

## A Letter to Teachers

Dear Teachers,

Greetings from Shriram Foundation!

It is time for International Woman's Day (March 8) and in this issue we shall celebrate and acknowledge the contribution of half of the population of the world to the evolution of life and thought. We bring you a quiz and an inspiring story from the life of an extraordinary woman. We hope you will enjoy them and share them with your students.

The United Nations observes World Water Day on March 22 to bring into focus the need to conserve water and prevent its pollution. In this issue you will find a water-based art activity and suggestions for water-themed projects to get your students to understand the importance of water not only in our daily routine but also in art and culture.

We look forward to hearing from you. Please do write in to us at [m100.shriramfdn@gmail.com](mailto:m100.shriramfdn@gmail.com) with your suggestions, comments and feedback.

Warm regards  
Editor

## Wise Words



*"The question is not who is going to let me; it is who is going to stop me."*

– Ayn Rand.



*"Let us always meet each other with a smile, for a smile is the beginning of love."*

– Mother Theresa.

## Teacher Tip

### *Classroom control*

Often, much of a teacher's energy is spent just trying to be heard in class. Noise levels rise when students are not writing or when they are engaged in discussion or in the twilight zone when they pull their textbooks out of their bags or push them in. Controlling a noisy bunch of children can be exhausting. But it need not be so. You can train your students to recognize 'silent signals'. You could simply raise one hand to signal that it is time for them to become quiet, and that you have something to say. Of course this also means that at other times you will allow them to talk while they do things. Hold up one finger to signal that they can talk but their 'volume' should be at Level 1. Train them to recognize your signals. Be consistent in using them. You will be surprised at how quickly they learn to follow your signals.

Story

*Rosa's Bus Journey*

In the United States of America, until 1955, the blacks, or the people of African origin, were treated as inferior to white-skinned people. They were held in contempt and often denied even basic human rights.

In the early 1900s, in a small county called Montgomery, there lived an African American woman called Rosa Parks. When she was a girl, she had to walk to school while the white children went by bus because in those days blacks were not allowed to travel by buses. By the time she grew up to be a middle aged woman, things were somewhat better. By then a few seats were allotted for blacks in buses but they were always the last few rows, behind all the central seats reserved for the whites.



One day, Rosa boarded a Montgomery City bus. She, along with some other black people, sat in seats that were allotted to them. In a while, the bus got full and when the driver noticed a couple of white

men standing, he asked Rosa Parks and the other blacks to vacate their seats for the white men. Rosa Parks refused to vacate. "Why should I give in?" she argued. "This is my seat. I am doing no wrong." This action led to her arrest and later she was convicted for violating the law.

However Rosa's act of defiance inspired a strong civil rights movement among the black community in America, which established the rights of blacks to equality in the country.

Puzzles

1. Radha decided to bake some biscuits for her mother's birthday. She needed to measure out 6 cups of flour. But she had only 2 measuring jars. Each jar only had the final measure marked on it. One jar could hold 10 cups and the other one could hold 4 cups. How can Radha measure out 6 cups of flour using these 2 jars? What is the minimum amount of flour that Radha needs if she has to measure 6 cups of flour using these two jars?



2. Razia wanted to make a bracelet that matched her red dress. So she picked out 6 red beads having different shapes: Oval, Round, Heart, Square, Triangle and Rectangle. Using the directions given below, find out the order in which the beads were placed.

- a. The first bead is not the Heart.
- b. The last bead is Rectangle.
- c. The Oval bead is used before the Round bead with exactly one bead in between.
- d. The third bead is neither Oval nor Round.
- e. There is at least one bead between Heart and Rectangle.
- f. The Triangle bead is used first.

Use the table. Based on the clues given above, you can cross off all the impossible answers on it.

		Bead Placement					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
Bead Shape	Oval						
	Round						
	Heart						
	Square						
	Triangle						
	Rectangle						



## Quiz

*Who is she?*

*Knowledge of the world, past and present is very important for young minds. It does not always come from textbooks. Making students familiar with these quiz questions and answers is a fun and easy way to build general knowledge.*

1. She carried her son on her back and rode into the battlefield with two swords in her two hands and fought the British in Gwalior during the Indian War of Independence in 1857. Who is she?
2. She joined NASA and became the first Indian woman to travel in space. Who is she?
3. An athlete from Kerala, she has won 33 international medals. She is also called "Payyoli Express" and "Golden Girl". Who is she?
4. A poet and nationalist, she actively participated in the Dandi March, Quit India Movement and was even jailed along with Mahatma Gandhi. She was also the first woman governor of Uttar Pradesh. Who is she?
5. She was the first woman to be admitted into a men's college. She later became an eminent doctor. She was also India's first woman legislator (elected in 1927 to Madras Legislative Council). Who is she?
6. At 17, this Pakistani became the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014. She actively works for girls' education. Who is she?
7. She was a nurse. She was lovingly called "The Lady with the Lamp". She tended to wounded army men in Britain. She even came to India to tend to the British army officials. Who is she?
8. She is a very famous Physicist. She shared the Nobel Prize in Physics for the discovery of the element radium with her husband. She later won a Nobel Prize for Chemistry as well. Who is she?
9. She is the younger sister of the first Prime Minister of independent India. She also actively participated in the Independence movement. She later went on to become the first woman President of the United Nations. Who is she?
10. A brain fever rendered her blind and deaf at the age of two. With the help of a teacher, she was able to learn to communicate and educated herself. She later went on to help the poor and the blind. Who is she?
11. She was just 15 years old when she died. She was a Jew who used to live in Germany but fled the country when Hitler came to power. She maintained a diary where she entered every detail of her life while in hiding. She was found out, shipped off to a concentration camp and later died there. Who is she?
12. She is a social activist and she started the Narmada Bachao Andolan. Who is she?
13. She is India's first woman IPS officer. Who is she?
14. Israel's first woman Prime Minister, she was known as the 'Iron Lady'. Who is she?
15. She was an eminent social reformer and poet from Maharashtra. She and her husband founded India's first school for girls in 1848 at Bhide Wada in Pune. Who is she?



## Learning through Games

*Fun with Maps*

Maps can be a fun way to explore the world around you. Divide your class into groups of four or five. Give each group an atlas and assign them a continent. Europe, Asia, Africa and South America are good choices for this activity. More than one team can be given the same continent.

Before you come to class prepare a list of ten countries from each of the continents. Ask the groups to locate the countries on their lists in the political map of the continent. Ask them to also find the capitals of the countries. Ask them to find the names of other countries not on your list and their capitals. Ask them to find the latitudes and longitudes that span these countries.

You can extend this activity by giving your students a physical map of the continent and asking them to identify the rivers

## Water in Science and Art

### Project : Slow Colour

#### Things needed

Three transparent plastic cups, water, food colouring/ water colours (red, blue and yellow), 3 tissue paper sheets

#### What to do

1. Fill the three cups up to three fourths with water.
2. Add the colouring agent – one in each cup - and mix well.
3. Arrange the cups in a triangle.
4. Fold the tissue papers vertically. Place one end of a tissue paper in the yellow solution and the other end in the red solution. Similarly, place one end of another tissue paper in the yellow solution and the other end in the blue solution. Place one end of the last tissue paper in the red solution and the other end in the blue solution.
5. Leave them undisturbed for a couple of hours or more.

#### Observation

Colours start rising in the tissue paper, as it is porous. With time, the primary colours will mix to produce secondary colours.



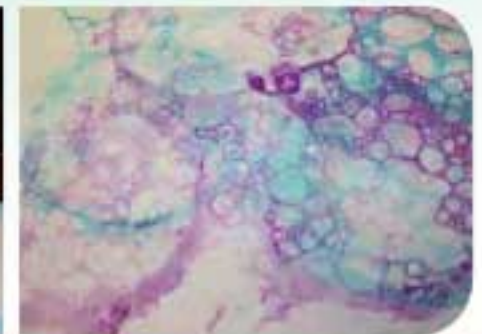
### Project : Bubble Art

#### Things needed

A sheet of white paper, five plastic cups, five water colour paints of your choice, a straw, dishwashing liquid soap, water.

#### What to do

1. Pour water into each cup such that three fourths of it is filled.
2. Add three to four drops of colour respectively into each cup of water. Mix well.
3. Add one drop of liquid soap in each cup.
4. Blow air into each cup of water using a straw till you see a lot of bubbles.
5. Place the paper on each cup of water to catch the coloured bubbles onto it. Make any abstract painting you like.



## Theme for the Month

### Water

*Thematic tasks and celebrations are exciting and fun for the whole school. They also provide opportunities for learning outside the textbook framework. Every class can undertake one or more of the tasks given here. Some of the best displays can be put up as an exhibition in the school. The theme for March is Water.*

- » Draw a picture of any one natural water body in or around your village/town. Name it.
- » Find out where the water that you use at home comes from. Draw a map to show how it reaches your home.
- » Observe the usage of water in your house for a week. Keep count of the number of pots and buckets of water being used for the different activities. Note where water is being wasted. Think of ways by which water consumption may be reduced or water recycled. Suggest these to your family. Observe whether there is reduction in water consumption and report your story in class.
- » Make a poster with any one of these messages: 'Save water' or 'Keep water clean.' All the posters made by students may be displayed on the outer walls of the school for the community to see, or even along the road where the school is located.
- » Make a chart suggesting ways of spending less water in school and home.

## Answers

### Puzzle

1. Fill up the 4 cups measuring jar fully and pour the contents into the 10 cups measuring jar. Repeat the same. Do the same a third time. But this time only 2 cups can be poured into the 10 cups measuring jar. The remaining 2 cups can be set aside. This same process can be done two more times to get 6 cups of flour. Radha needs 16 cups of flour to measure out 6 cups of flour using just the two given measuring jars.
2. The order of the beads is Triangle Oval Heart Round Square Rectangle.

### Quiz

- |                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi | 9. Vijayalakshmi Pandit. |
| 2. Kalpana Chawla             | 10. Helen Keller         |
| 3. P. T. Usha                 | 11. Anne Frank           |
| 4. Sarojini Naidu             | 12. Medha Patkar         |
| 5. Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy     | 13. Kiran Bedi           |
| 6. Malala Yousufzai           | 14. Golda Meir           |
| 7. Florence Nightingale       | 15. Savitribai Phule     |
| 8. Marie Curie                |                          |