of infection:**

Parents may not allow children to clean the park due to fear of infection. Teachers should suggest the children wear masks, wear gloves, and wash hands after cleaning. They should also take the help of adults or parents or government authorities/gardeners in the park.

## Appendix 2

### **How to overcome Laziness:**

Teachers have to tell the following to students to overcome laziness and motivate them to serve the country and feel proud of our country.

If one feels lazy to clean their park near their house, they will have to use the dirty park only and later suffer with infections it brings to them. Therefore, cleaning the park will give them self-satisfaction that they have contributed something to the society. It also brings out leadership qualities in them. If one thinks in this way, they will no more feel lazy to do anything. Students who contribute to the society by doing such social activities will be respected by everybody in the society. They also increase the pride of the country.