

3 A Lady with a Mission



Warm Up

Trees and plants are part of our lives. Close your eyes and think of a world without trees.

In the space below, write five things that we would not have if there were no trees or plants.



Reading

Thimmakka was born into a very poor family. She never went to school, and even today she cannot read or write. She married Chikkaiah when she was very young. Thimmakka and her husband, Chikkaiah, lived in a small hut in Hulikal, a village in Karnataka. Both did whatever work they could get. They earned enough to eat and they had a home, but they were very unhappy. They had no children.

“I am lonely,” said Thimmakka. “I have nothing to do in the evenings.”

Chikkaiah thought for a while and said, “Let us plant trees.”

Thimmakka nodded. “They will be our children,” she agreed.

24 | A Lady with a Mission

They looked for a place to plant their trees. Outside their village was a road that connected Hulikal and Kudur, a town four kilometres away. All the villagers used this road to go to Kudur and beyond. But walking on this road was difficult because it was hot, dusty, and dry. Can you guess why? There weren't any trees on the sides of the road. Thimmakka and Chikkaiah decided to plant banyan trees along this road.

First, they went around the village and collected saplings that had grown under banyan trees. These they planted on either side of the Kudur–Hulikal road.

Now, it is not difficult to plant trees. But you have to make sure that they live. You have to water them, see that cattle and goats do not eat them away,

and people do not damage them. So, Chikkaiah built tree-guards around each sapling with thorns. Till the saplings grew new leaves, husband and wife watered them every day. Every morning they would leave home with two pots each, fill and refill them from ponds and wells on the way, and water the plants on the road. Thimmakka would carry a pot on her head and another on her hip, and Chikkaiah would carry two pots hanging from the ends of a pole over his shoulder. They filled the pots 40–50 times a day to water the saplings.

Every year, they planted 10–15 more saplings. It meant more thorny branches to protect them, more water to grow them. Soon, Chikkaiah quit his job to look after the plants. He would spend all day on the roadside **tending** to his plants – watering, building tree-guards, and shooing animals away. The couple did one more thing that was clever. They planted the saplings away from the edges of the road. So, when the roads became highways, not a single tree had to be cut down for expanding the road.

The plants had to be watered every day till they took root, then every three days for a year, and later, every week until they were 10 years old.



After 45 years of planting, watering, and looking after the trees, the couple could now be proud of the roadside forest they had created. When Chikkaiah died in 1991, the couple had 254 'children', all grown up and looking beautiful. The villagers could now walk on soft dry leaves under a natural green umbrella. Those driving on the road enjoyed the shade and the chirping of birds in the trees. You could see ripe figs **scattered** on the road. People came to that road just to look at the row of trees Thimmakka had **nurtured**.

In 1995, Thimmakka's love for plants and her selfless work won her many awards. She was given the National Citizen's Award in 1995, and in 1997, Veera Chakra Prashasthi award and the Indira Priyadarshini Vrikshamitra (Forest Friend) Award. She was given the name Vanashri (Forest Angel) and people began to call her Saalumarada Thimmakka (Thimmakka of the row of trees).

But Thimmakka did not stop with planting trees. She became an **eco-warrior**. She took part in all government activities to plant trees. She sang songs and told stories to children about planting trees and good behaviour.

Many people wrote about Thimmakka. People built her a proper house. She is very old now and does not go to work. Her beloved trees are taken care of by the Karnataka government. The walls of her home have many certificates and pictures, but the one that Thimmakka loves the most is a crayon drawing sent by a school girl. The picture shows her planting trees and above it is the name Saalumarada Thimmakka.

Glossary

tending: looking after

scattered: thrown about

nurtured: grown

eco-warrior: one who fights for the environment



Read and Answer

1. Mark **T** for true statements and **F** for false statements.

- a) Thimmakka and her husband were unhappy because they had no work.
- b) Chikkaiah said trees could be their children.
- c) Thimmakka and Chikkaiah collected seeds of the *peepal* tree to plant.


26 | A Lady with a Mission

- d) Forty-five years after planting, the trees looked weak and leafless.
- e) To show how much Thimmakka's work was respected, she was awarded many honours.
- f) They planted the trees close to the road.
- g) The villagers walked under a natural green umbrella.
- h) Despite her work, Thimmakka still does not have a house.

2. Read the sentences carefully and answer the questions that follow.

- a) "They will be our children."
 - i) Who said this? To whom?
 - ii) What does the word 'they' refer to in this sentence?
 - iii) Why are 'they' thought of as children?
- b) They filled the pots 40–50 times a day.
 - i) Who are 'they' in this sentence?
 - ii) What did they fill the pots with?

3. Answer the following questions.

- a) Why did Thimmakka and Chikkaiah plant trees on the Kudur–Hulikhal road?
- b) What is the one thing you must do after planting a sapling? 
- c) Pick out the sentence in the story that shows Thimmakka's road became famous.
- d) What did Thimmakka and her husband do to protect the trees? Can you think of one more way?
- e) Thimmakka won several awards and certificates. Did that change her life? Give an example from the story to support your answer.
- f) What does the story of Thimmakka teach us?



Think and Answer

- Thimmakka was called Vanashri. Do you think this name is right for her? Why or why not?
- Chikkaiah contributed equally if not more in raising the trees. Would you agree with this statement? Give reasons in support of your answer.



Word Work

Word search

- Look at the fourteen words in the box and find them in the word grid.

family nodded award sapling couple village forest
banyan road children plant lonely dusty tending

R	T	T	E	N	D	I	N	G	L	C	P
D	U	S	T	Y	U	I	M	T	R	H	Q
E	L	T	V	I	L	L	A	G	E	I	V
R	O	A	D	H	U	I	R	Q	R	L	W
A	N	D	P	I	C	T	U	R	E	D	R
W	E	F	K	N	O	D	D	E	D	R	U
A	L	G	P	B	U	Y	U	R	I	E	U
R	Y	H	S	A	P	L	I	N	G	N	P
D	Y	K	L	W	L	W	U	L	P	M	P
P	L	A	N	T	E	F	A	M	I	L	Y
D	G	U	E	J	J	A	Y	K	C	V	M
B	A	N	Y	A	N	F	O	R	E	S	T

Prefixes

The opposite of happy is **un**happy.

Did you notice we just added **un-** at the beginning of the word to form its opposite? Such additions are called **prefixes**, because we add them at the beginning of a word.

We can use the prefixes **un-**, **im-**, **in-**, **ir-**, **mis-**, and **dis-** to form opposites. They are negative prefixes. Here are some examples:

- fortunate – **un**fortunate
- healthy – **un**healthy
- possible – **im**possible
- convenient – **in**convenient
- responsible – **ir**responsible
- regular – **ir**regular
- respect – **dis**respect
- spell – **mis**spell

2. Now add appropriate prefixes you learnt above to form opposites of the words given below. There are three words for each prefix.

complete	popular	patient	active	manage	agree
fair	possible	removable	reversible	print	appear
true	pure	regular	expensive	trust	honest

Listen Live

Have you heard of Kalpana Chawla? She was the first Indian woman to go into space. Listen to her brief biographical sketch.

1. Listen carefully and tick (✓) the correct options.

a) Kalpana Chawla was called Montu.

i) True

ii) False

- b) She decided she would become an engineer in
- i) Class VI.
 - ii) Class VIII.
 - iii) Class XI.
 - iv) Class VII.
- c) At the Punjab Engineering College, Kalpana studied
- i) computer engineering.
 - ii) civil engineering.
 - iii) aerospace engineering.
 - iv) mechanical engineering.
- c) At the Punjab Engineering College, Kalpana studied
- i) computer engineering.
 - ii) civil engineering.
 - iii) aerospace engineering.
 - iv) mechanical engineering.
- d) After engineering, her parents did not want her to pursue her studies, but she was determined to go the United States to study at the
- i) University of Texas.
 - ii) Michigan University.
 - iii) University of Pennsylvania.
 - iv) New York State University.
- e) She became a mission specialist because
- i) she could fly a plane.
 - ii) she had a technical degree.
 - iii) she was determined.
 - iv) she was a small-built person.

30 | A Lady with a Mission

f) She went into space for the first time in the year

i) 1998.

ii) 1996.

iii) 1997.

iv) 1999.

2. Complete the sentence.

Her last journey into space was in 2003 because _____.



Sound Sense

Before you learn about how plural nouns ending in **-s** or **-es** are said, you need to know about voiced and unvoiced consonants.

Now, remember the rules.

When the final sound of the noun in singular form is unvoiced, then the **s** will also be unvoiced, pronounced as an [s], like the **ss** in **hiss**. It can also form **es** ending and a hissing sound [iz]. If the end consonants/letters are **c, s, x, z, ss, ch, sh,** or **ge**, the end sound for plural nouns is [iz]

Examples: **cake** – **cakes** **church** – **churches**

When the final sound of the noun in plural form is voiced, then the **s** is pronounced as a **z** in **buzz**.

Examples: **dog** – **dogs** **bird** – **birds**

Read these plural nouns. Note how they end. Listen and check their pronunciation. Then put them in the right column.

birds trees figs plants branches saplings animals

Voiced consonants

b d g j
l m n ng
r sz th v
w y z

Unvoiced consonants

ch f k
p s sh
t th



s ending sound	z ending sound	iz ending sound

Speak Now

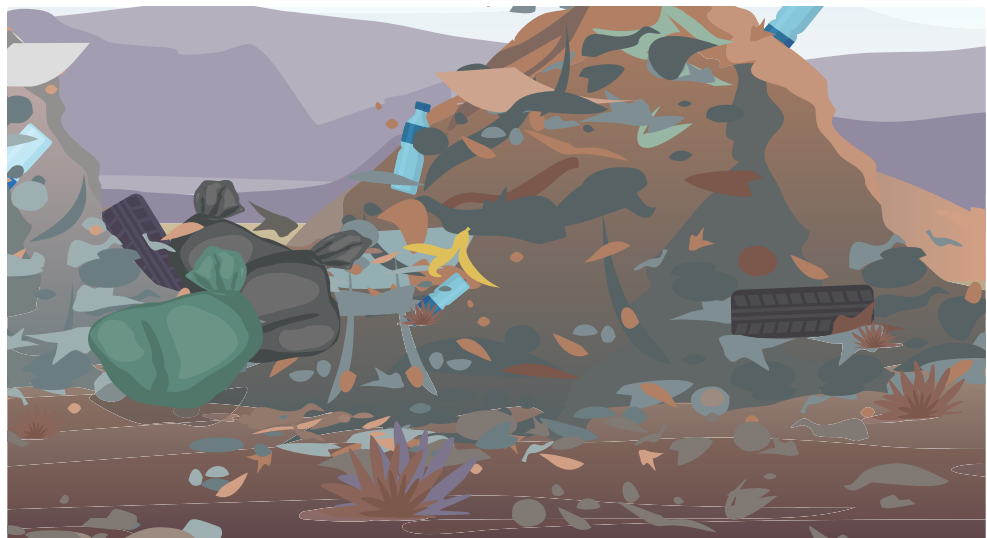


Work in groups of four or five. Discuss what you're disappointed or unhappy about. You could talk about garbage, lack of a safe place to play, noise in the street, rising temperature, or cutting of trees.



The following points will help you to organize your discussion. Each group member will take responsibility for one part of the discussion.

- a) The problem
- b) Reasons
- c) Solutions
- d) Suggestions to solve the problem





Go Grammar

Countable and uncountable nouns

Let's learn more about nouns.

Read these sentences.

- **How many** trees did Thimmakka plant?
- Thimmakka planted 254 trees.

In the second sentence, the noun **trees** can be counted. It is a countable noun. Things that can be counted by numbers are **countable nouns**. To know the quantity of a countable noun, we ask, **How many?** They have a singular and plural form. The singular forms use the determiner **a** or **an**.

Read these sentences.

- There is not **much** flour in the sack.
- Fill the glass with **some** milk.
- There weren't **any** trees on the sides of the road.

Both the nouns **flour** and **milk** cannot be counted with numbers. Such nouns are called **uncountable nouns**. They have certain qualities as given below.

1. They have only one form and no plurals. We cannot use 'a' or 'an' before them.
2. They may be the names for abstract ideas or qualities such as love, freedom, honesty, etc.
3. They are used for physical objects that are too small. Example: rice, flour, dust.
4. They could be substances like powder, gases, and liquids. Example: flour, air, milk, etc.
5. They are usually materials such as wood, glass, gold, silver, paper, etc.
6. They always take singular verbs when used in a sentence. We use quantifiers such as kilo, bag, sack, pile, etc.
7. **Any** is usually used in negative sentences and questions.
8. **Much** is used with uncountable nouns.
9. **Any**, **many**, and **some** can be used with countable nouns as well.

Remember



A **noun** is a name of a person, place, animal, or thing.

1. The words in bold are all nouns. Tick (✓) whether they are **countable** or **uncountable**.

- a) **Students** are playing in the garden. (countable/uncountable)
- b) We need some coloured **paper** to decorate our classroom. (countable/uncountable)
- c) **Scientists** say that our environment is threatened by pollution. (countable/uncountable)
- d) A rise in crude **oil** prices has made **petrol** and **diesel** expensive. (countable/uncountable)
- e) Thimmakka and Chikkaiah decided to plant **trees**. (countable/uncountable)
- f) There is so much of **information** available in an encyclopaedia. (countable/uncountable)
- g) I was surprised to see so many **dogs** on the **street**. (countable/uncountable)
- h) Ravi saw an old lady struggling with her **luggage**, so he rushed to help her. (countable/uncountable)
- i) India got **freedom** in 1947. (countable/uncountable)
- j) Most **children** these days are addicted to watching television. (countable/uncountable)

2. Choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

- a) I have got _____ milk in my bottle. (any/some)
- b) There isn't _____ flour in the cupboard. (any/many)
- c) There aren't _____ bananas on the table. (any/some)
- d) Is there _____ mango juice? (any/much)
- e) My parents gave me _____ new clothes for my birthday. (some/any)
- f) Would you like _____ coffee? (some/any)
- g) I've got _____ books to read for school. (some/any)
- h) We haven't got _____ time! (some/any)
- i) Have you got _____ money you could lend me. (any/much)
- f) This won't take _____ time. (much/some)

Collective nouns

Read these sentences.

- A **swarm** of bees flew towards their hive.
- I saw a **herd** of elephants.

In both these sentences, the nouns **bees** and **elephants** are spoken of as collection, such as **swarm** and **herd**. When names are used for a collection or a number of nouns, they are called **collective nouns**.

Words like **group**, **herd**, and **array** are collective nouns.

3. Match the collective nouns in Column A with the nouns in Column B.

Column A	Column B
a) a flock of	i) soldiers
b) a crowd of	ii) players
c) a band of	iii) dancers
d) a team of	iv) people
e) a battalion of	v) sheep
f) a panel of	vi) singers
g) a gang of	vii) cows
h) a herd of	viii) ministers
i) a council of	ix) robbers
j) a troupe of	x) judges





Write It

The forest created by Thimmakka is visited by many from across the world. It has also given habitat to numerous animals and has helped restore the environmental balance. One person from her village decided to write a thank-you note to her, telling her how much everyone appreciates her good work.

Dear Saalumarada Thimmakka,

You have taught us the significance of preserving mother earth. Your contributions to the betterment of the environment did not stop at just planting trees. You have been an active eco-warrior too and have encouraged people near and far to participate. You have set an example for all of us to emulate.

The forest of trees that you have created with your hard work, grit, and determination has not only made our lives more pleasant but has given homes to many animals. We are all very grateful to you. On behalf of the people of this country, I would like to say a heart-felt thank you to you. I hope we can carry on with the good work that you began and walk on the path that you set.

Now, write a short thank-you note to the person you admire the most. Give reasons why you admire him or her.



A large, empty rectangular area with a light orange background and a decorative scalloped border, intended for writing a thank-you note.