

## THE CHAIR

Let us do these activities before we read.

- Write two words that come to your mind when you think of friendship.
  - Now, find some more words that are related to friendship from the grid given below. You can search horizontally or vertically. There are eight words. One word has been marked as an example. The first letter of each word has been given in bold.

|          |          |   |   |          |   |   |          |   |   |          |
|----------|----------|---|---|----------|---|---|----------|---|---|----------|
| L        | A        | U | G | H        | T | E | R        | S | E | Q        |
| S        | Y        | L | P | E        | H | Z | R        | M | S | T        |
| J        | <b>H</b> | E | L | P        | F | U | L        | S | T | S        |
| O        | P        | A | Z | P        | S | A | O        | P | E | H        |
| <b>H</b> | O        | P | E | Z        | J | I | <b>T</b> | R | I | <b>S</b> |
| R        | A        | C | F | <b>C</b> | T | I | R        | P | S | U        |
| N        | <b>L</b> | O | Y | A        | L | T | U        | E | Z | P        |
| E        | A        | Y | V | R        | N | N | S        | E | M | P        |
| Y        | B        | Y | J | I        | U | D | T        | Z | N | O        |
| <b>L</b> | O        | V | I | N        | G | R | C        | S | U | R        |
| L        | K        | D | P | G        | L | U | Y        | S | S | T        |

- Fill in the blanks to complete the words, which mean the same as 'friend' or 'friends' with the help of the meanings.

| Meaning                                      | Word          |
|--|---------------|
| (i) a person who you do things together with | p _ r _ n _ r |
| (ii) an informal word for friends            | b _ _ d _ _ s |



|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| (iii) a person who you spend a lot of time with          | c _ m p _ n _ o _   |
| (iv) children who are in the same class as you at school | c l _ s _ m _ t _ s |

(c) There are so many words for a friend. What do you call ‘a friend’ in your own language?



### Let us read

## I

There was a boy called Mario who loved to have lots of friends. He **showed off** a lot, always talking about how many friends he had at school, and how he was so friendly with everyone.

One day his grandfather said to him, “Mario, I bet you a fruit *chaat*. You don’t have as many friends as you think you have. I’m sure many of them are nothing more than companions or partners.”

Mario **accepted** the bet **readily**. However, he wasn’t sure how he could test whether his schoolmates were real friends or not. So, he asked his grandpa for help. He suggested, “I have exactly what you need. It’s in the **attic**. Wait here a minute.”

Grandpa left, soon returning as though carrying something in his hand, but Mario could see nothing there.

“Take it. It’s a very special chair. As it’s **invisible**, it’s rather tricky to sit on it. But if you take it to school and manage to sit on it, then

**showed off:**  
boasted

**accepted:**  
agreed to

**readily:** without  
any problem

**attic:** a storage  
space in a house  
just under the  
roof

**invisible:**  
impossible to see





the magic will work and you'll be able to tell who your real friends are.”

### Let us discuss

1. Mario was very proud of having so many friends. State whether True or False.
2. What did the grandfather take from the attic?
3. Will Mario face any challenges?
4. Will Mario be able to use the magic?

## II

Mario, brave and **determined**, took the strange invisible chair and set off for school. At break time, he asked everyone to form a circle. He put himself in the middle, with his chair.

“Nobody move. You're about to see something **amazing**.”

**determined:**  
firm in decision

**amazing:** very  
surprising





Mario tried sitting on the chair. Having difficulty seeing it, he missed and fell straight onto his backside. His classmates had a pretty good laugh.

“Wait, wait, just a slight technical problem,” he said, trying again. But again, he missed the seat, causing more surprised looks and laughter. Mario wouldn’t give up. He kept trying to sit on the magic chair and kept falling to the ground until, suddenly, he tried again and didn’t fall. This time he sat, hanging in mid-air.

Then he finally **experienced** the magic that his grandfather had been talking about. Looking around, Mario saw Guneet, Asma, and Deepa—three of his buddies—holding him up, so he wouldn’t fall. Meanwhile, many others

**experienced:**  
felt



he'd thought of as friends had done nothing but made fun of him, enjoying each and every fall.

Leaving with his three friends, he explained to them how his grandfather had so cleverly thought of a way to show him that true friends are those who care for us. A friend wouldn't be someone who takes joy in our bad luck.

That evening the four children went to see Mario's grandpa as he had won the bet. They had a great time listening to stories and eating a lot of fruit *chaat*. From then on, they used the magic chair test on many occasions and whoever passed became friends for life.



## Let us discuss

1. Mario successfully sat on the invisible chair on his first attempt. State whether True or False.
2. Fill in the blank with a suitable word.  
Mario's grandfather challenged him to a bet of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Match the following characters with their action.

Guneet, Asma  
and Deepa

- a. held Mario up, so he wouldn't fall
- b. made fun of Mario's attempts



## Let us think and reflect

1. Read the following lines and answer the questions that follow.
  - (a) *“Take it. It’s a very special chair. As it’s invisible, it’s rather tricky to sit on. But if you take it to school and manage to sit on it, then the magic will work and you’ll be able to tell who your real friends are.”*
    - (i) Fill in the blanks with two words that describe the chair.  
The chair is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (ii) Why was it tricky to sit on the chair?
    - (iii) Why does Mario’s grandfather call the chair ‘special’?
  - (b) *“Wait, wait, just a slight technical problem,” he said, trying again. But again, he missed the seat, causing more surprised looks and laughter. Mario wouldn’t give up.*
    - (i) Fill in the blank with a suitable reason.  
Mario says there was a technical problem because \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (ii) Mario’s friends were very caring and helpful. State whether True or False.



(iii) Choose the correct option to complete the sentence.

Mario wouldn't give up. This shows he is \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. strong-willed                      c. loving  
b. supportive                          d. hard-working

2. Answer the following questions.

- (a) What was the bet about?  
(b) What happened when Mario sat on the chair for the first time?  
(c) How was Mario able to find his real friends?  
(d) Do you think the magic chair test was good? Why do you say so?  
(e) What does 'friends for life' mean to you?  
(f) The grandfather's idea helped Mario find his 'real friends'. Mention any other way that would help you find out who are your 'real friends'.



### Let us learn

1. Read the following words from the text.

friendly suddenly talking carrying called showed

Complete the following table by dividing the words into two parts. One has been done for you.

| Column A  | Column B |
|-----------|----------|
| 1. friend | ly       |
| 2.        |          |
| 3.        |          |
| 4.        |          |
| 5.        |          |
| 6.        |          |

The words in Column A are called the **root words**. The sequences of letters that are in Column B which come after the root words are called **suffixes**.



2. Match the following root words with suitable suffixes. You can use a suffix more than once as shown. Use them to make sentences of your own. One has been done for you.

| S. No. | Root Word | Suffix | Word    | Sentence  |
|--------|-----------|--------|---------|---|
| 1.     | magic     | -ing   | magical | The magician performed an amazing <b>magical</b> act. |
| 2.     | care      | -al    |         |   |
| 3.     | celebrate | -ful   |         |   |
| 4.     | laugh     | -ly    |         |   |
| 5.     | wonder    | -ed    |         |   |
| 6.     | help      | -tion  |         |   |
| 7.     | friend    | -ous   |         |   |
| 8.     | courage   | -ship  |         |   |

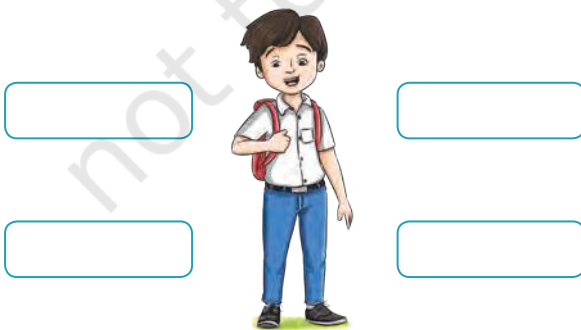
[Note: Observe the changes in spelling in a few word combinations.]

3. Read the following lines from the story.

Mario, brave and determined, took the strange invisible chair ...

You have already described the chair. Now, describe what kind of a person Mario is in the image given below.

[Use words from the story. You may also use words of your own.]



Mario

The words that describe the quality of a person or a thing are called **adjectives**.





4. Match each word (adjectives) in Column A with a suitable word (noun) in Column B. You can make more than one combination. One has been done as an example.

| Column A<br>Adjectives | Column B<br>Nouns | Column C<br>Phrases | Column D<br>Sentences                      |
|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--|
| 1. <b>brave</b>        | friends           | brave soldier       | 1. The <b>brave soldier</b> marched ahead. |
| 2. clever              | rain              |                     |  |
| 3. tasty               | <b>soldier</b>    |                     |  |
| 4. heavy               | plan              |                     |  |
| 5. slight              | peanuts           |                     |  |
| 6. true                | cold              |                     |  |

5. Complete the paragraph with suitable adjective-noun pairings. Use the words in the box given below.

old book    magical adventures    happy boy    amazing stories  
fantastic adventures    colourful creatures    old castles

Once upon a time in a little village, a/an (i) \_\_\_\_\_ named Abhishek found a/an (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ in the attic. He read (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ about fairy lands, (iv) \_\_\_\_\_ and (v) \_\_\_\_\_. Abhishek's eyes got big as he imagined these (vi) \_\_\_\_\_. He told his friends about the stories, and they started to have their own (vii) \_\_\_\_\_ when they played together.





## Let us listen

You will listen to Manu talk about her friend, Monika. As you listen, fill in the blanks with words that you hear. (*refer to page 73 for transcript*)

- (a) Monika found it \_\_\_\_\_ when she took admission in the school.
- (b) Manu was \_\_\_\_\_ and helped by her in many ways.
- (c) So, it was not so \_\_\_\_\_ for the new girl to adjust in the school.
- (d) Both friends experienced difficult and \_\_\_\_\_ moments together.
- (e) Manu is \_\_\_\_\_ to Monika for making her life easy and finding a friend.

You will listen to the girl once again.



## Let us speak

1. Work in pairs. Read the following qualities of a friend.

|            |        |             |        |               |        |
|------------|--------|-------------|--------|---------------|--------|
| loving     | honest | kind        | caring | loyal         | polite |
| respectful |        | team-worker |        | understanding |        |

Discuss in pairs. Choose any four positive qualities that you would like your friend to have. Give a reason for your choice. Use the hints given below when you speak.

I feel my friend should be ... because ...

I think the quality I want in my friend is being .... The reason for this is ...

I believe my friend should be ... This is in order to ...

If my friend is ... then ...





## Let us write

1. Read the messages that Mario has written to his friends Deepa, Guneet and Asma.

Dear Deepa,

I feel so special that you are my friend. I know you will always be there for me. Before going to bed, I said a little prayer for Guneet, Asma and you. You made me realise the value of having good friends.

Best wishes,  
Mario

Dear Asma,

I feel blessed to know that you are my true friend. I would have fallen again today, if it wasn't for Guneet, Deepa and you. I know I can always depend on the three of you, no matter what.

Best wishes,  
Mario

- (a) Now, choose the correct word given in brackets to complete Mario's message to Guneet.

Dear Guneet,

I am \_\_\_\_\_ (thankful to/requesting) God to have you as a \_\_\_\_\_ (lucky/real) friend for life. When everyone was \_\_\_\_\_ (laughing at/talking to) me, Deepa, Asma and you showed me that you \_\_\_\_\_ (will save/care for) me. You are indeed a \_\_\_\_\_ (blessing/loving) in my life.

Best wishes,  
Mario

- (b) Now, write your own message to your best friend. You may take ideas from the story, 'The Unlikely Best Friends' and the poem, 'A Friend's Prayer'.





### Let us explore

1. Find out more stories about ‘Friendship’. It could be from your state, other states or other countries too. You can share them with your class.
2. Describe your friends by filling in the blanks with suitable words. This is known as an **acrostic** poem.

F \_\_\_\_\_

R \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_

N \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_

S \_\_\_\_\_

3. Complete the following task by talking to different people of different age groups as mentioned in the table. You may divide the class into groups to do the following:

| Question                          | Age Group | Response |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| What does friendship mean to you? | 50+       |          |
|                                   | 31 to 49  |          |
|                                   | 20 to 30  |          |
|                                   | 12 to 19  |          |

After gathering responses:

- ✓ Discuss: similarities and differences across age groups.
- ✓ Reflect: how viewpoints on friendship may change with age and life experiences.
- ✓ Present: a summary of the group’s responses, emphasising key themes or unique insights.





Let us ponder

## SAVE WATER

Look at the pictures.  
Now, discuss the following points.

- Sources of water
- Without water there cannot be any life
- Value of water and need to save it



Make a poster with a meaningful slogan on 'Save Water.'

