

The background of the cover is a photograph of a library. Tall wooden bookshelves filled with books line the walls. In the center, an open book lies flat on a wooden table. A red 'EXIT' sign is visible in the background, and a book titled 'MARS TRUCK' is on a shelf to the right. The overall lighting is warm and slightly dim, creating a cozy atmosphere.

Best of Story Writing

Subhradeep Sarkar

S.K Sarkar Publication Pvt
Ltd

The background of the cover is a photograph of a bookstore or library. The shelves are filled with books, and the lighting is warm and slightly dim. In the center, an open book is displayed, showing its pages. The title 'Best of Story Writing' is overlaid on the image in a large, stylized, white cursive font with a red outline.

Best of Story Writing

Subhradeep Sarkar

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BEST OF STORY WRITING

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CHAPTER TWO

THE BUNDLE OF STICKS



BASUDEB WAS AN AFFLUENT farmer who lived in a far off village. He had four sons. Basudeb's life would have been happy, but the only trouble he had in his life was that his four sons were perpetually quarrelling among themselves. They often fought on the flimsiest of the contexts. Basudeb tried all means to resolve their disputes, but in vain. All of his advice fell on deaf ears.

On one fine day, Basudeb sat in his courtyard, lost in his thought, wondering how to make his sons realise that this perpetual quarrelling was harmful for them. Suddenly his eyes fell on a bundle of sticks. He had an idea. "Why hadn't I thought of it before ?", he thought. He called his four sons. When they arrived, he told them to bring the faggot. Then he told each of sons to try and break the faggot individually. All of them tried to do so in succession, but failed.

Now, Basudeb opened the bundle and placed one stick each in the hands of his sons. He again told them try and break that single stick. This time each of them broke that single stick with ease. He then addressed his sons and said, "My sons, you all are like these single stick—fragile and vulnerable. Then there is a definite possibility that you maybe easily harmed by an enemy . But if you remain united like this faggot here, then no one , however hard he tries to hurt you, can harm any of you." With this practical lesson, the sons finally understood what their father was trying to make them understand . They admitted their mistake and promised to united.

MORAL: Unity is strength.



CHAPTER THREE

THE ANT AND THE GRASSHOPPER



ONCE, THERE LIVED A gay and carefree grass-hopper. He was never worried about the future. On a bright summer day ,he was hopping about in a corn field, chirping and singing and dancing to his heart's content . Suddenly his eyes caught a long line of tiny ants bearing grains of corn. The ants were only concerned with carrying the grains to their nests. The grasshopper called the one of the ants, "Why don't you come and join me instead of toiling so hard on bright, sunny day?" The ant stopped and replied , " I am helping to stock up food for the winter. I can't stop and chat with you now." Saying this, he moved on but returned. " I would recommend you to go and stock up for winter," he said to the grasshopper. The grasshopper, being a carefree fellow, replied, "Why should I bother for the winter now? We have got plenty of food now. We'll see when the winter arrives."

After this, each went his way. The grasshopper went on merry-making, and the ant along with his fellows, continued his toil. Eventually, winter arrived. The corn fields were covered with snow, and there was no food. The grasshopper found himself starving. At that time he saw the ants distributing the corn grains from their stocks that they had gathered during the summer. He realised that it is the best to prepare for the days of necessity in advance.

MORAL : A stitch in times saves nine.



CHAPTER FOUR

A DISHONEST SHOP-KEEPER



HARAN WAS A DISHONEST shop-keeper. He used to trick the unsuspecting villagers in the weights. Thus, Haran continued cheating his customers.

One day, a traveller to the next village stopped at Haran's shop to buy some refreshments. Now, this traveller was an intelligent and witty man. While he was sitting there and having his refreshments, a villager came to buy some sugar. The shop-keeper out of his habit, measured lesser amount and gave it to the customer. The customer, as usual, did not understand that he had been cheated. But the traveller realised that Haran was cheating the villagers. He confronted Haran, who was indifferent and haughty. He brushed aside the traveller and indignantly replied, "I measured less so that the poor villagers has to carry less. Whatever I do, I do for their good. And here you are...unduly accusing me of deceiving my fellow villagers." The traveller decided a plan to teach the shop-keeper a lesson. He apologised to the shop-keeper and asked him how much he had to pay for the refreshments. When told, he paid the shop-keeper less than what he was asked to pay. The shop-keeper was furious and demanded the right amount. But the traveller feigned an innocent look and humbly replied, "I paid you less so that you have to count less. I was trying to help you just like you tried to help the villager by giving them less load to carry." With these words, the traveller walked away teaching Haran a lesson for life.

MORAL : Cunning often outwits itself.