

## UNIT 2

### The Miller, His Son and His Donkey

Look at the picture and answer the questions given below.



1. What do you think is happening in the picture?
2. Why do you think the woman is carrying a baby even though she has a pot on her head?
3. What do you think the other woman is doing? Why?

Listen to the announcement read by your teacher and answer the questions given below.

1. What is the announcement about?
2. Circle the information related to the announcement.
  - a. great news
  - b. buy two get one free
  - c. dance programme
  - d. low prices
  - e. puppet show
  - f. this Sunday only
3. Mimic any announcement that you may have heard/ seen.



## A. Reading

# The Miller, His Son and His Donkey



One day a miller and his son drive their donkey to market. Soon a group of girls sees them and breaks out laughing. “Look!” cries one. “Look at those fools! How silly they are to be walking on foot when the donkey can carry one of them on his back.”

This seems to make sense, so the miller lifts his son onto the donkey and marches along happily. They walk on for a while until they meet an old man who speaks to the son angrily. “You should be ashamed of yourself, you lazy rascal. What do you mean by riding when your poor old father has to walk? It shows that no one respects age anymore. The least you can do is get down and let your father rest his old bones.”

Red with shame, the boy dismounts and makes his father get on the donkey’s back.



They go only a little further when they meet a gang of young fellows who mock at them. “What a cruel old man!” jeers one of the fellows. “There he sits, selfish and comfortable, while the poor boy has to stumble along the dusty road to keep up with him.” So the miller lifts his son up, and the two of them ride along.



However, before they reach the market place, a townsman stops them. “Have you no feeling for dumb creatures!” he shouts. “The way that you load that little animal is a crime. You two men better carry the poor little beast than he carries you!”

Wanting to do the right thing the miller and his son get off the donkey. They tie his legs together, slung him on a pole and carry him on their shoulders. Slowly, they reach a river bank on their way. When a crowd at the river bank sees this, they laugh very loudly. The donkey gets frightened, kicks through the cords that bound him. It falls off the pole into the river.





## Glossary

seems (v)	:	looks like
for a while ( <i>adv. phr</i> )	:	for some time
dismounts (v)	:	gets down
mock (v)	:	make fun of
jeers (v)	:	speaks in a way of mockery
selfish ( <i>adj</i> )	:	caring only about oneself
comfortable ( <i>adj</i> )	:	relaxed
stumble along (v)	:	walk unsteadily
townsman ( <i>n</i> )	:	a person belonging to that village / town
dumb ( <i>adj</i> )	:	one who cannot speak
beast ( <i>n</i> )	:	animal
slung (v)	:	tied and carried
crowd ( <i>n</i> )	:	a group of people
CORDS ( <i>n</i> )	:	ropes



## Comprehension

### I. Answer the following questions.

1. The miller and his son tried to please everyone they met. Do you think they were right? Why? Why not?
2. In your opinion, which part of the story is most funny?
3. At the end, the miller and his son carried the donkey on their shoulders. What would you do if you were in their place?

## II. Write what people did or said on the following occasions in the story.

1. The miller, his son and the donkey were walking.

Ans: \_\_\_\_\_

2. The boy sat on the donkey and the miller walked.

Ans: \_\_\_\_\_

3. The miller sat on the donkey and the boy walked.

Ans: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Both the miller and the boy sat on the donkey.

Ans: \_\_\_\_\_

5. The miller and his son carried the donkey.

Ans: \_\_\_\_\_



### Vocabulary

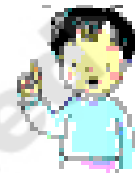
#### I. Read the following sentence taken from the story.

‘The **least** you can do is, get **down** and let **your** father rest his old **bones**.’

Look, when we remove the first letters of the words in bold, they give new words (east, own, our and one). Can you identify such words from the reading passage.

Look at the following words. Write new words from them by removing the first letter in each case. Find their meanings.

Example:	price	<u>rice</u>	<u>ice</u>
1.	stable	_____	_____
2.	stone	_____	_____
3.	blink	_____	_____
4.	chair	_____	_____
5.	strain	_____	_____
6.	cheat	_____	_____



II. Find some more words of this kind and list them in the space given below:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Just for fun:**

**Q. Which is the longest word in English?**

**Ans:** Smiles. (The first and the last letters are a MILE away from each other)



III. Look at the words in bold in the following phrases.

a **group** of girls; a **gang** of young fellows; the **crowd** of people.

Such words are called Collective Nouns. They refer to a collection of people, things or animals. Here is a list of some more Collective Nouns.

a flight of birds



a crowd of people



a herd of cattle



an army of soldiers



a bouquet of flowers



a flock of sheep



a fleet of ships



a bunch of grapes



a bundle of sticks



a pack of wolves



Read the following paragraph and fill in the blanks using collective nouns from the list given.

Hari is a shepherd. He packed a roti and a \_\_\_\_\_ of grapes for lunch. He started from home with his \_\_\_\_\_ of sheep. He left the sheep to graze and relaxed. He looked up and saw a \_\_\_\_\_ of birds flying by. There were many colourful flowers around. He picked some flowers and made a \_\_\_\_\_ for his wife. After lunch, he collected some firewood. He tied them into a \_\_\_\_\_. In the evening, Hari started back home.



### Grammar

I. Read the following sentences taken from the story.

‘The miller **lifts** his son on to the donkey and **marches** along happily. They **walk** on for a while until they **meet** an old man.’

The verbs ‘**lifts**, **marches**, **walk** and **meet**’ in the above sentences refer to actions done at the present time. When these actions refer to singular person (proper nouns, pronouns other than ‘I’ and ‘You’), the verb takes ‘-s / -es’ at the end. When they refer to more than one person (proper nouns and pronouns except ‘I’ and ‘You’), the verb does not take ‘-s / -es’.

Pick out some more sentences from the story with similar verb forms and write them here.

---

---

---



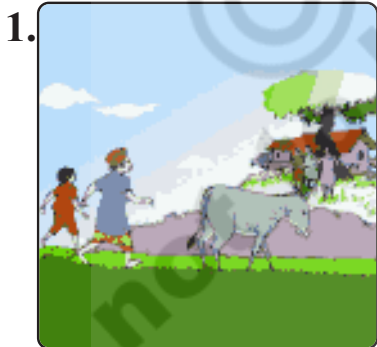
**II. Read the following paragraph and fill in the blanks with the correct forms of the verbs given in brackets.**

Everyday, Ajay \_\_\_\_\_ (get) up at 6 o'clock in the morning. He \_\_\_\_\_ (brush) his teeth and \_\_\_\_\_ (take) bath. Then he \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) his breakfast and \_\_\_\_\_ (get) ready for school. His friend Srikanth \_\_\_\_\_ (join) him. Both of them \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to school. They \_\_\_\_\_ (reach) school by 8.30 a.m. and \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) their friends.

**III. Write a small paragraph on what do you do regularly on a holiday.**

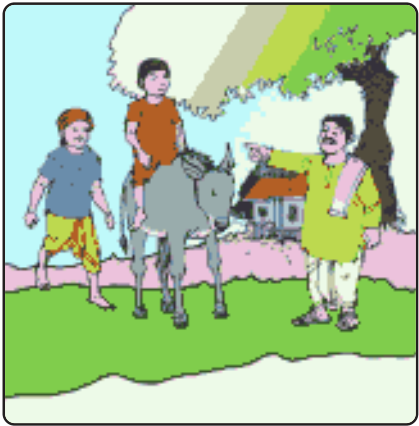


**Look at the following pictures. Describe each picture and also add words spoken by the characters in it.**



**Description:** A miller, his son and his donkey are going to the market.  
Three girls are looking at them.  
One of the girls said, "Look at those fools!"

2. **Description:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



3.



Description: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

4.

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



5.



Description: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

6.



**Description:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Oral Skills

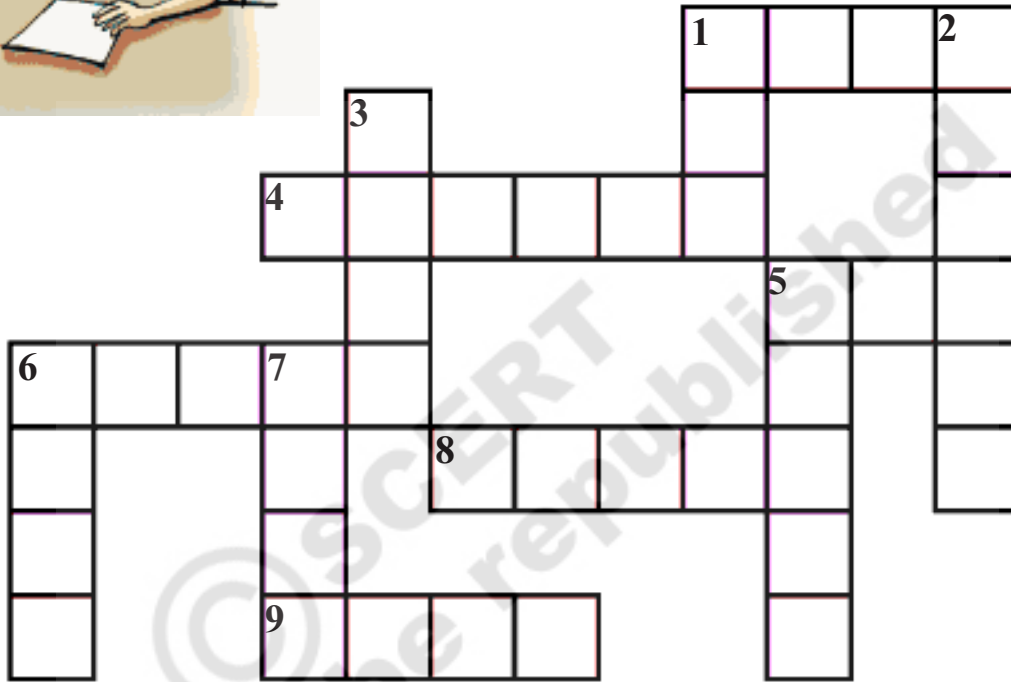
**Read the story “The Miller, his Son and his Donkey” once again.  
Convert the story into a play.**

**The following questions may help you.**

- ◆ Where is the action taking place?
- ◆ Who are the characters in the story?
- ◆ What is their position? Where are they standing / sitting?
- ◆ What should be their actions / movements?
- ◆ What words do they speak?

**Assign characters, practise the dialogues and enact the play in your classroom**

## Puzzle time



### Across

1. The opposite of empty
4. The opposite of summer
5. The opposite of cold
6. The opposite of black
8. The opposite of blunt
9. The opposite of hate

### Down

1. The opposite of near
2. The opposite of large
3. The opposite of mean
5. The opposite of sad
6. The opposite of strong
7. The opposite of short



## The Little Boy and The Old Man

Said the little boy, “Sometimes I drop my spoon.”

Said the little old man, “I do that too.”

The little boy whispered, “I wet my pants.”

“I do that too,” laughed the old man.

Said the little boy, “I often cry.”

The old man nodded. “So do I.”

“But worst of all,” said the boy, “It seems

Grown-ups don’t pay attention to me.”

And he felt the warmth of wrinkled old hand

‘I know what you mean,” said the little old man.

*-Shel Silverstein*





## Comprehension

I. Tick (✓) what the poem is about. You can tick more than one option.

1. loneliness
2. feeling neglected
3. child's anger
4. grown ups



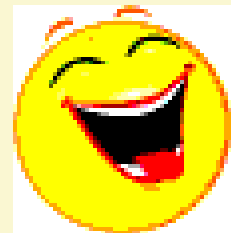
II. Answer the following questions.

1. "The little boy whispered..." Why do you think the little boy whispered?
2. Which problem according to the boy is the worst?
3. Pick out the expression from the poem that suggests 'care and affection'.
4. Which word in the poem suggests the similarity between the boy and the old man?
5. What similarities do you notice between the old man and the little boy?

### Fun Time

**Teacher:** Ramu! your paragraph on 'My Dog' is exactly same as your brother's. Did you copy his?

**Ramu:** No teacher, it's the same dog.





## A Man of His Word

Long long ago in Greece, there lived two friends called Damon and Pythias. One day some soldiers reported to the King that Pythias had spoken against him. The King became very angry. “Arrest Pythias at once and put him in prison,” said the King. Pythias knew that what he had



spoken was true. So he refused to take back his words. And the King ordered that Pythias must die.

Damon went to see his friend in prison. “May I help you in any way?” he asked, “I wish I could die for you.”

“I am prepared to die,” replied Pythias, “but before I die I would like to see my mother.”

Damon went to the King and begged him to allow Pythias to go home and see his mother. “I will die in his place if he doesn’t return.”

The King agreed. Pythias went home while Damon took his place in prison. The day for Pythias to die arrived. The King sent for Damon. “Where is your friend? You trusted him too far. Now you must die for your foolish mistake,” the King said. But Damon trusted his friend and said, “I know, Pythias could not come in time because of some serious problem. I am ready to die in his place.”

Then the soldiers prepared to hang Damon. Just then Pythias rushed into the palace and embraced Damon. “Thank God, I have arrived in time,” he sighed. “Many problems delayed my return. I am sorry. But here I am! Thank you for your trust and patience.”

The King was watching all this. He was moved to see how Pythias kept his word. “I have many people in my kingdom. But I have never found a man so trustworthy as you. I am glad that I have at least one person who keeps his word. I spare your life. You are free to go home now.”







## Comprehension

**Answer the following questions.**

1. What is the story about?
2. Why was Pythias sentenced to death?
3. What did Damon beg the King for?
4. How did Pythias keep his word?
5. Why did the King spare Pythias' life?
6. Which character do you like the most in the story? Why?



## Project Work

## Work in Groups

In the story, the miller and his son followed every one's advice and you have seen the end they met.

Ask and answer the following questions and prepare your group's profile.

1. Whose advice do you follow (at home / at school)?
2. Why do you follow his / her advice?

**I. Now fill in the following table which gives the profile of your group.**

Sl. No	Name of the classmate	Whose advice do they follow(at home, at school)?	Reasons
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

## II. Present your profile in class. Listen to others' presentations also.

Whose advice do most of the members of your group follow? Give reasons.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**How well did I understand this unit?**

**Read and tick (✓) in the appropriate box:**

Indicators	Yes	Somewhat	No
I listened to the announcement, understood and talked about it.			
I read and understood the texts:			
1. 'The Miller, His Son and His Donkey'.			
2. 'A Man of His Word'.			
I understood usage of verb and noun agreement in a sentence.			
I read, understood and enjoyed the poem, 'The Little Boy and The Old Man'.			
I was able to write:			
1. descriptions of the pictures given.			
2. the routine of my holidays.			