

STORIES WITH MORAL
FOR
1ST YEAR STUDENTS



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**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE &
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LAHORE

The Woodcutter

Honesty demands truthfulness, integrity, loyalty, faith, and more. It is the most crucial ingredient of a strong moral character and it teaches us the difference between right and wrong. Honest people have a unique way of looking at life, they do not compromise on their moral values for materialistic gains. They are the foundation of a prosperous society.

Once there lived a woodcutter in a village. He was very poor. He used to cut the trees in the nearby forest to sell the wood in the market to earn money for his family. One day, he was cutting a bough of a tree just on the bank of a river. By chance, his axe slipped and fell into the river. He was helpless. His axe was the only source of earning for him. He was too poor to buy a new axe. He started crying bitterly.

The angel of mercy appeared before him. He asked the woodcutter why he was crying. The woodcutter told him the whole matter. The angel took pity on him. He dived into the river and came up with a golden axe. He asked the woodcutter if that was his axe. The woodcutter told that it was not his axe. The angel dived into the water again and appeared with a silver axe. The woodcutter again refused to take that axe as that was not his. The angel dived again and brought a bronze axe. The woodcutter did not accept this axe because that was not his. The angel dived fourth time and brought the iron axe. That was the real axe of the woodcutter. The angel offered this axe to him. The woodcutter was overjoyed to see his own axe. He accepted that at once. The angel was greatly impressed by his honesty. He gave him other three axes as the reward of his honesty.

Moral: Honesty is the best policy

No Pains, No Gains

Life is full of challenges and only those can enjoy it who face the obstacles with determination and courage. We come to realize our true strength in hard time and difficulties can be overcome when we refuse to give up and make every effort to achieve the result of our choice. No matter what the nature of obstacles is but with persistence we can turn the tide in our favor.

On a hot summer day, a crow felt very thirsty. He was in search of water. He flew here and there but could not find water anywhere. He was much worried. At last, he reached a garden. He looked around and found a pitcher of water under a tree. He at once hopped towards it. He peeped into the pitcher. There was a little water in it at its bottom. He tried to drink the water but was disappointed to find the water too low.

He tried to break the pot with its beak but could not do so. He tried to go as deep into the pitcher as he could, but its beak could not touch the level of the water. Then he tried to overturn the pitcher, but it was too much for his strength. The crow was clever and optimistic. He began to think new devices. He saw a heap of pebbles nearby. He hit upon a plan.

He picked up a stone and dropped into the pitcher. He dropped some more stones one by one. The water rose a little. Then he dropped more stones till the water level rose so high that he could drink it. Thus, he quenched his thirst and flew away.

Moral Lesson: Necessity is the mother of invention

God helps those who help themselves

No Pains, No Gains

Where there is a will, there is a way.

A Foolish Stag

It is sad that outward appearances are often deceptive. What appears useful and good may prove useless and harmful. Therefore, we should not be jealous of the appearance of people and things. That's why it is said, "All that glitters is not gold." The following moral story, "A Foolish Stag," proves the truth of this saying. "

One day a stag went to a pool to quench his thirst. The pool water was so clear and still that he could see his reflection in it quite vividly. He looked at the image of his horns and felt proud of their beauty. Suddenly, his eyes fell on the reflection of his fore legs, he thought they were thin and ugly. He felt sad and with a heavy heart, he quenched his thirst. As the stag was about to leave, he saw a lion coming towards him. So, he took to his heels and the lion was left far behind. The stag took a sigh of relief. But unfortunately, his horns got caught in bushes. He tried his best to be free himself but could not. In the meantime, the lion came quite closer. The stag now cursed himself for condemning his legs and praising his horns. But now he could do nothing. The lion overtook him and tore him to pieces.

The stag was having pride for his horns because of which, he became the food of the lion. On the other hand, he was cursing his legs, which only could save him from the grip of the lion.

Moral: Pride hath a fall

All that glitters is not gold

The Hen that Laid Golden Eggs

Once upon a time there lived a cloth merchant in a village with his wife and two children. He used to remain worried because his business was not going well. People would buy cloth, but they used to pay him in installments, sometimes they would not even pay him. One day he went to collect money from an old man, but he was not at home, in anger he picked one of old man's hens and came back. He did not know that his luck was about to change. The hen which he brought was not an ordinary hen as it used to lay golden eggs. Next morning when he was about to pick the eggs his happiness knew no limit, the hen has laid golden egg. His lifestyle changed, he bought a big, beautiful house, he opened a new shop in the expensive area of that town. His family could afford any luxury they wanted as they had become quite well-off. But the merchant was not satisfied with what he used to get daily. He was a get rich-trice kind of a person. The man wanted to get all the golden eggs from his hen at one single go. So, one day he thought hard and at last clicked upon a plan. He decided to kill the hen and get all the eggs together.

So, the next day when the hen laid a golden egg, the man caught hold of it, took a sharp knife, chopped off its neck and cut its body open. There was nothing but blood all around and no trace of any egg at all. He felt devastated because now he would not get even one single egg.

His life was going on smoothly with one egg a day but now, he himself made his life miserable. The outcome of his greed was that he started becoming poorer and poorer day by day and ultimately became a pauper.

Moral: Greed is a curse

The slave and the lion

All religions teach to be good to others. A happy social life is only possible if people are kind and generous to one another. If a person does a good deed to others, it is always reciprocated.

Only the merciful may hope for mercy from others. The following story illustrates the frequently quoted moral in a very appropriate way.

Moral: Kindness never goes unrewarded.

The story of a slave and a lion shows that love begets love and one good turn deserves another.

The strong and the weak, the rich and the poor need each other's help. Therefore cooperation is of great importance. The strong ones should not be proud. They must remember that their success depends upon the services of the other ones, weak or strong, small or big.

Once there was a slave. It was very hard working. Unfortunately its master was very cruel. The slave worked day and night but its master never got pleased with its work. He did not give the slave enough food. Besides the slave was abused and punished from time to time. It was upset. It could not bear this any longer. One day it decided to run away to some other place. It passed through a thick jungle. It was hungry and tried to walk. It lay down and dozed off.

Suddenly it heard a noise. It saw a lion lying down on the ground. It was moaning with great pain. Its paw was badly swollen as a thorn had run into it. The slave took pity on the lion and plucked out the thorn from its paw. The lion felt comfort and great relief. Thanking the slave the lion went away. After a couple of months the master caught the slave. He wanted to punish him for his offence. It was decided that the slave should be thrown before a hungry lion. The slave was made to stand in an arena. A hungry lion was led by some hunters. The lion rushed towards the slave. But as soon it came near the slave, he stopped and bowed down. The lion stood still and kept on looking at the slave. To the surprise of everyone there, the lion started licking the feet of the slave. The lion had recognized him. The lion knew that he was the same fellow who had plucked the thorn out of its paw. The slave's master was much impressed by this incident. He set the slave free.

Moral: Kindness never goes unrewarded.

A Friend in Need is a Friend indeed

Sometimes we come across people who claim to be faithful and loyal but they prove to be fair-weather friends in the hour of need. One needs to be careful of such people. Such friends usually leave people in lurch. The following story aptly illustrates the oft-quoted moral: A friend in need is a friend indeed.

This story shows that friendship is tested in hard times only. Unfortunately, many people betray their friends in difficult situations. Such selfish people believe only in paying lip service to their friends. The moral of the story is that real friendship demands sincerity and sacrifice. If a person can not show these qualities he should not make tall claims for friendship.

Once there were two friends .They loved each other's company. One of them was cleverer and sharp. Once they went on a long journey. They promised to help each other through thick and thin. The two friends met serious accidents a couple of times, but luckily each time they had a narrow escape. One such incident proved a test for their friendship. It so happened that while moving on they had to pass through a thick forest. After an hour's journey they saw a bear coming towards them at a distance. They ran for their life. The bear first chased he clever boy.

Luckily he gripped a branch of a nearby tree and climbed on it. The bear jumped as high as it could but could not reach him. It looked at him angrily and turned back to the other boy. It found him lying still and flat on the ground. It touched his body and sniffed him several times, but he was neither moving nor breathing. Thinking that the boy must be dead, the bear went away. Thus the boy's trick worked. He knew that the bear would not harm him if he held his breath. So he pretended to dead and saved his life. When the bear had gone, the clever boy got down the tree and came to him. By way of joke, the selfish boy asked his friend, "what secret did the bear say in your ear?" He told him that the bear gave him a golden piece of advice.

It told him the truth of life. "What was that?" said the clever boy. He said bear advised me to be careful in choosing friends. You can not know people I couple of meetings. Spend some time to see if they can help you in the hour of need. Never make selfish people your friends. "Saying this, he said goodbye to the selfish boy and went away.

Moral : A friend in need is a friend indeed.

The king and the Spider

Optimism is one of the pillars of success. Some people lose heart on an occasional loss, give up all hope and resign themselves to their fate. There are those too who have a positive and optimistic approach about life and never abandon hope. They do not lose heart and even can find hope in hopeless situations. The golden principle of life is that the people who keep their hopes alive are able to show determination. They keep on trying even in difficult circumstances. A man without hope is like a blind person who is finding his way in the dark. Men who have hope can see the light, and ultimately reach their destination. The story of the king and spider shows us a conflict between hope and fear.

Robert Bruce was a brave king. He ruled Scotland for many years. During his rule many battles were fought between Scotland and England. In each battle, Robert Bruce was defeated. Once he had to run away from the battle field to save his life. He was chased by the enemy. Luckily, he saw a cave where he hid himself. He started thinking about his bad luck. The more he thought about his misfortunes, the more he got worried. Clouds of sorrow and dejection circled him. He seemed to have lost all hope. By chance, he saw a spider which had fallen from its web. The spider tried several times to reach the web, but each time it fell down. In spite of this, it did not lose heart. These repeated failures could not discourage it. It kept on trying.

Finally, in its tenth attempt it was able to reach the destination. This incident gave Bruce a new hope. He said to himself, "Look! How brave this tiny creature is, and how cowardly you are! Can't you be as firm as this tiny spider is?" Soon he realized that he had gotten rid of despair.

He became stronger and stronger. He came out of the cave and gathered his forces. He raised the morale of his soldiers by asking them to put faith in their bravery. He decided to regain the lost honor. With a new zeal he attacked the English army. This time he crushed the enemy and won freedom for his countrymen.

Moral: Try try Again.

The Wolf and the Lamb

This world is full of butchers and cruel people. People corrupted by power think that they are above law, morality and decency. As a result, they want to deprive the weak ones of all their rights. The story of the wolf and the lamb shows the truth of the saying: "Might is Right." In this story the lamb presents its case in the logical way, but the wolf turns its back on reasoning and logic.

Once a wolf was very hungry and thirsty. He looked for his prey here and there, but could not find any. On its way, it saw a stream. It stopped there to drink water. He drank water to its fill.

Now it wanted something to eat, but could not find anything. All of a sudden I found a lamb drinking water downstream. The wolf got angry as it saw a meek animal standing beside it. It wanted to teach lamb a lesson. He thought of a plan. He walked towards the lamb and said, "O poor creature, why are you making water muddy and dirty?" The lamb was much surprised to hear that. The little creature said to the wolf, "This is a false allegation. You know the water is flowing from your side and I can't make it dirty." The wolf felt ashamed as its trick did not work. Then it thought of another trick. He said to the lamb, "You know it very well that you abused me last year. I was very patient then. But tell me, why did you do that? Did you know that you were abusing someone who is respected by all birds and animals? Tell me, why you abused me." The lamb was disturbed and shocked. The lamb said to the wolf, "Again, this is a false allegation. That is not fair. Surely, I could not abuse you last year. Dear Sir, I am only six months old." The wolf felt insulted over this plain talk of the lamb. Quite angrily, the wolf said to the helpless creature, "If it wasn't you, then it might be your mother. Yes, it must be your mother because you resemble her a lot. I was patient enough for a long time. Now it is time to punish you." The lamb said to the wolf, "Even if it was my mother, it was not my fault. Why do you want to punish me for my mother's offence?" Unfortunately, the lamb's logic could not impress the wolf. He pounced upon the lamb and tore it to pieces. So the truly justifies the given moral that might is right.

Moral: Might is Right.

A Jackal and a Camel Story

Once there lived a jackal in a jungle present on the bank of a river. There were melon fields on the other bank of the river. The melons were ripe and juicy in the summer season, and the very sight of them made the jackal's mouth watered. The Jackal could not do anything because he did not know how to swim across the river and the river was deep and wide. Luckily he had friendship with a tall camel, He requested the camel to take him across the river. The camel readily agreed to it.

One day, the camel with the jackal on his back, waded through the cold water. On reaching the other bank, both of them started eating the melons. Suddenly, the jackal started to howl. The camel was taken aback on hearing the noise created by the jackal. He, therefore, requested the jackal not to howl. The jackal replied that it was his habit to howl after having meal. The villagers, on hearing the howls, came rushing to the fields with sticks in their hands. The jackal being small slipped under a bush, but the camel was caught because of his size. The villagers beat him well and drove him out of the fields.

As soon as the camel entered the river, the jackal came out from his hide-out and jumped onto the camel's back. It angered the camel but he remained quiet. He thought to teach the jackal a good lesson. So, when he reached the middle of the river, he stopped. This thing alarmed the jackal. When he asked the reason, the camel replied that it was habit. to take a bath after getting a good beating. Saying this, he sat down in the fast flowing river. Unable to keep his balance, the jackal fell into the river and got drowned.

Moral Lesson: Tit For Tat

As You Sow, So shall you Reap

A Foolish Merchant Story

Once upon a time, a merchant earned a large sum of money by selling his goods. He had to go a long way to reach home. He went to an inn to get his horse. The stablemen brought out his horse and said, "Sir, your horse has lost a shoe nail. You better wait and have it put in." The merchant said, "Sorry! I have no time now. Moreover, one nail more or less in the shoe does not matter much." Saying so, he got on his horse and galloped it towards his destination.

After some time, another nail from the shoe of the horse came off. The horse began to limp. Being in a hurry, the merchant did not stop to repair the damage. After some time, the horse began to stagger. Very soon darkness of the night prevailed everywhere. This further decreased the speed of the horse.

The darkness was falling. He was getting late. At last, he got down and led the horse. In the meantime, a gang of robbers appeared from the forest. The merchant could not speed up his horse and save his money. He was at the mercy of the looters. They thrashed him thoroughly and snatched his money. The merchant returned home with a lame horse and empty pocket. His carelessness had cost a heavy price.

Moral Lesson: A Stitch in Time Saves Nine

The Bat and the Animals and the Birds

Once upon a time birds and animals gathered in a forest to choose their king. The birds wanted to make a ruler out of them, while animals insisted that an animal should be the king. They discussed the matter for several days but could not reach any conclusion. At last, they began to fight.

The bat played a strange role in the war between the birds and the animals. If the birds seemed to be winning, it would go over to their side and say, "I am with you with my heart and soul. I am a bird because I fly like you." However if the animals seemed to be winning, the bat would take no time in changing the side. It would switch on its loyalty to animals and say, "I am with you. I am an animal because I give milk to my young ones like you." This behaviour of bat cast a slur on its face. At last, the war came to an end the animals carried the day.

The lion was made the king of the forest. The bat went to congratulate the victor. Anyway, the animals turned it out of the court saying, "You are not an animal because you fly." It then flew over to the camp of the birds. They also turned it out saying, "you are not a bird because you give milk to your young ones." Since that time, the bat has become a symbol of duplicity. It does show its face neither to animals nor to birds. It comes out only in the dark.

Moral Lesson: A rolling stone gathers no moss.