

बच्चों की कहानियाँ - २

May-June 2020

Preface

During our weekly HRD with Sunil Sir many educators share anecdotes of their students. These are humorous, somber and often touching. There was once a suggestion to compile these. A trial was done with about 36 anecdotes and circulated among educators and a few parents of Eklavya. The feedback was overwhelming. The anecdotes struck a chord...the parents went down memory lane and reminisced about the childhood of their children. They laughed and cried as they read on. So, we decided to bring out a small book and call it "बच्चों की कहानियाँ".

Now, we have come up with second edition of this interesting book called "बच्चों की कहानियाँ-2".

All the educators were again very enthusiastic and anecdotes poured in. To protect the identity of our students we decided to use seven names for children and three for the educators - Suhani, Diya, Mahi, Aryan, Sahil, Aditya and Meet are the characters who will take you along the journey through "बच्चों की कहानियाँ-2". They represent all the children whose stories have been so lovingly written by their educators. Similarly - Renu ma'am, Swati ma'am and Sameer Sir stand for all the Ma'ams and Sirs who are a part of their laughter and tears!

Read on... it is not important to find out who the child is but the magic lies in enjoying the innocence of childhood and the challenge of the tumultuous teens.

So choose your favourite corner and pick up the book "बच्चों की कहानियाँ-2" and be ready to be flooded by a kaleidoscope of emotions...

1. A beautiful memory

Class 5 had gone to Zainabad and children were playing a game with one of the volunteers from the 'Anala team'. In this game, the host would say "लहसुन की चटनी" with a specific expression. Looking at that expression, the children had to say "बड़े मजेदार" in the same manner. Renu ma'am enjoyed the way children imitated the expression and cannot forget this experience.

2. A matter of respect

Students (Cl 7) were taken for a visit to the 'Fisherman Jetty' where some students were making faces. Sameer Sir explained that fishing plays an important role in Economy and others' food and culture should be respected. The students realised their mistake and felt sorry for their behaviour.

3. A role model

Sahil (JKg) had hurt his elbow. Renu ma'am called his mother to ask how he was. His mother said, "Ma'am, he is very upset that he will not be able to work with his right hand." To motivate Sahil, Renu ma'am spoke to him over the phone. He told ma'am, "You came to school even when you had hurt your leg, I will also try and do everything."

4. A thoughtful discussion

Class 6 had gone to Parvati Hills for camp. At night, all the teachers ensured that the children were in their tents. Renu ma'am had retired to her tent when she heard a discussion among children in the tent next to hers. They were discussing about the people who lived in the forest and how they managed to survive in the harsh cold weather. The children were sensitive towards the people who did not have basic amenities to sleep at night or to have a proper meal in the day. Renu ma'am felt that it was very thoughtful of the children to feel like this.

5. आज करे सो अब

While doing a Math worksheet in the class, Swati ma'am asked children to do last two sums for homework. The next class was about to start. Diya(Cl 2) came running to Swati ma'am. She asked, "My mother told me that we should not leave any work pending. She always says काल करे सो आज कर, आज करे सो अब। So can I finish these two sums now?"

6. आने दो, आने दो

One morning after reaching the class, Swati ma'am saw Aryan (Play group) giving instruction to driver uncle standing at the window of his classroom. Aryan was saying, "आने दो, आने दो।"

7. Always Careful

When the year began, Swati Ma'am kept asking Suhani (Play group) to walk fast. Suhani always replied, "मै जल्दी चलूंगी तो गिर जाऊंगी ।"

8. Always with you

Children were very excited to receive their class photos. Renu ma'am was sharing with children that they were lucky to have this photo as a lifetime memory. Once they grow old, they can see this photo and remember their Skg friends. Renu ma'am added that she did not have the copy of that photograph. Listening to this, Diya said, "Ma'am why don't you take a photo of this photograph on your phone. You will always have our photo with you."

9. And...Click!

Class 11 was travelling to Gir for their nature camp. Sameer Sir was showing interesting things in nature during the journey by bus. Aryan felt that it would have been nice if they had carried their cameras so that they could take pictures. After having repeated this, Sameer sir explained that we are blessed with eyes which have 576 megapixels which are more than any camera or an iphone can offer. He added that a human brain can store whatever it captures through eyes in memory and we can bring back these memories later in life. Sir also explained that everyone should take care of their eyes. All the students accepted this with a smile.

10. Attentive camper

Before going for the hike, Sameer sir was giving an orientation about the flora and fauna of that area. Sahil (CI 8) was sitting beside Swati ma'am and was listening attentively. Later during the hike, he recognised many plants and even found out a bone of an animal. All the students were quite amazed to see the bone.

11. Becoming Strong

Sameer Sir asked children of (CI 3) the purpose of coming to Vadali. Suhani answered enthusiastically, "We have come here to be strong by staying away from our parents."

12. Bed arranged!

During the camp at Beyt Dwarka, students(CI 7) had to stay in tents. Each tent accommodated five students. Renu ma'am was sharing her tent with three of her students, Diya, Suhani and Mahi. At night when it was time to sleep, Renu ma'am was surprised to see her sleeping bag arranged for her to retire into. The girls had surprised her and she felt good about it.

13. Camp का मज़ा

Zainabad camp के दौरान पहले ही दिन जब class 5 Wild Ass Sanctuary and Sun Set देखने गए थे, तभी 'सुहानी का पैर अचानक मुड़ गया उसे काफी दर्द था। वह रेनु ma'am के साथ थी। हम बाकी लोगों से बहुत पीछे धीरे-धीरे चल रहे थे। सुहानी बार-बार कह रही थी कि, "मैम आप मेरी वज़ह से कुछ भी नहीं सुन पा रही हो, जो 'समीर सर' बता रहे हैं।" रेनु ma'am को लगा हम शिक्षक ही नहीं, बच्चे भी हमारे लिए सोचते हैं।

रेनु ma'am ने उससे पूछा, सुहानी घर भेज दूँ, तो बोली मैं अपना camp miss नहीं करना चाहती हूँ, camp cite पर चलकर हल्दी लगा लेंगे मैम।

14. Can't Speak

While teaching English in the class, Renu Ma'am said, "Children please be quiet and answer this question." Immediately Aryan(CI 4) raised this hand and said, "Ma'am, if we are quiet, how will we answer the question?"

15. Can't wait for Pav Bhaji

During the Class 3 Nightout, children were helping teachers prepare Pav bhaji. Aryan helped in chopping vegetables. Once all the preparation work was done, children went to play. Aryan came back after every five minutes to ask, "हो गया.....बन गया". Swati ma'am asked him, "Are you very hungry?" Aryan replied, "The smell is so good that I am unable to wait." He stood there eagerly waiting for the pav bhaji to be ready.

16. Childlike again!

The post dinner time during the Saputara camp was a time of joy for the students of class 10. Children played cricket with twigs and paper ball. The volunteers of Anala enjoyed this innovative cricket. Sameer sir told wonderful stories to the students before they went to bed and it was wonderful to see these teenagers become childlike again!

17. Caring Aryan

Renu ma'am had brought pomegranate to eat during the fruit break. While taking it out from the bag, the box fell down. On Seeing what had happened to ma'am's food, Aryan (SKg) went running to her and said, "Please share food with us. When we don't bring our food, you make us share with each other." Renu ma'am told Aryan that she had already eaten something at home. After a while on the same day Aryan checked with Ma'am asking her, "Are you still not hungry?" Renu ma'am was so happy to see how concerned Aryan was.

18. Compassion

Class 6 had gone to Parvati Hills for a camp. It was their last day before returning. All the children were filling up their bottles and Sameer Sir's dog Bruno was sitting near a tree. Bruno loves the children of Eklavya and there was a reason behind it. While Bruno was sitting there, students from some other school who had just arrived at the camp site, came to fill their bottles and sprayed water on Bruno. As soon as he started barking, they ran away. Children from Eklavya have never been seen harassing animals – said Sameer Sir.

19. Concern

The first day of the camp began with a light refreshment. Swati ma'am was approached by Sahil (CI 6) who said that he had had less food as he was not comfortable with outside food and so he should not be forced to eat. Swati ma'am was concerned about him and kept an eye on how much he ate lest he should fall ill. She observed that he had a proper lunch and dinner. Before retiring to bed, Sahil went to Swati ma'am and told her, "Ma'am, you don't worry about my food. I have started eating". He had been observing her being concerned about him. Sometimes it's not just the adults who are concerned, even children are.

20. Dear Tree

It was the end of July and all these children were settled in their new class. The entire class was having lunch. Suddenly Sahil(Nur) got up and said, "The tree outside the window is crying as bhैया is cutting it." When Swati ma'am got up and looked, the tree outside was being trimmed.

21. Delicious custard

Once students of class 8 were having lunch at the campsite, Aaryan really enjoyed the delicious custard and ate a lot of it. He said that it was really tasty and wondered why his mother did not make such delicious custard.

22. ध्यान से पढ़े !

Class 10 had gone to Saputara for camp and on day one, all the students and teachers went for a hike. They reached a point from where they could see the border of the State of Maharashtra. Sahil immediately pointed at a place far away and told Renu ma'am that it is the 'Col Plateau'. When Renu ma'am agreed to it, he said, "see ma'am, I study ध्यान से in the class."

23. Dirty Handkerchief

Aryan (JKg) was chewing his handkerchief continuously. Renu ma'am asked Aryan to give his handkerchief to her. Aryan refused to do so. Ma'am insisted upon Aryan to give it to her. Renu ma'am told him that if he did not give the handkerchief, he would have to stay in school with her. Ma'am added that his mother would be really upset to see the handkerchief so dirty. Aryan started crying and said, "Ma'am, my mummy will scold me if I don't go home."

24. Do what you Say

One day during lunch Renu ma'am instructed the children to drink water only after finishing their food. Children started eating and one by one went to ma'am to seek her permission to drink water. Renu ma'am gave them the permission to drink water. Aryan (JKg) angrily got up from his place and went to ma'am. He asked "Ma'am, now why are you giving permission to everyone? You only told first finish your food and then drink water." His words made ma'am realize that she was not sticking to her words.

25. Don't waste food

During lunch break, Suhani (CI 7) was not able to finish her lunch. So, Diya offered to finish it as she did not want to waste food.

26. Dog ate the homework

Class 10 students had submitted their homework and Renu ma'am went to the class to collect the notebooks. Out of three students who had not submitted their work, Sahil was one. When Renu ma'am asked him about the homework, he said, 'Ma'am, the dog ate my homework'. Renu ma'am reminded him that it was the oldest excuse children usually give. The entire class laughed.

27. Exploring Nature

Class 5 had gone for a camp to Zainabad. During the desert safari, some students found a bone. Aaryan said, यहा पर कोई creature हो सकता है। Immediately Sahil said, "Don't be afraid, we are here to explore Nature."

28. Fevicol-Repairs Everything

Swati ma'am had got hurt in her ankle. She was in a lot of pain. Children were asking her what had happened. She told them that she had got hurt. She said that she would go to a doctor later that day to get it checked. Aryan (JKg) quickly got up and ran to the shelf and took a bottle of fevicol. He went to Ma'am and said, "You fix my books and PEC using fevicol. I will use fevicol and fix your leg."

29. Foodie with a twist!

Suhani(CI 6) was a fussy eater at school. She would eat her food very slowly and complain about her lunch. To Swati ma'am's surprise, she was enjoying all her meals at the camp. On the second day, during dinner, she told Sameer Sir to open a restaurant in Ahmedabad and share the recipes with her mother.

30. Friends forever

On the last day of the camp, Diya (CI 8) had fever and was in her room at breakfast time. Swati ma'am was monitoring the dining area for all the children and two of her friends (Suhani & Mahi) went and told Swati ma'am that they would take some upma for Diya to the room and then they would like to take their breakfast one at a time so that Diya would not be left alone.

31. Forgetful Grandpa

Renu ma'am was reading the Chapter Forgetful Grandpa with Class 1. The chapter was about a grandpa who had the habit of forgetting things. Due to this habit, his family use to suffer.

In the chapter the Grandpa once takes grandma's puppy for a walk and brings back someone else's puppy. When Grandma sees the puppy she is shocked.

Renu ma'am was enacting the same while reading the chapter.

Sahil got up from his seat and said, "Ma'am grandma will say, Oh God! Why did I marry this man!"

Renu ma'am somehow controlled her laughter. She said, "No, Grandma will not say like this."

Then Diya said. "No ma'am, Sahil is right, my grandma tells the same to my grandpa almost everyday."

32. Full tiffin

Diya (Play group), after finishing her lunch checked Suhani's tiffin. She said, "देखो ma'am Suhani ने एक भी टीप् नही खाया।"

33. गिलीगिली बूम

Sahil(SKg) is a very shy child. One day after a visit, while he was boarding the bus he told Renu ma'am, "Don't worry if the petrol gets over. I know a मंत्र with which the bus can move." He continued, "गिली गिली गिली बूम बूम बूम जल्दी से चल बस मेरी तू।" He had changed the magic box song which they learnt in school to suit what he wanted to tell."

34. गिरना जरूरी हैं

Renu ma'am and her set of students were ready to go on a hike and they were being oriented about the do's and don'ts by Sameer Sir. He told the children that they would go on a hike only on the condition that 'गिरना जरूरी हैं पर चोट नहि लगानि चाहिये।"

All the students were excited and throughout the hike they kept repeating that and whenever someone would fall, they would laugh and say 'गिरना जरूरी है...."

35. Go to play

It was a Saturday. Renu ma'am was writing the time table on the board. She wrote one period as GTP which means Group Teacher's Period. Suddenly Diya (cl 2) asked, "Ma'am, what is the full form of GTP?" Renu ma'am was about to answer the child, suddenly Sahil interrupted and said, "It means- Go to play". Everyone in the class burst out laughing.

36. Good Deed of the day!

Class 7 went for 'Beyt Dwarka' camp last year. After having dinner, someone threw the left-over food in the sink and the sink got clogged. All the children were asked about it but no one owned up. Aryan of class 7 was standing in the queue to wash his plate. He said, "ma'am, no problem, I will clean the sink and he took all the left-over food from the sink with his hand and then he washed his plate."

37. Good Question

Class 3 had gone to Fire station for a field visit. Sir was explaining that in case of emergency you should break open the door. He explained the different ways of opening the door. Sahil raised his hand and asked, "Nowadays we have doors in hotels that open with a card. How should we open such doors in case of emergency?" Sir was surprised that a Class 3 child had come up with such a good question.

38. Good Work=Good Result

During a Nature Club period, Aryan(CI 2) was trying to encourage Suhani to do the de-weeding work properly. Aryan told Suhani, "If we want good quality carrot, we need to do good quality de-weeding as well."

39. Helpful hands

Aaryan (CI 7) was not feeling well on the second night during the camp. He was suffering from diarrhoea. Renu ma'am gave him medicine at night but early in the morning at 4 o'clock, he felt giddy and vomited in the tent. Sahil, Aaditya and Meet woke up and immediately helped Aryan. They removed all the beddings and shifted to another tent without complaining. In the morning, they helped in carrying all the other things to the other tent.

40. Helping repair the bus

One day Aryan(CI 3) told Swati ma'am, "Ma'am, I know everything about the bus." Swati Ma'am said, "Very nice." She tried to find out why Aryan was saying so. When Swati ma'am asked Aryan, he shared that when he was coming to the class, he saw a driver uncle and a conductor uncle doing some repair work in the bus. On seeing them working, Aryan pointed out, "Something is wrong with this part. You should fix it." Uncle told him that if there is a problem next time, they will take his help repairing it. Aryan smiled and said, "This is the reason why I am telling that I know everything about buses."

41. Hot Like A Chilly

During a field visit to Prahladnagar Fire Station (CI 3), the guide asked the children, "Why do you think the fire engine is red in colour?" Few children answered that as it is an emergency vehicle, it is red in colour. A few said that it is because if you see a fire engine you need to stop and give way. Children gave different answers to the question. The guide explained, "As it represents fire and fire is hot so it is red in colour." Listening to this Aryan said 'hot like a chilly' and everyone had a good laugh.

42. How do we eat?

On the second day of the trip, students were given packed food to eat. Renu ma'am instructed them to hold their plates with both hands. After the instruction was given, Aryan(CI 5) asked innocently, "Ma'am if we hold the plate with both the hands, how will we eat?" Everyone had a good laugh.

43. Humpty Dumpty had a great fall

Sahil, (CI 7) was extremely excited during the coral walk at Beyt Dwarka. He was giving instructions to his friends to be careful while walking lest they would fall and hurt themselves. When they were about to complete their task, he fell and laughed at himself saying, "अरे मैं तो खुद गिर गया" All his friends had a great laugh.

44. I got a Baby Sister

At the time of getting down from the bus, Swati ma'am told Aryan (Nur), "See you tomorrow. Good bye." Aryan stopped and replied, "No bye. Congratulate me, my mumma got me a baby sister. I am a big brother now."

45. I am alert

On the second day of school, Renu ma'am was travelling in Bus No.2. Aryan (Nur) was also travelling in the same bus. Suddenly Aryan stood up on his seat and was not ready to sit. Renu ma'am asked him to sit. She said, "You will fall down if you stand in the moving bus." Aryan quickly replied, "नहीं गिरूंगा, मैंने पकड़ा है।"

46. I Will Beat You

Sahil (CI 3) used to complete his table test along with Swati ma'am. It took 1 minute and 10 seconds for Sahil to finish and 1 minute and 5 seconds for Swati ma'am to finish the table test. One day Sahil told ma'am, "You are the only ma'am who finishes the table test faster than me. I challenge you that by the end of this year I will finish my table test before you complete it."

47. I will teach you...

Play Group children were enjoying the net climbing activity. Renu ma'am said, "I don't know how to climb the net." Aryan told her eagerly, "I will teach you, ma'am."

48. Its दूधी

Swati ma'am was showing a bottle gourd to her students in the class. Sahil (Play group) said, "Ma'am, इसको bottle gourd नहीं केहते है इसको दूधी कहेते है।"

49. Knock Knock! Who? Reminder!

Every year, Class 7 goes to Marine Camp (Beyt Dwarka). Here the students visit the fish market. Before going to the fish market, they are oriented that any bad smell stays only for two minutes and then they will get used to it. Whenever any student complained about the bad odour, the other students reminded her about what they had learnt in the orientation. Every year class 7 also visits 'Pirana Sewage Treatment Plant' where they experience a similar stench as they have had in Beyt Dwarka. This year, as soon as they smelt the bad odour at 'Pirana Sewage Treatment Plant', they reminded each other about what they had learnt in the orientation before visiting the fish market at Beyt Dwarka.

50. Learning it Myself

Diya(SKg) was selected as a compere for Euphoria. She was religiously practicing her line one day. Swati ma'am noticed her practicing and asked her what she was doing. Diya replied, "I am practicing my lines. My mumma keeps very busy so I don't want to trouble her, I will learn it on my own."

51. Lesson learnt

Aryan (CI 9) brought his mobile to school during Phoenix practice. He later realized his mistake and was worried of the consequences. Most of his friends advised him to hide the phone saying no one will come to know. Worried about the consequences he will have to face if he gets caught, he went to Renu ma'am. Renu ma'am told him to go to Sameer sir and tell him the truth. He took the advice given by Renu ma'am and went to Sameer sir. Aryan apologized for the mistake and he got his mobile back at the end of the day. Aryan had realized that telling the truth was far better than hiding.

52. Learning together

During the Marine Camp to Beyt Dwarka, class 7 students have many activities which they are very excited about. On day two, there was a group activity where they had to collect different kinds of shells from the beach. Children started looking for shells individually and collected quite a number. When they sat together in groups, they realised that many shells were similar. At this juncture, Sameer sir told them that they should have stayed together and looked for shells so that they would have collected different kinds rather than having collected the similar ones. That day children learnt the importance of team work.

53. Let's do it!

Class 6 had gone to Parvati Hills for camp. A day was scheduled for various activities in the adventure park for the students. The students insisted upon Renu ma'am and Swati ma'am to participate in the games. Swati ma'am was scared as well as reluctant to climb the rope but the students encouraged her by saying "you can do it!" Eventually, Swati ma'am was able to complete all the obstacles and so were all the children. She was very happy to see how children motivate and support others.

54. Like My Mother

One day during lunch Diya (JKg) went running to Renu ma'am. She said, "Ma'am, you are my गुरु and also my mother." She further explained, "My गुरु because you teach me and my mother because you scold me like my mother." Diya added, "You scold me if I don't eat my food, my mumma also does the same."

55. Looking nice

After the circle time Aryan (JKg) went to Swati ma'am and said, "Ma'am, I want to tell you something." Swati ma'am asked him what he wanted to share. He said, "Ma'am, today you wore a pink kurta and applied pink lipstick. You are looking nice. Everyday apply only pink lipstick. It suits you."

56. Love and care

Camp में अध्यापकों को ही बच्चों की चिन्ता नहीं होती, बच्चे भी teacher का पूरा ध्यान रखते हैं। कक्षा छह के कैंम्प के दौरान रेनु मैम की तबीयत बहुत खराब हो गई। तब साहील बोला, "मैम में आपका सिर दबा दूँगा तो आप बिलकुल ठीक हो जाओगे।"

57. Love for गरबा

During the dance class, while Swati ma'am was searching for a song, Diya (JKg) heard just one line of the song 'राधा ने श्याम मलीं'. She quickly went to Swati ma'am and said, "Ma'am, please play that song and we will do गरबा on that song."

Swati ma'am was surprised to see that such a young child remembers the song on which they had learnt dance long ago.

58. मैम मैं पानी पीऊँ?

सत्र 2019-2020 की कक्षा एक में रेनु मैम का हिन्दी का पहला कालांश था। मैम कक्षा गई तब बच्चे पानी पी रहे थे। पीने के पश्चात् मैमने सभी को बैठने को कहा तो बच्चे बैठ गए। तभी आर्यन ने पूछा "मैम, मैं पानी पीऊँ?" मैम ने बोला नहीं। उसने फिर पूछा "मैम, मैं पानी पीऊँ?" तब मैम उसके पास गई और उसे बड़े प्यार से समझाते हुए बोली "देखो कक्षा शुरू हुए काफी टाइम हो गया। जब सब पानी पी रहे थे तब आपने क्यों नहीं पिया? अब अगर मैं आपको permission दूँगी तो दूसरे बच्चों को भी देना पड़ेगा। आप अभी बैठो मैं पाँच मिनट के बाद आपको पानी पीने की permission दूँगी।" उसने ok बोला। फिर बोला "मैम, मैं पानी पीऊँ?" मैम को हँसी आ गई। मैम उस बच्चे के मासूम चेहरे को देखकर फिर मना ना कर सकी।

59. मैम सब ठीक कर देगी

During Phoenix practice, Suhani(Nur) used to get nervous while performing in front of people. Renu ma'am used to encourage her by telling Suhani not to worry. She told her that she was always with her.

After some days in the class, Diya was feeling nervous. Suhani immediately plunged in "Renu ma'am है तो किस बात का है डर। मैम सब ठीक कर देगी।"

60. Make-up birds

During the Nature Camp to Indroda Park, children were looking at birds with red cheeks. Sahil (CI 1) asked Swati ma'am, "Ma'am, have they done make up?"

61. मिच्छामी दुक्कडम

One day after lunch children were enjoying free play outside the class. Aryan(Nur) started shouting loudly at Sahil, telling him to tell मिच्छामी दुक्कडम (which means sorry) to the ant. Renu ma'am called both of them to find out what was happening. On asking, Aryan told that Sahil was not saying मिच्छामी दुक्कडम to the ant which he had just stamped on.

62. Missing from the line

Children were making a line to go for the assembly after OFP. Renu ma'am was doing a head count to make sure that everyone had joined the line. While counting she realized that one child was not present. She was trying to figure out who was missing in the line. Suhani (Skg) understood the problem and quickly told ma'am, "You didn't count Aryan." Renu ma'am forgot counting Aryan, whose hand she was holding. All children started laughing.

63. Mumma's little helper

While going to the Art and Craft class, Sahil (CI 2) got drenched in the rain. Swati ma'am asked, "Why did you go when it started raining?" To this Sahil said, "Don't worry ma'am. I know my shirt is wet. Now mumma will not have to wash it."

64. My Ma'am's Blessings

Diya's parents called Swati ma'am on 11th May 2020 at around 10:00 am. They said, "Diya(JKg) wants to talk to you before she starts her work for the new academic year." Swati ma'am was overwhelmed. She spoke to Diya. Diya said, "Ma'am, please give me your blessing as I am starting my Skg work today. I will start my work right after you bless me." Renu Ma'am wished her luck for the new class. This made Diya very happy.

65. My new Best Friend

During the camp at Beyt Dwarka, Aaryan(CI 7) had hurt himself in the leg and was unable to walk properly. Swati ma'am advised him to wear socks so that the wound is not infected by sand particles. As Aaryan could not go, he requested some of his friends to get his pair of socks from his tent. They refused and went away but Sahil immediately went to the tent and brought the socks for Aaryan. To this, Aaryan said that Sahil was his new best friend as he had helped him.

66. My पूर्वज

Class 3 had gone for a field visit to Shreyas Museum. They were observing the cultural aspects of various communities of Gujarat. Suddenly Suhani pointed out, "This photo is of my पूर्वज" Renu ma'am asked, "How do you know that?" Suhani replied, "Ma'am you know my surname is Bharwad and she belongs to the Bharwad Community, so she is my ancestor."

67. New Haircut

After seeing the photo of Gandhiji in Satya Area, Sahil (Play group) remarked, "Ma'am, see Gandhi bapu ने haircut किया।"

68. No reluctance!

Class 7 had gone for a camp at Beyt Dwarka. Students were cleaning their own plates post dinner. The sink got clogged due to food particles. Renu ma'am got an iron rod and started cleaning the sink. Watching her do so, Aaryan took the rod from her and insisted upon cleaning the sink. He was not reluctant about the work. He said that this was the time they would learn to do things on their own.

69. Not Hungry

On the first day of school, Diya(Nur) was talking to Renu ma'am while eating her fruits. By the time she finished eating her fruits it was already the lunch break. Swati ma'am told Diya to eat her lunch. Diya said, "हमना fruits खाधु हवे थोडी खवाए मारा पेट मा जग्या नथी।"

70. Others before us

While solving an English worksheet, Sahil (CI 1) wanted to write a sentence about his friend Aryan. His mother tried to help him by telling him to write, 'I and Aryan

Sahil stopped his mother and said, "No Mumma, Renu ma'am has taught us that we should always place others before us. So I should write, Aryan and I....."

71. Partner is absent!

"One day, Swati ma'am was teaching class 12 students how to prepare a Balance sheet. Once the students had prepared one, she asked Suhani to give her the total amount she had calculated in the balance sheet.

To this Suhani said, "Ma'am, I can't make the total as I am lonely today!"

Swati ma'am asked her what did she mean by the statement.

To this Suhani replied, "Ma'am, I have forgotten to bring my calculator today!"

All the students had a good laugh.

72. Patience

During Phoenix preparation, Sahil (CI 2) displayed exemplary co-operation and maturity to his age. When Renu ma'am was applying the squirrel make-up on him, he sat still for a long time and followed all instructions. A child of his age rarely has the patience to keep still for so long.

73. Prayers by little angels

Class 6 had gone for a camp to Parvati Hills. The driver *bhaiya* got the news that his mother had been ill and was hospitalised. As soon as the children got to know, they all started praying for the better health of his mother.

74. Patient listener

Sahil (CI 9) often used to come to Renu ma'am with a complaint of fever, body ache, tooth ache, cold, cough etc. She would always ask him not to take any medicine unless the pain was severe because mild illness is automatically treated by the body through its own immune system.

One day, as usual he went to her, but before he could speak, she started advising him against taking any medicine. Sahil listened to her patiently and once she stopped speaking, he told that he had not come with a complaint of his illness, but he wanted to inform that there was no teacher in his class.

She felt very bad and immediately she said sorry to him.

75. Patriotic friend

Renu ma'am was helping children practice for the inter-house patriotic song competition. She was helping a group of Shravan house children (CI 3). All the students were regularly practicing for the competition. Diya was unwell and could not attend the school for a few days. She missed the practice session due to illness. She was finding it difficult to sing the song. Renu ma'am was worried that Diya will not be able to perform well. Renu ma'am told the entire group, "If we all will not practice regularly, the team will suffer." Suhani understood that Renu ma'am was worried about Diya. She told Renu ma'am, "Don't worry ma'am, I will help Diya practice the song." Suhani helped Diya learn the song. Renu ma'am was very happy with Suhani's efforts.

76. Quiet!

Renu ma'am went to Kutch camp with class 9. She was not their class teacher and so all the more worried as how will she make them feel comfortable with her so that they enjoy the trip. During the six hours journey, she got an opportunity to talk to every child and in no time she felt that they were going to enjoy their trip. Suhani who is a very quiet child, opted to be with Renu ma'am in the tent. Renu ma'am thought that since she was timid, she must take care of her. But very soon she found that when there was chaos because everyone was talking and discussing, Suhani would just stand up and say 'quiet' very firmly and then she would wait. Everyone would just be quiet and pay attention towards her. This happened four to five times on day one. From day two, she would just stand up and everyone would be quiet in no time. All the four days, Renu ma'am had a great time with the strongest child in her tent!

77. Relating the zig-zag walk

Class 8 has a novel 'Crazy times with uncle Ken' as a part of their syllabus in English literature. A particular chapter talks about a 'zig zag walk'. During the camp, students had to walk on a path which was quite curved. After the hike, Sahil told Renu ma'am, "Ma'am this is the zig zag walk in its true sense". She wondered how children relate their experiences of reading a book in the class to those in their real life.

78. Sad Fish

One day Renu ma'am drew a fish on the board. On seeing the fish, Diya (Play group) said, fish बहुत sad है। Ma'am asked, "Why are you saying that?" Diya replied, "क्योंकि board मे पानी नहीं है।"

79. Sale Time

In the Home period on Monday, Renu ma'am was checking nails and hair. Aryan's (CI 2) hair was not trimmed. On asking why his hair was not trimmed, Aryan replied, "Mumma didn't have time. Sales are going on; she is busy with her shopping."

80. School Mother

Renu ma'am was listening to a discussion happening amongst students,

Aryan (CI 1) said, "Renu ma'am is our friend."

Sahil said, "No, she is our mother."

Diya interrupted adding, "No, she is not our mother, she is our school mother."

81. Self Control

Before leaving for the camp Swati ma'am had instructed children that no one should complain during the camp. After finishing the camp, when they reached Ahmedabad, Aryan (CI 4) went to Swati ma'am. He asked, "Can I complain now? We have reached Ahmedabad."

82. Sharing is Caring

One day Aryan (Nur) brought parantha for lunch and was offering to the child sitting beside him. Renu ma'am told Aryan that he should not share his food. Aryan replied, "Ma'am, my mumma says sharing is caring."

83. Sensitive Sahil

Class 4 had gone for a field visit to the soap factory. They were observing different raw materials used for making soaps. After the resource person had shared about the different raw materials, Sahil was concerned. He went to Swati ma'am and asked, "Ma'am, is it safe for the people in terms of health who are working here as they have not covered their face and it's very dusty?" This question made ma'am realize that how concerned such small children are towards other people.

84. Sign language

Swati ma'am had a problem in her throat and she was advised not to speak for a few days. She was still recovering after a surgery. Nevertheless, she came to school and made great efforts to teach class 12 students by writing most of the things on the black board and using gestures to explain the topic. Students were concerned and after having observed her anxious body language, they tried their best to follow her gestures. Suhani came to her and said, "Ma'am, relax, give full rest to your voice and we will serve as your voice". Immediately Diya added, "Yes Ma'am, this way we will also become expert in understanding sign language." All of them had a good laugh. This experience has stayed with Swati ma'am as a beautiful memory of how difficult times can strengthen the bond between people.

85. Sshhhhhhhh! The Birds will fly away

Class 6 goes to Parvati Hills for camp. According to the schedule, one day is assigned to bird watching early in the morning. Before everyone left, the students were instructed that they should maintain silence as birds fly away due to noise. It was a narrow path and there was a lake around the path. While going for bird watching, Aryan threw a small stone in the water. Immediately Sahil told him "Don't make noise otherwise the birds will fly away." Hearing this, Suhani said, "You also don't speak or else the birds will fly away hearing your voice".

86. स्वादिष्ट खाना

बेत द्वारिका के मीठापुर में जब सब बच्चे खाना खा रहे थे, तब साहील कहता है कि मेम अनाला का खाना बहुत अच्छा लगता है खासकर यहाँ के दाल-चावल बहुत ही स्वादिष्ट लगते हैं जैसे मैं दाल-चावल कम खाता हूँ पर मुझे यहाँ के दाल-चावल बहुत अच्छे लगते हैं। तब सब बच्चों ने उसकी बात का समर्थन किया

87. Stickers for All

For their assembly performance Skg children had sung the poem 'कोशिश करने वालों की कभी हार नहीं होती'. Children had put in a lot of hard work and practiced a lot. They performed well in the Assembly. Swati Ma'am was giving them stickers in their diaries for their wonderful performance. Sahil got up and ran to ma'am's table. He took a sticker from the sticker sheet. He placed the sticker on ma'am's hand. He said, "Ma'am you made us practice well and so you should also get a sticker." Swati ma'am felt special being appreciated for her efforts by a small child.

88. Subject of Interest

Renu ma'am remembered the day when students of class 9 were scheduled for a movie time nearly when the school closed before lockdown. Most of the movies shown to them were documentaries.

One day, they were shown the movie "The Blind Side". It wasn't a documentary and by the time it became interesting, it was time to go home! Then Sahil commented "It's always that good things come to an end quickly."

89. Suhani always speaks in English

One day Suhani (Nur) went to Swati ma'am with a complaint. She was speaking in Gujarati. Swati ma'am patiently listened to what Suhani had to say. After listening to the entire complaint, ma'am said, "Okay but I didn't understand anything that you said. Can you please repeat it in English?" Suhani replied, "हा तो मैं English माज बोली।"

90. सूरज कभी नहीं डूबता

Sun set देखते समय समीर सर ने कहा, "बच्चों उधर डूबते सूरज को देखो उस पर ध्यान दो, नहीं तो सूरज डूब जाएगा और तुम जो देखने आए हो वो देख नहीं पाओगे।" इस बात को सुनकर, कई बच्चे एक-साथ बोल उठे- सर सूरज कभी नहीं डूबता है। दिन-रात तो पृथ्वी के घूमने के कारण होते हैं।

अशोक सर ने कहा, "मैं जानता था कि एकलव्य के बच्चे हैं अभी जरूर बोलेंगे।"

91. The City Boy

Aryan (Cl 2) was presenting a project on Animal Kingdom. His topic was 'Camel'. At the end of the presentation, a child asked him, "What is the weight of a camel." Aryan smartly replied, "How will I know that? I live in the city and camel lives in the desert."

92. Taking care of each other

Sahil (CI 4) was sleepy in the class. Renu ma'am thought that he wasn't well. Ma'am went to him and asked, "Can I check your temperature?" He replied, "Ma'am, I did not have enough sleep last night as my brother was not well and Mumma is out of station." Sahil continued, "Ma'am, most of the time I take care of my brother because no one is at home. We take care of each other as Papa also comes late as he has lot of work." Renu ma'am was speechless, her small Sahil was so responsible.

93. The Ghost!

Nine years ago, on a camp to Beyt Dwarka (CI 7), Renu ma'am and Swati ma'am had planned to disguise themselves as ghosts. Renu ma'am draped a dupatta around her face and held a torch in her hand at night. All the girls in the camp got scared and started chanting 'Hanuman Chalisa'. The funniest part was that Devika ma'am was the first one to run away. When everyone came to know the reality, they all had a good laugh.

94. The journey of 7000 steps

Class 11 went to Sasan Gir camp and all the students were very enthusiastic about the camp.

On the last day, students had to climb Mount Girnar. Early in the morning, Sameer sir oriented all the children about climbing Girnar. He said, "You are not going to climb the mountain Girnar but you are going to feel and experience its unique presence in nature. Just surrender to nature, feel it... leave all other thoughts and go ahead. You all can do it!". Everyone participated in the talk actively. All the students and teachers were ready with determination and zeal to take the challenge.

As the group reached the 'taleti' from where the climb had to begin, Suhani told Renu ma'am, "Ma'am, is it not better that I stay at the resort and just see the beautiful scenery around here? This climbing is not my cup of tea". She continued, "Ma'am, 'Climbing mountain!' .. at my home also I avoid going upstairs as many times as I can...". All the other students had a good laugh.

Very soon Suhani was climbing the mountain along with her friend Diya and behind them was Renu Ma'am motivating them continuously. She

encouraged them by saying that further ahead the scenic view was beautiful and that nice lemonade awaited them. In no time 7000 steps were covered by the three of them. Suhani was amazed at what she had achieved.

The journey of 7000 steps gave the three time and space to share and talk a lot of things. It was beyond the physical journey of climbing the mountain. They were the last to reach but without any regret. All the students congratulated Suhani and Diya. That day Suhani learnt that nothing was impossible if one wished to do so. This has become a wonderful memory for Renu Ma'am. Renu ma'am is thankful for the opportunity to go with class 11 for the camp.

95. The old mountains

During the Camp to Vadali, Sameer sir was telling children about the Aravalli Mountain range. Aryan(CI 3) asked, "Since when are the Aravalli Mountains here?" Sahil was quick to answer, "When you were not even born, since then they are here."

96. The philosophical smile

When students reached the camp site, they were excited to see a resort. The host was welcoming them with a welcome drink. Many students took the welcome drink but Suhani looked at Renu ma'am puzzled. Suhani being a true Eklavyan did not accept the welcome drink as it is against the philosophy of the school. Renu ma'am just smiled at her and she smiled back.

97. Three musketeers

Renu ma'am had gone trekking with her students of class 6 during a camp to Parvati Hills. The road was uneven and she was finding it difficult to trek. Aaryan, Sahil and Aaditya took turns to walk with Renu ma'am, helping her on the hilly trek. The three musketeers had shown how much they cared about their teacher.

98. Too yum...

Aaryan (CI 5) shared with Renu ma'am during a camp at Zainabad that one of the reasons he waits for the camp from school is to enjoy the yummy food served. He added that he had told his mother to prepare dal of the same taste at home, but she was not able to do so.

99. True motivator

Class 8 had gone for a camp and they were on a hike. One of the most interesting part of the hike was when all of them had to climb and walk on a narrow wall.

Renu ma'am was really scared but Suhani motivated her by saying "Ma'am, you can't be scared. हम लोगों को कौन motivate करेगा फिर?"

100. वहाँ शेर है

During a dance class, Sahil (Nur) could not find Renu ma'am. He told his classmate Diya, "Renu Ma'am कहीं खो गई, चलो ढूँढने चलते हैं. Teak Wood Forest में।" Sahil and Diya rushed to the Teak Wood Forest. They started calling out her name loudly. Swati Ma'am saw them there. She brought them back. On being asked why they had gone to the Teak Wood Forest, Sahil with a look of concern replied, "Ma'am, आप खो गये थे और Teak Wood Forest में शेर रहता है।"

101. Walking in Rain

One day, during monsoon Swati ma'am oriented children just before going home. "As it is raining outside we are not going to run or walk fast. We will walk slowly. We should carefully put our foot on the ground as the floor is slippery." She also added that we should help each other reach the bus.

While moving towards the bus Diya(SKg) quickly grabbed ma'am's hand saying, "अगर आप गिर गए तो? So, I will hold your hand and walk."

102. We have one!

Every year class 8 goes to Kumbhalgarh for camp. At the campsite where they stay, there are many medicinal herbs and trees. So, when Sameer Sir asked the students about the name of a particular tree, they immediately gave the correct answer saying, "We also have the same type of trees in our school campus." Similarly, when class 8 goes to visit Serenity Library, where they have many medicinal plants, our students are able to identify different medicinal plants and trees.

103. Well deserved

Swati ma'am had gone for a camp with class 9 to Kutch. Students generally deliver a thank you speech at the end of a visit to the resource person. Every time a different child is given an opportunity to thank the person. Sahil wanted to give a speech but because of some discipline issues he was not given a chance. He realised this. Later during the day the students went to the BSF camp and during the interaction with the Head at the BSF camp, a large insect landed on Sahil. The children did not panic because Sahil had convinced them not to disturb the resource person. Soon the jawans brought cold drinks for the children as refreshment. Sahil requested Sameer sir to tell the jawans about our school's policy of not accepting anything but water. Sameer sir was happy with Sahil. He was immediately given the opportunity to deliver his speech. It was definitely well deserved.

104. Who will hold your hand?

Class 5 had gone to Zainabad. Swati ma'am used to hold the hand of Sahil, wherever they went, as he was the naughtiest child among all. The group reached the Salt Factory. All the students had gathered around Sameer sir who had started the orientation before they went inside the factory. Swati ma'am and Sahil were behind and she told him to run and join the others so that he does not miss the orientation. On hearing this, Sahil said, "Ma'am, then who will hold your hand?"

105. Why Jars?

Class 6 visited the laboratory for sea creatures where aquatic animals were displayed in jars. Sahil was disturbed by the sight and asked why had these animals been killed and filled in jars just for the purpose of showcasing them. To this, Sameer sir replied that these were kept for the purpose of study. He added that this would help people identify and know more about the species.

106. Yummy गुलाबजामुन

After having lunch during their camp to Jambughoda, Aryan (Cl 4) went to Renu ma'am and said, "Ma'am today I have followed your instruction of not over eating." Later he continued, "I ate only nine गुलाबजामुन।"