



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: VII	Department: ENGLISH	Date of Submission: April, 2026
WORKSHEET NO. 2	<i>The Day the River Spoke</i>	Note: To be written in English Notebook

Summary:



The story revolves around Jahnvi, a young girl who spends time near the river, observing the beauty of nature. She watches a kingfisher sweep down to catch a fish and a green lizard slither to the river's edge to bask in the Sun. Suddenly, she hears a sleepy, murmuring voice, which surprises her because she is sure she is alone. Looking around, she finds no one.

The voice belongs to the River itself, which talks to Jahnvi. She shares her sadness with the River she desperately wants to go to school, but her family keeps postponing it, asking her to take care of her younger sibling. She fears that she is now too old to start school. She longs to learn to read, understand nature, and find answers to her many questions. The River encourages her and tells her that girls can do as much as boys. It advises her to simply go to school one morning and see what happens.

Jahnvi is scared but determined. The next day, she sneaks into school and listens to the lesson. The teacher notices her and, after learning that she is Gopi's sister, asks if she really wants to come to school. The teacher then visits Jahnvi's father and mother, convincing them to let her study. Her mother supports her, saying she regrets not having the opportunity to study when she was young.

Filled with joy, Jahnvi tells the River about her success. She promises that when she grows up, she will become a teacher and encourage all the girls in her village to study. The River, happy for her, laughs and tells her to return so it can tell her more stories about the ships that sail the sea. The story highlights the importance of education for girls, courage, and the power of determination.

Word meanings:

1. **splashed:** fell in drops, making a sound
2. **slithered:** moved by sliding from side to side
3. **murmuring:** speaking in a low voice
4. **startled:** surprise
5. **thicket:** a dense group of bushes and trees
6. **shrieked:** made a high-pitched sound
7. **rustle:** light sound made by leaves rubbing against each other
8. **breathless:** gasping for breath, typically due to exertion
9. **conspiratorially:** secretly
10. **clump:** a small group of trees growing together
11. **rattling:** noise made by shaking things
12. **catamaran:** a kind of boat
13. **wailed:** (here) complained in a loud voice



QUESTION & ANSWERS :

1. What was Jahnavi's dream? Was it important to her? Why?

Ans. Jahnavi desires to go to school and learn. Her eagerness to attend school, her disappointment at not being able to, and her joy when she finally gets the chance to listen to the teacher, shows how important her dreams of getting an education are. She defies societal expectations by wanting to go to school when it wasn't the norm for girls in her community.

2. Do you think the river can help her in fulfilling her dream? How?

Ans. In a literal sense, the river, being a natural entity, cannot directly help Jahnavi in the practical steps of going to school. However, in the story, the river plays a significant role in helping Jahnavi emotionally and perhaps indirectly in pursuing her dream. The river provides Jahnavi with a sense of comfort and reassurance. It tells her not to be scared and listens to her. This emotional support can give her the courage and confidence to pursue her desire for education.



3. Why does the writer describe different aspects of nature in great detail at the beginning of the story? Why do you think the writer does this?

Ans: The writer describes nature in detail to show the beauty and peacefulness of the place where Jahnavi spends her time. It also helps us feel how close Jahnavi is to nature and prepares us for the magical moment when the River speaks. To help us see, hear, and feel the river and its surroundings in our mind. It makes the story more alive and shows how connected Jahnavi is with nature.

4. How did the River know so much about Jahnavi?

Ans: The River knew so much about Jahnavi because she came to the riverside almost every day. The River watched her, listened to her, and understood her feelings.

5. Jahnavi says, "And I'm so old now, they'll never let me go." What can you infer about Jahnavi and the school from this line?

Ans: It shows that Jahnavi was very eager to study but had waited for many years. It also shows that in her village, children usually started school when they were much younger. It also shows that her family thinks she is too big or too busy helping at home to learn.

6. Why did the River laugh when Jahnavi said she would be scared at school?

Ans: The River laughed because it knew Jahnavi was a brave girl. She was not scared of lizards, snakes, or noisy trains, so there was no reason to be scared of going to school. It seemed surprising to the River.

7. Why should Jahnavi follow the River's advice?

Ans: The River's advice gives her hope and courage. Jahnavi should follow the River's advice because it encouraged her to be brave and take the first step toward her dream of going to school and learning new things. It believes in her and knows she can be brave.

8. How does the conversation between Jahnavi and the River make the story more appealing?

Ans: It brings the river to life as a talking friend. It shows Jahnavi's feelings and questions in a natural way. It adds magic and teaches lessons through their gentle talk. The conversation makes the story magical and interesting. It shows Jahnavi's feelings, dreams, and fears in a fun way, and the River acts like a wise and caring friend.

9. What is the main message that the writer intends to convey?

Ans: The main message is that everyone, including girls, should get a chance to learn and follow their dreams. It also teaches us to be brave and take the first step, even when we feel scared. With courage and determination, we can reach our dreams. Kind words and support help us believe in ourselves.

I. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.

1. “You shouldn’t cry, you know,” the voice went on. “And you really shouldn’t be scared, when you have been coming here to see me every day, well, almost every day.” She was puzzled. It was such a voice, like the river. It couldn’t be the river! “Well, tell me all about it,” said the River, for it was the River. “I’ve got to hurry to reach the sea, you know.”

(i) Complete the sentence with the correct option from those given in the brackets.

The tone of the River in the given extract is _____. (assuring/sympathizing)

Ans: → assuring.

(ii) Select a phrase from the extract which shows that Jahnavi was a frequent visitor to the spot.

Ans: Phrase → “you have been coming here to see me every day, well, almost every day.”

(iii) Choose the correct option to complete the sentence.

The use of an exclamation mark at the end of the line, ‘It couldn’t be the river!’ expresses _____.

A. excitement B. hesitation C. irritation D. disbelief

Ans: → D. disbelief



(iv) Choose three qualities of the River highlighted in the extract from the words in the box given below.

Affectionate forgiving thoughtful impatient kind-hearted

Ans: Qualities: → affectionate, thoughtful, kind-hearted

2. “Can I do something?” asked Jahnavi. “Well, it’s up to you,” said the River. “Seems to me little girls can do as much as little boys—they swim as fast as little boys. You just slip along one morning and sit there in the school and listen to what’s going on, and maybe the teacher will let you stay.” “I couldn’t,” gasped Jahnavi. “I couldn’t! They’d scare me! They’d chase me out.”

(i) Complete the sentence with an appropriate reason.

According to the River, there was no difference between girls and boys because _____.

Ans: → little girls can do as much as little boys – they can swim as fast as boys.

(ii) Identify whether the following statement is true or false.

The River encourages Jahnavi to have faith in herself and fulfill her desire to go to school.

Ans: → True

(The River encourages Jahnavi to believe in herself and try to fulfill her wish to go to school.)

(iii) Choose the correct option to complete the sentence.

When the River suggests that Jahnvi should ‘slip along’, it means that she should move _____.

- A. quickly
- B. casually
- C. quietly
- D. confidently

Ans: → C. quietly

(iv) What does the repetition of the phrase I couldn’t, tell us?

Ans: → It shows that Jahnvi was very scared and nervous about going to school without permission.



Video resource:

<https://youtu.be/ZE0m39WSy0U>
