

## 20

## READING WITH UNDERSTANDING



## OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- understand short theme-based passages and
- answer questions on those passages.

## 20.1 SECTION I

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:-

Eleven-year-old Mohammad Riyaz Ahmad laughs a lot, plays video games and attends tuition at home to resume his studies in Std. III in Prathmic Vidyalaya of Aminabad, Lucknow. But a year ago, the situation was different. Riyaz, who has been awarded the Sanjay Chopra Bravery Award was in hospital for more than three months. He lost one of his limbs, one arm and the wrist of the other arm while saving a four-year-old girl, Shazia who was standing on the railway track at Daaligaon Bridge, Lucknow, completely oblivious to a fast approaching train.

It happened on January 16, 2003. Riyaz heard the train whistle, he warned the girl's father to remove her from the track, but he, being hard of hearing and mentally challenged, did not pay heed to Riyaz's warning. Seeing the train almost upon her, Riyaz rushed to pull her back. He did but fell holding the girl as his leg got stuck between the lines, and also because, being a frail 10-year-old, he could not bear her weight. The girl also lost one of her limbs as the train ran over them. An eyewitness, Shakeel Ahmad of Gorakhpur, rushed them to King George Hospital in Lucknow. Riyaz's wounds have still not healed properly, but his spirits are high. He says he wants to resume his studies, aims to become a doctor, and loves to



Notes



Notes

'eat meat and fish and to play football.' He shows his engineering skills with electronic items at home!



### INTEXT QUESTIONS 20.1

1. Say whether the following statements are True (T) or False (F). Correct the false statements.
  - a) The passage is about Sanjay Chopra.
  - b) Shazia's father was both deaf and mentally challenged.
  - c) Riyaz fell because he could not carry Shazia.
  - d) Riyaz and Shazia were treated in King George Hospital, Lucknow
  
2. Every year on the Republic Day, gallantry awards are given to brave children. The Indian Council of Child Welfare has instituted these awards. One of these brave children is further nominated for the Sanjay Chopra Bravery award. Answer the questions below to learn a little more about the awardee spoken about in the passage.
  - a) Who is Riyaz? What does he do?
  - b) Who is Shazia? Where was she on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2003?
  - c) Why was Shazia's father not able to respond to Riyaz's warning?
  - d) Why was Shazia in danger?
  - e) How did Riyaz save Shazia? What did he lose in the process?
  - f) Who is Shakeel Ahmad? Did he play an important role?
  
3. There are four characters in the passage:-
  - Riyaz Ahmad
  - Shazia
  - Shazia's father
  - Shakeel Ahmad

Pick out words/ expressions from the box below to describe each of them:-

deaf, alert, cheerful, brave, likes football, likes non-vegetarian foods, kind, considerate, shows engineering skills, thin and weak, helpful.

**20.2 SECTION II**

Have you read a book called ‘India’s Young Heroes?’ It is about children who have won the national bravery awards in earlier years.

- Given below are biographical sketches of six such children-marked A to F.
  - Which sketch does each sentence (1 to 10) describe?
  - For each sentence choose one letter (A to F).
- A. Sayal Lahnuhai Bhoya was born on 1 June 1967 in Gujarat and studied at Prathmik Shala. She speaks Gujarati. She has two brothers and a sister. Her father is a labourer. Her hobbies include music, reading and sports. She saved a friend from a python’s deadly grip.
- B. C. Govindan was born on 15 April 1966 in Tamil Nadu and studied at Kurubarapalli High School. He speaks Tamil and English. He has six brothers and two sisters. His father is a labourer. Govindan’s hobbies are reading, music and games. He jumped on to a road in front of a speeding truck to save a blind old beggar.
- C. Sonia Sinha was born on 3 November 1969 in Bihar and studied at St. Joseph’s Convent in Patna. She speaks Hindi and English. She has a brother and a sister. She lost her father, a child specialist, during a fire accident. Her hobbies include reading and she is fond of sports. Her bravery saved the lives of her brother and sister.
- D. Shatrughna Lal Sahu was born on 16 December 1966 in Madhya Pradesh and studied at Nehru Prathmik Shala in Durg. He speaks Chattisgarhi and Hindi. After the death of his parents he was adopted by Zilla Sahu Sangh. His hobbies include folk programmes, games and reading adventure stories. His ambition is to be an engineer. 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.
- E. Felicitas Soreng was born on 21 June 1950 in Orissa. After her matriculation she trained as a nurse at the Government Hospital in Rourkela. She speaks Oriya, Hindi and English. She has two brothers and five sisters. 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.
- F. 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 of others. He speaks Hindi. He has two elder brothers and a sister. His father is a labourer. His presence of mind and bravery contributed towards



Notes



## Notes

saving his village from dacoits.

1. She speaks Oriya and is a nurse.
2. His father is a labourer and they live in Tamil Nadu.
3. She speaks Gujarati and loves sports.
4. He looked after other peoples' cattle.
5. She studied in a convent school in Patna.
6. He lives in Durg and was adopted by the community.
7. He risked his own life to save a beggar.
8. Her bravery, strength and skill in swimming helped her save herself and another boy.
9. The villagers and he were using the railway tracks by night.
10. Her father was a farmer.

**INTEXT QUESTIONS 20.2**

Complete the sentences below with information from the biographical sketches A to F:-

We find many common features in six biographical sketches. Firstly, all the children did little acts of \_\_\_\_ (i) \_\_\_\_ in the course of their daily lives.

Secondly, most of the children are poor and live in small villages. One of them has not gone to a \_\_\_\_ (ii) \_\_\_\_ and only three of them speak \_\_\_\_ (iii) \_\_\_\_.

Finally, all the children were alert and had \_\_\_\_ (iv) \_\_\_\_ of mind. They acted swiftly and unselfishly. We are proud of the brave young world.

**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS****Intext Questions 20.1**

1. a) F. The passage is about the brave boy who was awarded the Sanjay Chopra Bravery Award.  
b) True.  
c) True. And his leg got stuck between the railway lines.  
d) True

2. (a) Mohammed Riyaz Ahmad studies in class III in Aminabad, Lucknow. He is a student.
  - (b) Shazia is a four-year-old girl. On 16<sup>th</sup> January 2003 she was standing on the railway track at Daaligaon Bridge, Lucknow.
  - (c) Shazia's father was deaf and mentally challenged.
  - (d) Shazia was in danger because a train was fast approaching and her father could not respond to Riyaz's warnings.
  - (e) 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.
  - (f) Shakeel Ahmad was an eyewitness. Yes, he played an important role by rushing the two children to a hospital.
3. Riyaz Ahmed-frail, alert, cheerful, brave, likes football, non-vegetarian food, shows engineering skills.

Shazia- frail

Shazia's father- deaf

Shakeel Ahmad-kind, considerate, alert, helpful.

### Intext Questions 20.2

#### Comprehension

1. E (Felicitas Soreng)
  2. B (C. Govindan)
  3. A (Lahunbhai Bhoya)
  4. F (Satish Kumar Phulsingh)
  5. C (Sonia Sinha)
  6. D (Shatrughna Lal Sahu)
  7. B (C. Govindan)
  8. E (Felicitas Soreng)
  9. D (Shatrughna Lal Sahu)
  10. E (Felicitas Soreng)
- I) bravery, II) school, III) English, IV) presence.



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