

# 3

## Waiting for the Rain



Do you know trees, plants and crops need water or rain to grow? When it does not rain, our crops dry. Earth becomes thirsty and it cannot help plants to grow. When we grow crops after crops on land, it gets tired and needs rest. Nature takes care of the earth and gives her rest by not making it rain. When it does not rain, the earth takes rest. But farmers get worried because they cannot grow crops without water. Read the story and know why it did not rain for several years.

“I hope it rains at least today.” Velu thought as he opened his eyes. Velu was a farmer. The sun was beginning to rise, glowing **crimson** like fire. Velu looked at the sky. There was not a cloud.

“It doesn’t look like there is going to be rain,” he **muttered** to himself and got up.

Rain or no rain, a farmer wakes up early. Velu worked hard on his piece of land. Season after season he **cultivated** it, **harvesting jowar** one season and **dal** the next.

Throughout the year he worked, never thinking of rest or taking a holiday. It had been the same for six years, ever since he had got his own piece of land.

But this year was different.

At the end of summer, the rain did not come. Velu and his neighbours waited, but their waiting did not end. Days, weeks and months passed, and still there was no rain. The fields were brown, the soil hardened, **crusted** and cracked. Everyday, the farmers hoped that the rains would come.



Someone said, “We ought to sacrifice an animal. A goat. That will please the heavens and the heavens will send down rain.”

Velu did not agree. He said, “The rain came all these years without any such sacrifice. How will killing a goat bring rain?”

He decided to go to the weather office in the city and talk to someone. But the people at the weather office could not really tell him when the rains would come. “We are not sure ourselves!” they exclaimed. “It’s strange that the rain is still not here.”

Velu walked back to the village, tired, thirsty and unhappy. He decided to rest for a while.

He saw a large tree. Its shade was cool and **inviting**.

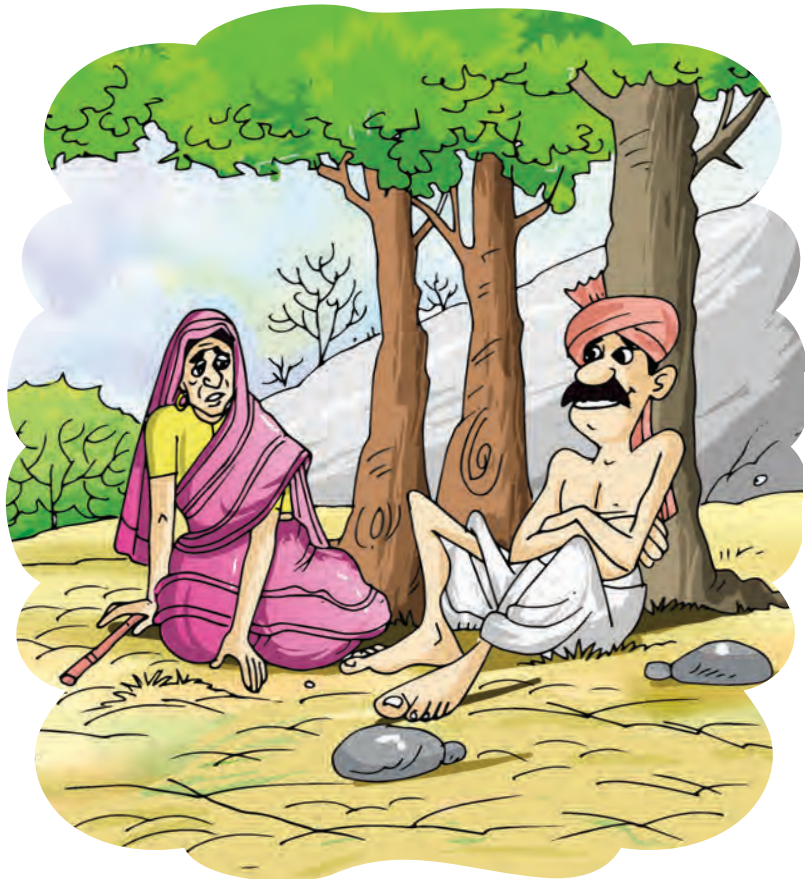
As he sat down, he noticed that an old woman was also sitting there, sheltering from the sun. She was old, but her eyes were bright when she smiled. She looked at Velu and her smile grew wider.

“What are you smiling at, Amma?” Velu asked. “Without the rains, there's nothing to smile about.” “Yes, yes you're right,” the old woman said. She stopped smiling. “I wonder why this is happening,” Velu began. “I have worked hard and honestly. Yet I am being punished. Without the rains no crop will grow. What will happen to me? How shall I feed my family?” he asked sadly. He was not speaking to anyone in particular, but the old woman thought that he was speaking to her.

“Perhaps you have worked too hard,” she said.

“What do you mean? I have only done what any hard-working farmer would do. I shall work and never rest until I am too old. This is the first season in five, no, six years that I have not sown, nor ploughed. Oh, it is hard **not to be able to work...**” said Velu a little angrily.

“But my son, that is what I am talking about. You have strength now. You can work without a break. But have you thought about the land? The earth works, too, when you plough, and sow, and plant. The earth has worked for years, in fact, thousands of years. The soil, the land, the earth... shouldn’t someone let the land rest a bit?” the old woman said, softly smiling.





“Rest? Let the land rest? I don’t understand,” Velu looked at her, a little puzzled.

“Yes, my son, that is the problem. You don’t realise that the earth is old... But Nature is a mother to all of us. To you and me. And to the trees, the water and the soil. She takes care to give her children the rest they need...,” the old lady said. Velu began to understand.

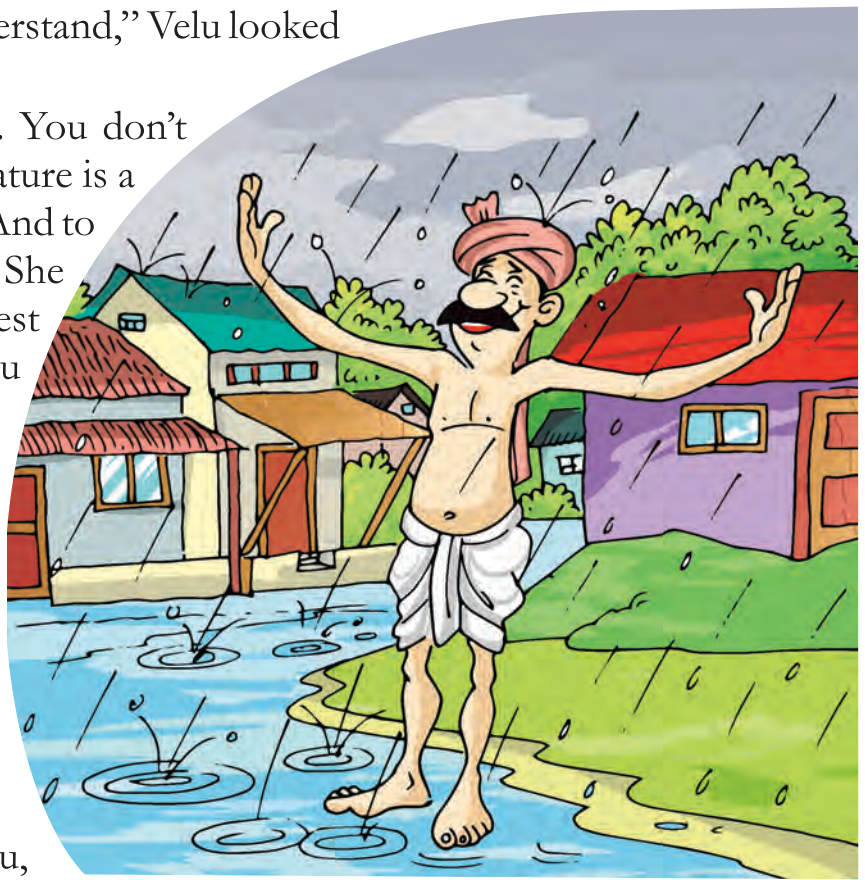
“When the rains don’t come, you are unhappy. But that way the land is left alone. The land lies resting, staring at the sky ... And when the rains come, it will be fresh and ready for your crop. Go home, my son, Nature knows a thing or two ... go home,” she said, and got up.

She walked away. After a while Velu, too, got up and walked home. He

thought about the land, his **beloved** piece of land. If the old woman was right, his land was perhaps resting peacefully, taking a break after years of **cultivation**.

“Perhaps she is right,” he thought, as he approached the village. It was already evening. The sun was low in the sky. And ... what was that? Velu felt tiny drops on his shoulder. He looked up. Yes... **the clouds were gathering** in the distance. It was growing dark. Soon there would be lightning. And thunder. And sweet, fragrant rain.

Velu ran home, laughing and happy.



### Word-Web

- **crimson** : a dark shade of red
- **cultivated** : used the land to grow crops
- **jowar** : a type of grain that is used to make flat breads
- **dal** : dried grains that are used especially in Asian cooking
- **crusted** : having a hard layer or covering of something
- **inviting** : something is very inviting if it is attractive and makes you want to be near it
- **ploughed** : turned over the earth with a plough or tractor so that seeds could be sown in it
- **not to be able to work** : cannot work, since the lands are all dry and cracked in the absence of rain
- **beloved** : loved very much by someone
- **cultivation** : the planting and growing plants and crops
- **the clouds were gathering** : it was getting more cloudy and dark
- **muttered** : spoke in low and angry voice
- **harvesting** : gathering crops from the land



# Comprehension

## Multi-Menu

Multiple Choice Questions

### A. Tick the correct answers.

- Season after season, Velu cultivated \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) wheat and gram  (b) jowar and dal  (c) rice and millets
- Days, weeks and months passed, and still there was no \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) cloud  (b) water  (c) rain
- Velu did not agree to \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) sacrifice a cock  (b) sacrifice an animal  (c) sacrifice his goat
- Velu decided to go to the \_\_\_\_\_ in the city and talk to someone.  
(a) post office  (b) telephone office  (c) weather office
- Velu felt tiny drops on his \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) shoulder  (b) head  (c) mouth

### » Pick and Fill

### B. Fill in the blanks with correct words from the box.

children    crusted    thousands    crimson    unhappy

- The sun was beginning to rise, glowing \_\_\_\_\_ like fire.
- The fields were brown, the soil hardened, \_\_\_\_\_ and cracked.
- Velu walked back to the village, tired, thirsty and \_\_\_\_\_.
- The earth has worked for years, infact, \_\_\_\_\_ of years.
- The mother nature takes care to give her \_\_\_\_\_ the rest they need.

### C. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements.

- Velu did not work hard on his piece of land.
- Velu's neighbour said that they ought to sacrifice an animal to please the heavens.
- Velu agreed to sacrifice an animal—a goat.
- Velu noticed that a young woman was also sitting under the tree.
- The nature is a mother to all of us and she takes care to give her children the rest they need.

## » Matching-Mania

D. Match the words in Column A with correct words in Column B to make sentences.

### Column A

1. Velu was a •
2. Velu worked hard •
3. The fields were •
4. Without the rain •
5. Velu ran home •

### Column B

- (a) laughing and happy.
- (b) no crop will grow.
- (c) hard working farmer.
- (d) on his piece of land.
- (e) brown.

## » Question-Queue (Short)

E. Answer each question in a few words or a sentence.

1. Who was Velu?
2. What did Velu and his neighbours wait for?
3. Where did Velu decide to go?
4. What did Velu notice when he was sitting under a tree?
5. What, according to the old woman, has become old and tired and need rest?

## » Question-Queue (Long)

F. Answer each question in one or two sentences.

1. Why did Velu look at the sky?
2. Why did someone advise Velu to sacrifice an animal?
3. Why was the old woman sitting under the shade of a tree?
4. How has the earth become old and tired?
5. What did Velu think about his land?



## Vocabulary

### ▶ Synonyms

A. The words in the table have roughly the same meaning. Write the word-pairs which mean the same below the table. One has been done for you.

|           |          |
|-----------|----------|
| old       | small    |
| happy     | earth    |
| tiny      | inviting |
| red       | weary    |
| welcoming | protect  |
| tired     | joyful   |
| shelter   | crimson  |
| soil      | ancient  |

- |              |   |                             |          |   |                             |
|--------------|---|-----------------------------|----------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. old       | - | <u>ancient</u>              | 2. happy | - | <u>                    </u> |
| 3. tiny      | - | <u>                    </u> | 4. red   | - | <u>                    </u> |
| 5. welcoming | - | <u>                    </u> | 6. tired | - | <u>                    </u> |
| 7. shelter   | - | <u>                    </u> | 8. soil  | - | <u>                    </u> |

**Now, rewrite this paragraph in your notebook after replacing the words in colour with words that have similar meanings. Find words from the above table.**

As the sun set, the clouds were jet black and bright red. The farmer was tired and thirsty, but looking at the sky he could see that it was going to rain. Soon, there was a clap of thunder and he felt the first small drop of rain. He stopped beneath an old banyan tree for protection from the rain. Gradually, the hard, cracked soil turned wet and soft. There was a happy feeling in his heart and as he ran home, he saw the inviting glow of a lamp in the window.

**▶ Read the following sentences.**

(phrasal verbs with 'up')

- Rain or no rain, a farmer wakes up early.
- After a while, Velu too got up and walked home.

We often use up with some verbs. Sometimes, this creates a new meaning.

**B. Use the words given in the box with 'up' to complete the sentences. Take help from the hints given in brackets.**

turn      look      round      mix      put      stay

- I'd like to watch final of cricket on the television tonight.  
May I please ..... (not go to bed) late.
- I have something important to say. Please help me to .....(gather together) everyone on the team so that I can talk to them.
- Be careful not to ..... (confuse) these two words.  
They are quite different in meaning.
- We thought he would come at eight, but he decided to ..... (come) at seven.
- There is nothing we can do to change the bad weather. We just have to ..... (accept) with it.
- Please ..... (find) these words in the dictionary.

 **Think-n-Thrive**

What will be if there is no rain for a long time, but only heat and dust all over the year?  
Can you get enough food and water without rain?



## Grammar-Grip

### ▶ The Simple Past tense and the Past Progressive tense

Read the following sentences.

1. Velu **looked** at the sky.
2. Velu **worked** hard on his piece of land.

In these sentences, the words in colour are in **the simple past tense**.

The past tense is used to show actions which happened in the past.

These actions are over. We usually add **-d** or **-ed** to the verb to form the Past Tense.

**For example :** played - play + ed, worked = work + ed

Some words have irregular past tense forms.

**For example :** brought = buy – bought,, taught = teach– taught.

### ▶ Read the following sentences.

1. The sun **was beginning** to rise, glowing crimson like fire.
2. He **was not speaking** to anyone in particular.

In these sentences, the words in colour are in the **past progressive tense**.

The past progressive tense is used to show actions that :

- continued for some time in the past.
- were going on when another action took place.

The past progressive tense is shown by the form **was/were + verb + -ing**.

**For Example :**

- I **was riding** my bicycle when it began to rain. (**was + ride + -ing**)
- They **were playing** when a monkey came there. (**were + play + -ing**)

### A. Read these sentences and underline the words in the simple past tense.

1. Velu decided to go to the weather office in the city.
2. Velu walked back to the village tired, thirsty and unhappy.
3. He saw a large tree.
4. He noticed that an old woman was also sitting there.
5. She looked at Velu and her smile grew wider.

### B. Complete these sentences using the past progressive tense form of the words given in brackets.

1. What ..... (you, do) when the sun ..... (set)?
2. He ..... (not, speak) to anyone in particular.
3. Velu and his neighbours ..... (wait) for the rain to come.

4. Velu thought perhaps his land ..... (rest) peacefully.
5. Some birds ..... (fly) in the sky.

**▶ Reading**

**Read the following story and answer the questions that follow.**

There was once a wolf. He was very hungry. He wanted to eat a foal. He went up to the herd of horses and said, "Why is one of your foals limping? Don't you know how to cure it? We, wolves, have some medicine that stops limping."

"Can you cure limping then?" asked one of the mares.

"Of course I can," the wolf replied.

"Then cure my right hind leg. There is a pain in my hoof," said the mare.

"The wolf went up to the mare and when he was right behind her, she kicked him hard and broke all his teeth.

"You can't fool us," said the mare and walked away.

1. Who was hungry?
2. What did the wolf want to eat?
3. What did the mare say to the wolf to cure?
4. What did the mare do when the wolf was right behind her?
5. Why did the wolf want to cure the limping foal?

**» Fun to Write**

**▶ Read the example given below and write what you like. Use the word in brackets?**

1. I like .....to eat fruits and eggs..... (eat)
2. .... (wear)
3. .... (watch)
4. .... (listen)
5. .... (ride)
6. .... (read)
7. .... (play)
8. .... (talk about)