

## A Letter to Teachers

Dear teachers,

Greetings from Shriram Foundation.

Schools have re-opened and new students must have joined school. Some of them will settle down easily. But some will struggle in their new environments. Some children are shy by nature and others are afraid of new places and people. Some others may be missing their old school and friends.

We have all been children once and have known these feelings of shyness, fear and loneliness. Let us try to make our new students comfortable this month. Talk to them whenever you can. Find out if they need any help. Find out their talents and interests and tell the rest of the class about them. Make them feel special and welcome.

I hope you find this issue of Chalkboard interesting and useful. 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



## Theme for the Month

*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. Here are few activities based on important events in the month of July.*

Every year, July 18 is observed as 'Mandela Day' in honour of Nelson Mandela - the first black president of South Africa. Let us do an interesting timeline activity in school based on events from his life. Some of these events are listed here along with the year in which they happened. Write each sentence on a long strip of paper. Show your class a photo of Mandela and explain who he was. Now, hand over one strip to each student. Give them 2 minutes to read their strips. Next, loudly call out each year in sequence. As you call out the year, the student having the event for the year must raise his/her hand and read it out. Ask them if they understood the text and explain it if they have not.

1918 Rolihlahla (Nelson) Mandela was born on July 18, in South Africa.

1942 Started attending African National Congress (ANC), a revolutionary group that fought apartheid (a system that separated white people from non-whites in South Africa).

1944 Co-founded the African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) which is a branch of the African National Congress

1956 Arrested for his political activities by the Government and later released.

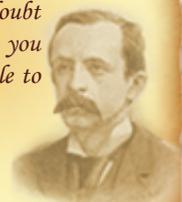
### Wise Words

Here are some proverbs, sayings and quotations from all over the world to inspire you. You may write or display them on your blackboards or notice boards, explain them and discuss them with your students



"I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear."  
--Nelson Mandela

The moment you doubt whether you can fly, you cease forever to be able to do it.  
--J.M. Barrie

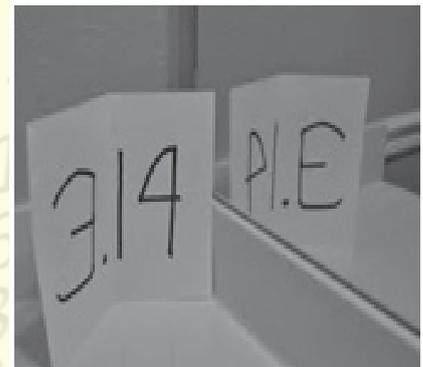


1960	<i>The ANC was banned</i>
1964	<i>Sentenced to life imprisonment with other ANC leaders for organizing anti-government activities.</i>
1990	<i>Released after serving 27 years behind bars and ended racism (Apartheid).</i>
1993	<i>Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.</i>
1994	<i>Elected president of South Africa. Published his autobiography, "Long Walk to Freedom."</i>
2010	<i>Published his second book, "Conversations with Myself".</i>
2013	<i>Died on December 5 at age 95 after a lung illness.</i>

## Pi Day

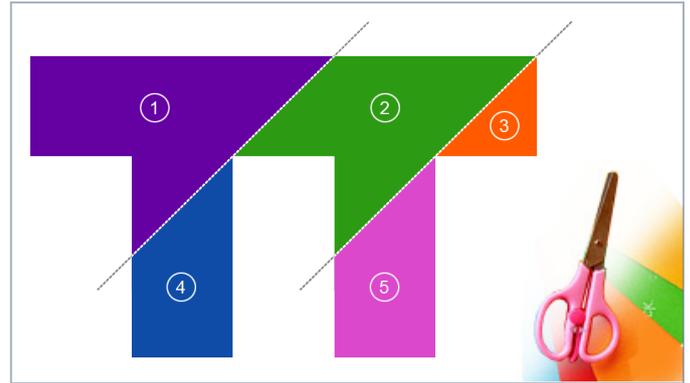
We all know 'Pi' is a widely used constant in Mathematics. But did you know that there are two special days dedicated to Pi? Pi Day is celebrated annually on March 14. Pi Approximation day is observed on July 22 because the approximate value of Pi is 22/7, which when written as a date becomes July 22. Here are some activities to celebrate Pi.

Bring a small mirror to class. Tell a student to write the popular value of Pi as 3.14. Hold up the sheet in front of the mirror. What can they read now? The mirror image of 3.14 is PIE!



Ask the kids to bring any circular household item like a can, a jar, a glass, a bowl, a coin, a lid etc. Also ask them to bring a one metre long rope or thread and a ruler each. Make them work in groups of three. Ask each group to measure the diameter and circumference of their circular objects with the help of a thread and ruler. Ask them to note the measures down on paper. Then ask them to find the value of  $\pi$  by dividing the circumference of the circle by the diameter ( $C \div d = \pi$ ). See all the smiling faces getting close to the actual value of Pi.

Here is a puzzle activity. As preparation draw the symbol Pi as shown on five or six sheets of paper. Draw the dotted lines on the pi as shown and cut the pi on each sheet into five pieces as shown below. In class, first divide your class into groups of 4-5 students. Make sure there is one sheet of Pi paper per group. Have one extra sheet of Pi drawing which is not cut. You can show this to students and tell them what you did to the Pi that you will give them now. Give each group one set of Pi pieces. Ask the children to rearrange them into a square in five minutes.



## Let's Learn English

*I am going for a walk every day. I am working in Vijayawada. My school is starting at 9 am. I am not liking this book.*

We often use the present continuous tense form (the -ing form in the present tense) when we talk about habits, rules and daily routines. If you notice, all the example sentences given above are either habits or general truths or routines. They are standard every day actions.

We need to use the simple present tense form – and not the present continuous forms in these cases.

*I go for a walk every day. I work in Vijayawada. My school starts at 9 a.m. I do not like this book.*

The simple present tense is also used to state facts. Cows give milk. New Delhi is the capital of India.

Rekha is singing. This is not about something Rekha does every day. Rekha is doing it now.

The baby is crying. The boys are playing. They are doing so NOW.

There are exceptions to this rule. We use the simple present tense form with NOW too! Here is an example:

*The door is closed (now). I am here (now). She is sick (now).*

For existence verb forms (is, am, are) we use the simple present forms to express a state of being. That is enough of tenses for NOW, isn't it?

### TEACHERS TALK

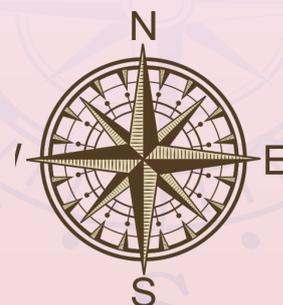


## Puzzles

1. What letter is to the left of the letter that is two letters above the letter two letters to the right of the letter above the letter J?

O	E	F	U	C
W	A	D	I	R
P	T	B	M	K
X	J	Y	N	G
S	H	V	Q	L

2. A man is facing East. He turns 45° in the anti-clockwise direction and then another 180° in the same direction and then 270° in the clockwise direction. Which direction is he facing now?



Story



The following is a life-changing event in the life of Malala Yousufzai, the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner. It is written in the form of an autobiographical story, and you may read this out in class.

*I'm Malala Yousafzai! And this is my story...*



"I was a 11-year old girl in 2009. My father Ziauddin Yousufzai was a teacher. I loved going to school in my native place, the beautiful Swat Valley in Pakistan. Those days an extremist group called Taliban was very powerful in our region. They declared that girls should not be sent to school. This made me very unhappy. My friends and I decided that we would go to school, whatever the Taliban said. I started writing on the internet about my love for school and my determination to study. I believed like boys, all girls should go to school too. I became a spokesperson for girls' education and appeared on television.

When I was 15, one day, when we were on our way home from school in a bus, a group of people stopped our bus. A man got in to the bus and shot me in head and neck. Luckily, I survived. I was taken to England for treatment and I continued my education there after my treatment. I addressed the United Nations on my 16th birthday where I spoke of "the right to education of every child". My message was – "Our books and our pens are the most powerful weapons."

In the same year, I became the youngest person ever to be nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize. I also released my memoir, 'I Am Malala', which tells the story of my life before and after being shot by the Taliban. Then, in 2014, in the middle of a chemistry class at my school in Birmingham, England I learned I had won the Nobel Peace Prize."

*In 2013, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for the celebration of Malala's birthday (12th July) as 'Malala Day' in honour of her heroic stand to ensure education for all. Let us also put education first and make the world better for all.*

**Answers**

**Puzzle**  
 1. The letter is: F  
 2. He faces South-East direction

**Pi Puzzle**

Teacher Tip

Who wouldn't love attentive, calm and obedient kids in a classroom? A quiet orderly class makes a teacher's life easier, doesn't it? More often than not, we are so focused on the topic being taught that we do not pay attention to our choice of words and our voice level when we check misbehavior. But the use of strong, rude and harsh words puts down a child. When children are hurt, they stop listening. You can avoid this by using positive narration in class. Positive narration means using positive words even when you want to enforce a rule.

Here are some examples.

Sl.No	Use positive narration instead of ...	Negative narration like these
1	Let us please be quiet. We can discuss other things in the break.	I'm tired of telling you to stop talking. Zip your lips and listen to the lesson.
2	All eyes on me on a count of 3, class.3..2..1..Thank you!	Don't look outside the window. Is the class happening outside for you?
3	I see Maya ready with her notebook. Thanks Maya! Who else? Thanks Pavan. Thanks Deepak,thanks Bavitha.	Latha! I had asked you to open your notebook.
4	Who wants to read the lesson? I see five, six, seven hands. Now ten hands ready. Great!	I see the same few hands. I don't see others participating at all. It will surely reflect in your exam results.
5	Thanks, 'Green' team, for working so quickly and helping one another.	Don't you know what is team work? There is no use if you complete first and sit idle.
6	The result of this class has been really great compared to last time. Let us challenge ourselves next time and get better. You all are definitely capable.	Did you notice the test results of the other class? They are a thousand times better than you.

Positive narration can occur during transitions, during instruction, even during independent work time. As you give directions, name the behaviors you are looking for, and publicly praise students who are showing the behavior, focusing on the behaviour you want, not on the students who are failing to show it. Younger primary students typically appreciate positive individual recognition, while older students may prefer not to be singled out.