



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: VIII	Department: ENGLISH	Date of Submission: NOVEMBER 2025
Worksheet No: 21	Topic: THE FIGHT	Note: English Notebook

"The Fight" is an **exciting story** written by **Ruskin Bond**. The lesson **"The Fight"** is taken from the story collection **"No Man is an Island: Stories of Friendship and Bonding"**. The lesson deals with the **fight** between **two boys** named **Ranji** and **Suraj**.

The major characters of the lesson are,

- **Ranji, the Fighter**
- **Suraj, the Warrior**



Summary

The story is about a fight between two boys named Ranji and Suraj. Ranji had recently moved to Rajpur with his family. One summer day, he encountered a pool in the forest. Then Ranji jumped into the pool and enjoyed swimming in the cool, clear water. The next day Ranji revisited the pool to enjoy swimming. Later, while resting on a rock, he saw an older and well-built boy (named Suraj) glaring at him. Ranji invited Suraj to join him. But Suraj, who identified himself as the Warrior, refused and told Ranji that the pool belonged to him. Ranji responded by claiming that he was a Fighter. The exchange of words resulted in an argument and eventually led to a fight. After five minutes of furious fighting, both stood exhausted and agreed to continue the fight the next day. In the evening, Ranji went to the bazaar and saw Suraj. Neither of them spoke to the other. The next day, Suraj challenged Ranji to swim the length of the pool. Ranji accepted the challenge and dived straight into the water. Suraj was impressed to see Ranji diving well and asked Ranji to teach him how to dive. They made a deal, Ranji would teach Suraj how to dive, and in return, Suraj had agreed to make Ranji a Wrestler. Finally, Ranji and Suraj became friends

Meanings

interminably: endlessly

parched: hot and dry

translucency: clarity

torrent: rushing stream (of water)

cascading: coming down (like a waterfall)
trickle: weak or thin flow of water.
wallowed: rolled about (in mud or dirty water)
quench: cool (his body)
thickset: stout/solidly built
taken aback: surprised
hostility: ill will/enmity
impasse: deadlock; place or position from which there is no way out
penetrated: gone through/into
muster: (*here*) use; collect or gather
staggered: felt weak/unsteady (due to the blow)
assailant: the person who attacks; (*here*) enemy/ adversary
swaying: moving from side to side (in the fight)
spluttering: speaking quickly/confusedly
frenzied: violent
exhaustion: tiredness/fatigue
tremendous: great
rapid: quick/fast
inspiration: (*here*) a new idea.
scowled: looked angrily
adversary: opponent/enemy
ferocity: fierceness (suggesting anger/cruelty)
acquiesce: accept quietly
vigour: strength
treading water: keeping oneself upright in deep water by moving the feet
feat: clever act; special skill
plunge: jump
conceded: admitted
unflinching: looking straight at each other
limpid: clear



Comprehension Check (Page No 49)

Question 1: In what way is the forest pool different from the one which Ranji knew in the Rajputana desert?

Answer: The forest pool was very clean and cold and inviting, whereas the one in the Rajputana desert was known to be sticky and muddy where buffaloes wallowed and women washed clothes in the pool.

Question 2: The other boy asked Ranji to ‘explain’ himself.

(i) What did he expect Ranji to say?

Answer: (i) The other boy, Suraj, expected Ranji to say ‘sorry’.

(ii) Was he, in your opinion, right or wrong to ask this question?

Answer: He was wrong to ask this question because the pool was in the forest. It was not

his personal property.

Question 3: Between Ranji and the other boy, who is trying to start a quarrel? Give a reason for your answer.

Answer: Between Ranji and the other boy, the other boy was trying to start a quarrel. When Ranji saw him, he did not say anything. It was the other boy who asked Ranji to explain himself. Ranji was prepared to be friendly, but was taken aback by the boy's hostile tone. He even asked the boy to come and swim with him. However, the boy said that it was his pool, and started a fight by calling himself a 'warrior'.

Question 4: "Then we will have to continue the fight," said the other.

(i) What made him say that?

Answer: When even after a lot of fighting Ranji refused to leave the pool, the other boy said that they would have to continue their fight.

(ii) Did the fight continue? If not, why not?

Answer. No, the fight did not continue. After they decided to continue the fight, neither of them took the initiative. Then, the other boy said that they would continue the fight the next day if Ranji dared to come back to the pool.

Comprehension Check (Page No 53)

Question 5: What is it that Ranji finds difficult to explain at home?

Answer: At home, Ranji found it difficult to explain the cuts and bruises that showed on his face, legs and arms. It was difficult to hide the fact that he had been involved in a fight.

Question 6: Ranji sees his adversary in the bazaar.

(i) What does he wish to do?

Answer: At first Ranji felt like turning away and look the other way. His second thought was to hit his enemy with the lemonade bottle.

(ii) What does he actually do, and why?

Answer: He actually stands his ground and only scowls at Suraj. Ranji decides to go back to the pool to gain self-respect. If he surrenders now, he will be beaten for all time



Question 7: Ranji is not at all eager for a second fight. Why does he go back to the pool, then?

Answer: Ranji was not eager for a second fight, but he still went back to the pool because if he had not turned up, it would have been an acknowledgement of his defeat. He could not quietly accept his defeat. If he surrendered, he would be beaten forever. However, if he fought and got beaten, he could come again to fight and be beaten again. As long as he fought, he had the right to the pool in the forest.

Question 8: Who was the better swimmer? How do you know it?

Answer: Ranji was the better swimmer. When the other boy made fun of him by saying that he would not be able to swim across the pool, Ranji dived straight into the water and surfaced at the other end in a flash. The boy was amazed at how well Ranji had dived, and later, at how he had swum underwater. He said that he did not know how to dive or swim



underwater, and asked Ranji to teach him both.

Question 9: What surprises the warrior?

Answer: The warrior was surprised to see how well Ranji had dived and later at how, he had swum underwater.

Question 10: Now that they are at the pool, why don't they continue the fight?

Answer: Although both the boys were at the pool together, they were not fighting with each other. Suraj, the warrior was taken by surprise when he saw Ranji's skills like diving and swimming under water. He wanted to learn this skill from Ranji.

Question 11: What, according to you, makes the two adversaries turn into good friends in a matter of minutes? Explain it as you have understood it.

Answer: Ranji and Suraj, two adversaries, turned into good friends in a few minutes for a couple of reasons. Both were tired of fighting. Both needed each other's help, guidance and support. Suraj wanted to learn diving from Ranji. While Ranji liked the idea of becoming a strong wrestler with the help of Suraj.

Q12. Choose the most appropriate answer:

1. The story describes a fight between two boys. What is the name of the boy who lived in the forest?

- a) Suraj
- b) Ramu
- c) Ranji
- d) Ram

Answer: c) Ranji

2. What did Suraj expect Ranji to say when he first asked him to "explain" himself?

- a) "I'm sorry."
- b) "I don't know."
- c) "Leave me alone."
- d) "It was an accident."

Answer: a) "I'm sorry."

3. In what way was the forest pool different from the one Ranji knew in the Rajputana desert?

- a) The forest pool was clean and inviting.
- b) The forest pool was muddy and sticky.
- c) The forest pool was small and shallow.
- d) The forest pool was crowded with people.

Answer: a) The forest pool was clean and inviting.

4. What did Ranji find difficult to explain to his parents after the fight?

- a) Why he was late.
- b) Why he had a black eye.
- c) The bruises and cuts on his body.
- d) Where he had been swimming.

Answer: c) The bruises and cuts on his body.

5. What does the story teach about resolving conflicts?

- a) Fighting is the only way to solve problems.
- b) Physical strength is the most important thing.
- c) Conflicts can be resolved through peaceful means like respect and understanding.
- d) It is best to avoid talking about the problem.

Answer: c) Conflicts can be resolved through peaceful means like respect and understanding.

WEB RESOURCES:

<https://youtu.be/MU29MGIEGZw?si=4dAQ8d5MnpSwwcpF>

https://youtu.be/D4Y_7CmM5WM?si=MZ2Fx2k3bMheHU5z
