

23. Khushi in the Town



Khushi lives in a village named Saryaanj. She lives with her parents, grandparents and her aunt. In the village they have many fields and cattle such as cows, buffaloes, goats and oxen. She is a student of fifth standard in the Government Primary School, Saryaanj.

Her mother had told her that after her fifth standard she would be admitted in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya. Since the day Khushi heard it, she had started working hard on her studies.

Generally, her sister and she visit their maternal grandparents during vacations. But in these vacations she would stay with her uncle at Solan. Her uncle has promised to take her to Solan with him.

When the result of fifth standard was declared, every member of the family was in a happy and joyous mood because Khushi had secured the first position in the class.

The very next Saturday, her uncle came home to take her to Solan. She was so excited to visit Solan that she could hardly sleep that night. Next day, she was very busy in gathering her things she wanted to take along with her to Solan. She could not decide as to the things she should pack. Finally, her mother packed her things and readied her backpack. Her younger sister was somewhat sad to see her mother packing Khushi's things.



Explain

- ♦ How many houses are there in your village or neighbourhood?
- ♦ What ideas or guidance about your future do you get from your family members and teachers?
- ♦ How did you spend your school vacations?

On Monday morning, they boarded the bus. This was for the first time that she would be passing through Arki, Kunihar, Subathu etc. – places whose names she had only heard from her uncle and friends. She was watching everything with curiosity. After sometime the driver of the bus switched on the stereo and started playing songs on it. At once, one of the passengers directed the driver to switch off the stereo. Khushi did not like it because the song that was being played on the stereo was very sweet and she was enjoying it. Throughout her journey, Khushi kept on wondering as to why the driver was asked to switch off the stereo?

Whenever a vehicle overtook their bus, she closed her eyes out of fear. At Subathu Cantonment she was delighted to see the soldiers in their uniforms. On seeing them she decided that when she grew up she would also join army and serve her country.



Just think:

- What would you like to do when you grow up?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



- If you have seen or met any soldier who lives nearby where you live, write about him—

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

- Why should songs not be played while driving a vehicle?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

When the bus crossed Subathu the pine trees welcomed her. It seemed as if the pine trees were also moving along the travelling bus and the sight made her very happy.

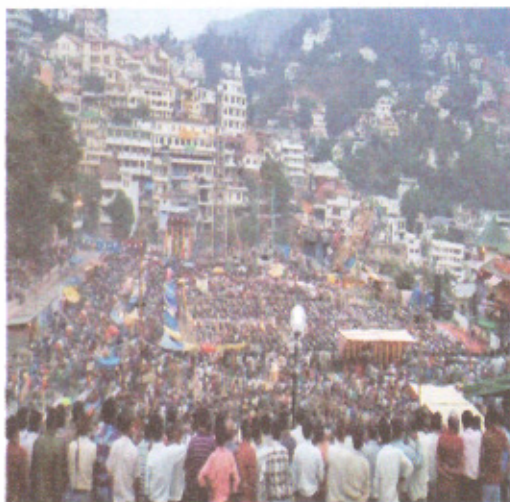
After travelling on the zig zag roads and overtaking many other vehicles, the bus finally reached Solan Bus Station. The moment it stopped, everyone rushed to the exit door holding their luggage. But this blocked the exit. So the conductor shouted, "All have to get down and if you will keep standing like this no one will be able to get down." Hearing this, some passengers got aside and people started getting down one by one. Khushi too jumped out of the bus, carrying her backpack carefully.





Ask Yourself

- ♦ Why should you not keep your arms or head out of the windows while travelling?
- ♦ Why should you not get down from a moving bus?
- ♦ What are the uses of doing our work ourselves?
- ♦ Which side should we take to get on and get down from a bus?
- ♦ If we follow all rules, how will it benefit us?



Khushi was surprised to see so many vehicles at the bus station. "Oh my God! So many vehicles," She said as she had not seen so many vehicles earlier. Her cousin, Muskan, was standing there with a welcoming smile on her face. Khushi felt relieved and was delighted to see her cousin. Muskan is elder to Khushi and studies in the Government College. Leaving Khushi with Muskan, the uncle

hurriedly went to his office and the two sisters started walking towards their home.

Khushi kept on looking at things around her with excitement even when they chatted and walked. On reaching the home she took a bath and then had her meals. After that they watched cartoons on TV for some time and talked of here and there.

In the afternoon, Muskan took her to the Children Park for a walk. Khushi noticed that some children were



playing on the road. She also wanted to play with them but Muskan forbade her and said, "Many vehicles ply on these roads and it is not safe to play there. And the children, who play on such roads, invite accidents. It is better to play on the places that are meant for playing. It is only there that we enjoy playing and it is also safe."

When they had moved a little ahead, Khushi saw gleaming lights of three colours fixed on a pole. She observed that these lights gleamed one by one. This alternate gleaming of lights made vehicles to move or stop. Khushi was about to ask Muskan about this, when her cousin started telling her about the working of these lights. She said, "The Red light that you see is the signal for stopping the vehicle.



As long as this light is on, the vehicles coming from that side stop. When the Green light switches on, the vehicles once again start moving. The Yellowlight that you see there is the sign to get ready for moving or stopping. These lights are



called traffic lights. If everyone follows the directions of these lights, many accidents can be avoided."

Then Khushi asked, "Didi, why have they painted those white stripes on the road?" Muskan told Khushi, "It is called Zebra Crossing. These are made for pedestrians to cross the road with safety. We must cross the road only when the signal shows red light and vehicles are not moving. Further, we should never run but walk carefully."

After some distance, Khushi observed that few people were walking on one side while some were walking on the other side of the road. She even saw some people crossing the road without caring for the signals. Khushi also tried to do so but Muskan stopped her and said, "We should never be in hurry to cross the road. First we should look to the right and then to the left and only when vehicles are at a safe distance from us, should cross the road. We should never try to imitate those who don't follow the rules of the road."

Give it a serious thought:

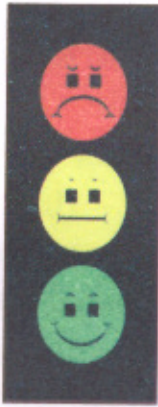
What are those things that are not found in a city but are there in a village?

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1. | 2. |
| 3. | 4. |
| 5. | 6. |
| 7. | 8. |

- ♦ What is the importance of cleanliness in our daily life ?
- ♦ If we play on the roads, what can happen to us? Why should we always play on playgrounds ?
- ♦ What are the benefits of crossing the road only on the Zebra Crossing ?
- ♦ How should children cross the road ?



Fill in the blanks:-



.....

.....

.....

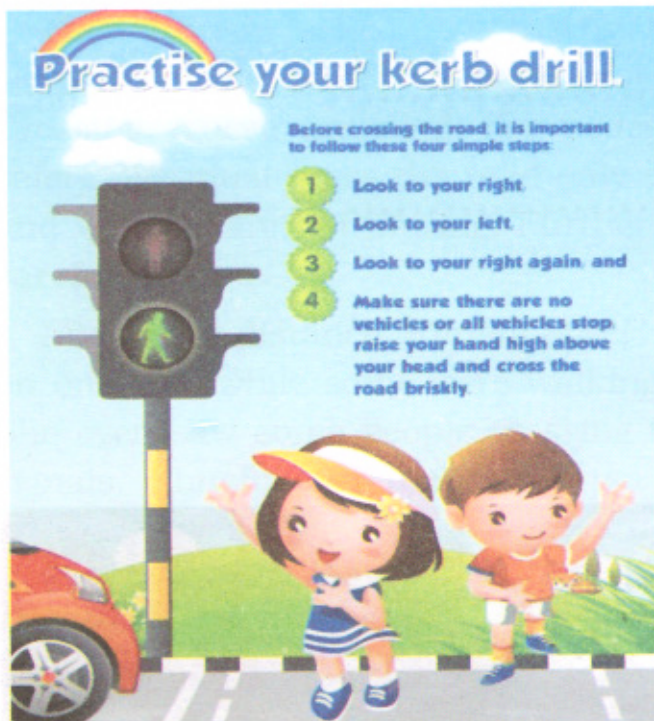
After sometime they reached Saproon. Here Khushi noticed that



there was a separated path along the main road and pedestrians were walking on that path. On seeing this, Khushi asked, "Didi, why are people walking on that path? Just now we saw that people were walking on the road. Why are they not walking on the road here? Muskan replied, "This path is specifically made for pedestrians and this type of path is called Pedestrian Path. It is always safe to walk on it. Wherever you don't find such paths, always make it a point to walk on the left side of the road. and one important thing that you must always keep in mind: never use earphones or such other device to listen to songs while walking on the road. If you do it, there is always the possibility of accidents."



Do's and don'ts of road safety.



Do's :

- ♦ Use pedestrian path as far as possible.
- ♦ Always walk on the left of the road if there are no pedestrian paths.
- ♦ Always use 'Zebra Crossing' or 'Over bridge' for crossing the road. Be extra cautious if there is no 'Zebra Crossing' or 'Over bridge'.
- ♦ Always take help of elders in crossing the roads.
- ♦ Always cross the road only when vehicles are at a safe distance.

Don'ts :

- ♦ Never cross the road running.
- ♦ Never cross the road walking between vehicles or in front of them.
- ♦ Never cross the road on blind curves.
- ♦ Never jump over railings while crossing the roads.
- ♦ Never run to cross the road if you see a moving vehicle.



Suddenly, Khushi saw a white vehicle with the number 108 written on it. Muskan understood that Khushi was curious to know about this. She said, "This number is used in case of emergencies. In case of accidents this number is to be called and at once help is provided."



At that time, Muskan got a call from her father. He wanted to know where they were. Muskan replied that they were about to reach the DC Office. At this the father said, "Be quick. I am waiting for you near the Children Park." And both of them hurried towards the Children Park.

For the teachers:

The teacher should try to teach children about the road safety rules in an interesting manner by creating a live demonstration of everyday road situations .

Teachers should tell children about the importance of the National Road Safety Week and ensure that this week is celebrated in their school.

For the children:

Make a list of the rules of the road.



Quiz:

1. You are safe while crossing the road:
 - a) When you cross the road running.
 - b) When you cross the road walking briskly.
 - c) When you cross the road very carefully and cautiously.
2. Before crossing the road:
 - a) You will first look to the left and then to the right.



- b) You will not see anything but just run.
 - c) You will give an indication with your raised hand that you are crossing the road.
3. Where there is no pedestrian path:
- a) You will walk on the left side of the road.
 - b) You will walk on the right side of the road.
 - c) You will walk on any side of the road that you wish.
4. You will play on the road:
- a) Where vehicular traffic is less.
 - b) Where there are no moving vehicles.
 - c) You will never play on the road.
5. The white strips painted on the road are connected to the animal:
- a) Zebra
 - b) Elephant
 - c) Lion

(Note: Teachers can frame number of such quiz questions so that students get to know about the road safety in an interesting manner)

