

OXFORD
SCHOOL EDUCATION

Revised
Edition

3

Oxford Reading Circle

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Contents

1. The Restaurant	9
2. Pratap Goes Shopping	18
3. <i>The Jumblies</i> —Edward Lear	27
4. The Fraid-Susan Price	30
5. <i>A Chill</i> —Christina Rossetti	39
6. The Turtle and the Swans	42
7. Two Legs or Four?—Dick King-Smith	51
8. <i>At the Railway Station, Upway</i> —Thomas Hardy	61
9. Three Languages	65
10. <i>Up-Hill</i> —Christina Rossetti	74
11. The Sorcerer's Apprentice	78
12. Mr Sharpe's Fish	87
13. <i>Picnic Time</i> —Colin Ash	96
14. Postbox Number	100
15. <i>The Letter</i> —Margeret G. Rhodes	109
16. Amin and the Ghul—Amabel Williams Ellis	113
17. <i>The Green Grass Growing All Round</i>	123
18. Why the Sea is Salty	127
19. The Eagle's Present	136
20. <i>Hide-and-Seek</i> —Ash Vanagar	144
21. Rama and the Bow	148
22. <i>A Child's Thought</i> —Robert Louis Stevenson	158
23. Too Many Doctors	162

The Restaurant

Devi lived with her parents in a small apartment building on a busy street close to the centre of the town. Her mother and father worked hard in their jobs and Devi worked hard at school.



During the weekend, Devi's parents had a lot to do. On Saturdays, one of them took Devi to the library and then to her gymnastics class while the other went shopping for food. Then they would do the household chores, speak to relatives on the telephone and spend a long time preparing food. Devi's mother liked to make lots of curry and divide it up into portions so that she could heat up the food quickly every night after work. Her father liked food but he could only cook one recipe: Dad's special vegetable surprise! He made it for Sunday lunch every week. While they cooked, Devi liked to read.

Every weekday morning, Devi and her parents left the apartment together and walked down the stairs to the street. Devi would say goodbye to her parents and go down the street to her bus stop. She carried her books and her lunchbox of leftover food from the day before in a big backpack. Her parents walked up the road together and went in opposite directions

household chores
portions

tasks that need to be done regularly
parts

at the end of the street. Her father usually caught a bus and sometimes took a taxi but her mother always walked.

Late in the evening, once everyone was home, her parents would rush around to get everything ready for the next day while cooking rice and reheating that day's portion of curry. While they ate they would talk about their day. Devi's parents always asked, 'What happened at school today?' They liked to hear all about it. Then they would talk about their day. Dad often had a funny story to tell about his journey to work and Mum always laughed and said, 'Oh, Vinnie, you should just walk to work and save yourself all that bother.'

Mum and Dad always told Devi about what they had eaten for lunch. Dad often went to a restaurant, 'Today, I had such a wonderful vegetable soup, with a soft warm bread roll! It was delicious!'

Mum ate in the canteen at work. Sometimes she did not like the food, 'Today we had Mexican beans and tortillas. They were terrible! I wish I had taken a packed lunch.'

Exercises

A. Questions

1. Where does Devi live?
2. What does Devi do over the weekend?
3. What does Devi's father cook?
4. Why does Devi want to go to a restaurant?
5. Why are Devi's parents surprised by what she orders at the restaurant?

B. Reference to context

Its menu had pictures of famous landmarks on the front. Devi chose that one and her parents explained all the different dishes to her.

1. What kind of food did this restaurant serve?
2. What is meant by 'famous landmarks'?
Can you give an example of a famous landmark?
3. Name some of the dishes it served.
4. Which dish would you choose?

C. Words and meaning

I always go to school by bus.

I usually have homework.

I never eat carrots.

Add the word at the end of the line in the appropriate place in each sentence.

1. He plays football on Sundays. (sometimes)
2. They read a book. (sometimes)
3. Pravin gets angry. (never)
4. Tom is very friendly. (usually)
5. I take sugar in my tea. (sometimes)
6. We don't go to restaurants. (often)
7. My grandmother goes for a walk in the evening. (always)
8. Sally helps her father in the kitchen. (usually)
9. They watch TV in the afternoon. (never)
10. They have fruit for dessert. (often)

D. Discuss and write

1. What is your favourite meal? What's the best meal you have ever eaten? Have you ever tried an exotic, unusual or special dish? What was it like? Talk about a time when you had a special meal and what made it special.
2. Write a description of the best meal you have ever had.

