

THE FIGHT

-RUSKIN BOND



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

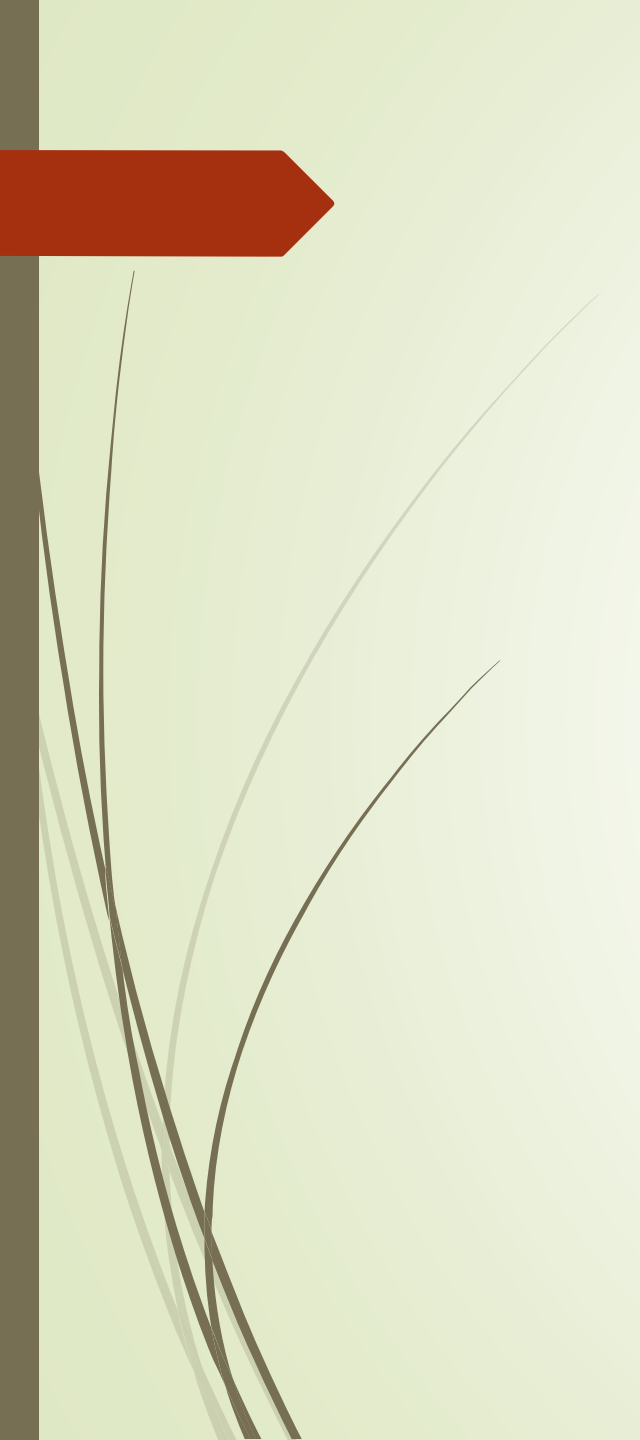
Ruskin Bond (born 19 May 1934) is an Indian author of British descent. He lives with his adopted family in Landour, Mussoorie, India. The Indian Council for Child Education has recognised his role in the growth of children's literature in India. He was awarded the Sahitya Academy Award in 1992 for *Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra*, his novel in English. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1999 and the Padma Bhushan in 2014.

Most of his works are influenced by life in the hill stations at the foothills of the Himalayas, where he spent his childhood. His first novel, *The Room On the Roof*, was written when he was 17 and published when he was 21. It was partly based on his experiences at Dehradun, in his small rented room on the roof, and his friends. His earlier works were written without it being meant for any particular readership.



SUMMARY

The story is about a boy named Ranji who had just shifted to a new place. It was a hot summer day and he was walking in the forest as usual in his vest and shorts. Then one day he discovered a pool in the forest with translucent water, smooth pebbles at the bottom. He was seeing such a clean pool for the first time so he jumped in to swim. Next day when he was swimming in the same pool, he noticed a boy staring at him in a quite angry way. The boy was taller and more broad in comparison. He enquired what he was doing there in his pool. He also told he was a warrior and would not entertain such villagers. Ranji also told he was a fighter. Both involved in an argument and at a point, the toleration limit was crossed and the warrior slapped hard on Ranji's face. Ranji too punched him in return. Then they got involved in a full fight. They grabbed throat, tumbled, rolled, cursed, struggled. They fought even in the pool. It continued for few minutes but nobody won actually. They were exhausted and breathing heavily. They both decided to continue the fight the next day. Ranji went home and could not explain the bruises on his body to his mother. He went to bazaar for a lemonade and jalebis when he saw the warrior coming towards him. They both stared each other and the warrior went. Next day Ranji was tired from last day's fight but he found the warrior sitting on the other side of the pool oiling his body. The warrior asked him to come to the other side and fight. The same challenge was given by Ranji. Then again warrior challenged him. Ranji took a dive into water and reached the other side. The warrior was surprised by the way he dove. Ranji offered him to teach him how to dive. The warrior took a failed attempt. Again Ranji dove and circled him inside water. The warrior again took an attempt to swim under water but failed. Ranji told he could teach him if he liked. They both sat on the rock and introduced each other for the first time. The warrior's name was Suraj. Ranji informed Suraj that he is strong like pahalwan. Suraj wished to become the world's champion wrestler. He told Ranji that he is strong but lean and he needs to have good food with him and drink milk. He told if Ranji taught him swimming, he would make him a pahalwan. They both became friends from that day.



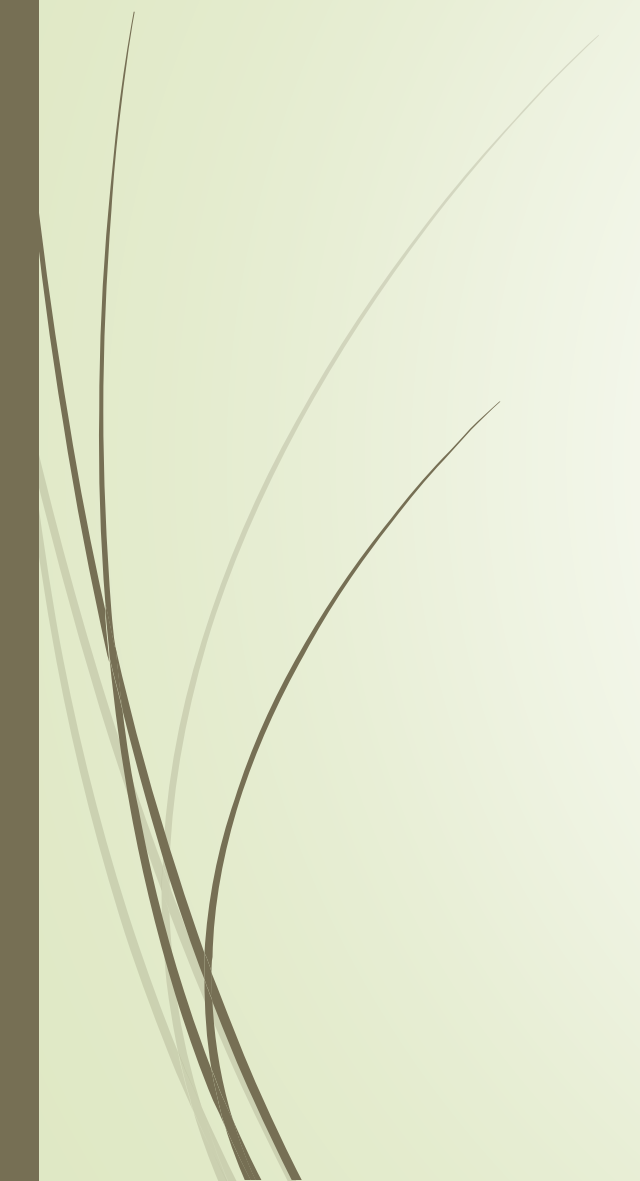
The following situations show the touch of humour-

1. When Suraj jumped into water he landed flat on his belly and there was such a terrible sound that the birds flew terrified from the nearby trees.

2. Ranji asked Suraj if he was trying to empty the pool.



MESSAGE



We learn that fight is not the solution of any problem. We can settle down even the biggest issues if we think wisely. Solving the issues may be through games, exchange or something else. As we saw the both of the fighters who were fighting foolishly did not obtain anything till they continued their fight but when they thought wisely and made a compromise of exchanging their talents both of them were benefitted.