

Class – VII

Chapter - 4

Based on Course Book

Topic - Flames in the Forest

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'Don't be silly,' said Romi. 'The water isn't deep. Come and grab hold of me.'
Teju splashed across and grabbed Romi's belt. 'The water's so cold,' he said, his teeth chattering.
'Do you want to go back and warm yourself?' asked Romi. 'Come on, help me get the bicycle up.
down here, just where we are standing.'

Earth Speak

In April-May 2016, a destructive forest fire of Uttarakhand burnt down nearly 40 square kilometres of forest. The fire was finally doused using Indian Air Force helicopters fitted with specialised Bambi buckets suspended from the helicopter by a cable. These buckets have a release valve on the bottom which the helicopter crew can control to dispense the water for aerial firefighting.



'Now sit on it,' said Romi. 'I'll push you across.'
'We'll be swept away,' said Teju.

'No, we won't.'

The river was quite swift in the middle. But having got safely out of the burning forest, Romi was in no mood to let a little river defeat him. He kicked off his shoes, knowing they would be lost. Gripping the smooth stones of the river bed with his toes, he concentrated on keeping his balance and getting the bicycle through. The water came up to his waist and the current would have been too strong for Teju to cross by himself.

When they reached the shallows, Teju got down and helped Romi push the bicycle. Finally they reached the opposite bank and sank down on the grass.

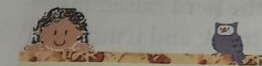
'We can rest now,' said Romi. 'But not all night—I've got some medicine to give to my father.'

He felt in his pockets and found that the pills, in their envelope, had turned to a soggy mess. 'Oh well, he has to take them with water anyway,' he said.

They watched the fire as it continued to spread through the forest. The sky was a bright red, and the river reflected the colour of the sky.

Several elephants had found their way down to the river. They were cooling off by spraying water on each other with their trunks. Further downstream there were deer and other animals.

Romi and Teju looked at each other in the glow from the fire. They hadn't known each other very well before. But now they felt they had been friends for years.



heave: to lift something heavy using a lot of effort
swift in the middle: (here) the water in the middle of the river moved at great speed
soggy: wet



The story is completed today. Summary is explained and read in the class. The next chapter – 'Back from the Brink' will be read and explained in the next class.

HW – First of all write Hard words and their meanings of chapter 4 and then do page number 51 on your notebook and bring it for checking.