

Chapter - 20
Reading with understanding

Summary

This narrative is about youngsters who performed acts of heroism in their daily lives. The majorities of the youngsters were underprivileged and came from small places. All of the kids in the lesson were alert and focused. They acted quickly and selflessly. We should be proud of today's brave youth.

Important points from the passage:

- This anecdote is about an eleven-year-old boy Mohammad Riyaz Ahmad who had been awarded the Sanjay Chopra Bravery Award. Riyaz saved a four-year-old girl, Shazia who was standing on the railway track at Daaligaon Bridge, Lucknow. She was completely ignorant to a fast approaching train.
- Riyaz heard the train whistle and told the girl's father to remove her from the track, but he ignored Riyaz's warning since he was deaf and mentally impaired. Riyaz ran over to the girl and grabbed her leg, attempting to pull her back. But, as a fragile 10-year-old, he was unable to support her weight, and both he and the child were gravely hurt. He lost one of his limbs, one arm, and the wrist of the other arm while rescuing the child. Riyaz was in the hospital for three months, and his wounds have still not healed fully, but his spirits are constantly high, and he has continued his studies and hopes to become a doctor.

Some more examples of India's young heroes:

- 1) Sayal Lahnubhai Bhoya was born on 1 June 1967 in Gujarat and studied at Prathmik Shala. Her father is a labourer and she saved a friend from a python's deadly grip.
- 2) C. Govindan was born on 15 April 1966 in Tamil Nadu and studied at Kurubarapalli High School. He jumped on to a road in front of a speeding truck to save a blind old beggar.
- 3) Sonia Sinha was born on 3 November 1969 in Bihar and studied at St. Joseph's Convent in Patna. She lost her father, a child specialist, during a fire accident. Her bravery saved the lives of her brother and sister.
- 4) D. Shatrughna Lal Sahu was born on 16 December 1966 in Madhya Pradesh and studied at Nehru Prathmik Shala in Durg. After the death of his parents he was adopted by Zilla Sahu Sangh. He was with the group of eight using the railway tracks in the night when an engine rode into them. He was able to save two children.
- 5) E. Felicitas Soreng was born on 21 June 1950 in Orissa. After her matriculation she was trained as a nurse at the Government Hospital in Rourkela. Her father is a farmer. Her hobbies include music and handicrafts. She swam to save herself and a boy when the boat they were in capsized.

6) Satish Kumar Phulsingh was born in 1968 in Uttar Pradesh. He did not attend school but contributed to the family's income by looking after the cattle. His presence of mind and bravery contributed towards saving his village from dacoits.

Important words from the passage:

- Resume: restart/ begin again
- Oblivious: unaware/ unmindful
- Frail: weak/delicate
- Specialist : a person who is an expert in a particular subject or activity
- Labourer: a person doing unskilled manual work for wages.

Evaluate yourself:

1. Who is Mohammed Riyaz Ahmad? Why was he given the bravery award?
2. Riyaz saved Shazia by pulling her back from the railway track just before the train could reach her. Riyaz lost a leg and both his arms. Explain the incident in your own words.
3. Shakeel Ahmad was an eyewitness. How did Shakeel help Riyaz and the girl?
4. Every year on the Republic Day, gallantry awards are given to brave children. Do you know any brave person in your life. Interview him/her and write a detailed account of your encounter.

Do you know?

The National Bravery Awards are a set of awards given annually to about 25 Indian children below 16 years of age for "meritorious acts of bravery against all odds." The awards are given by the Government of India and the Indian Council for Child Welfare.

Extend your horizon.

Children who get the National Bravery Award save their friends, parents, and neighbours from drowning, electrocution, robbers, and a variety of other dangers - they demonstrate incredible bravery and risk their lives to defend their loved ones.

Write an essay in your own words about bravery. Recall a brave moment in your life and write about it in 40-50 words.