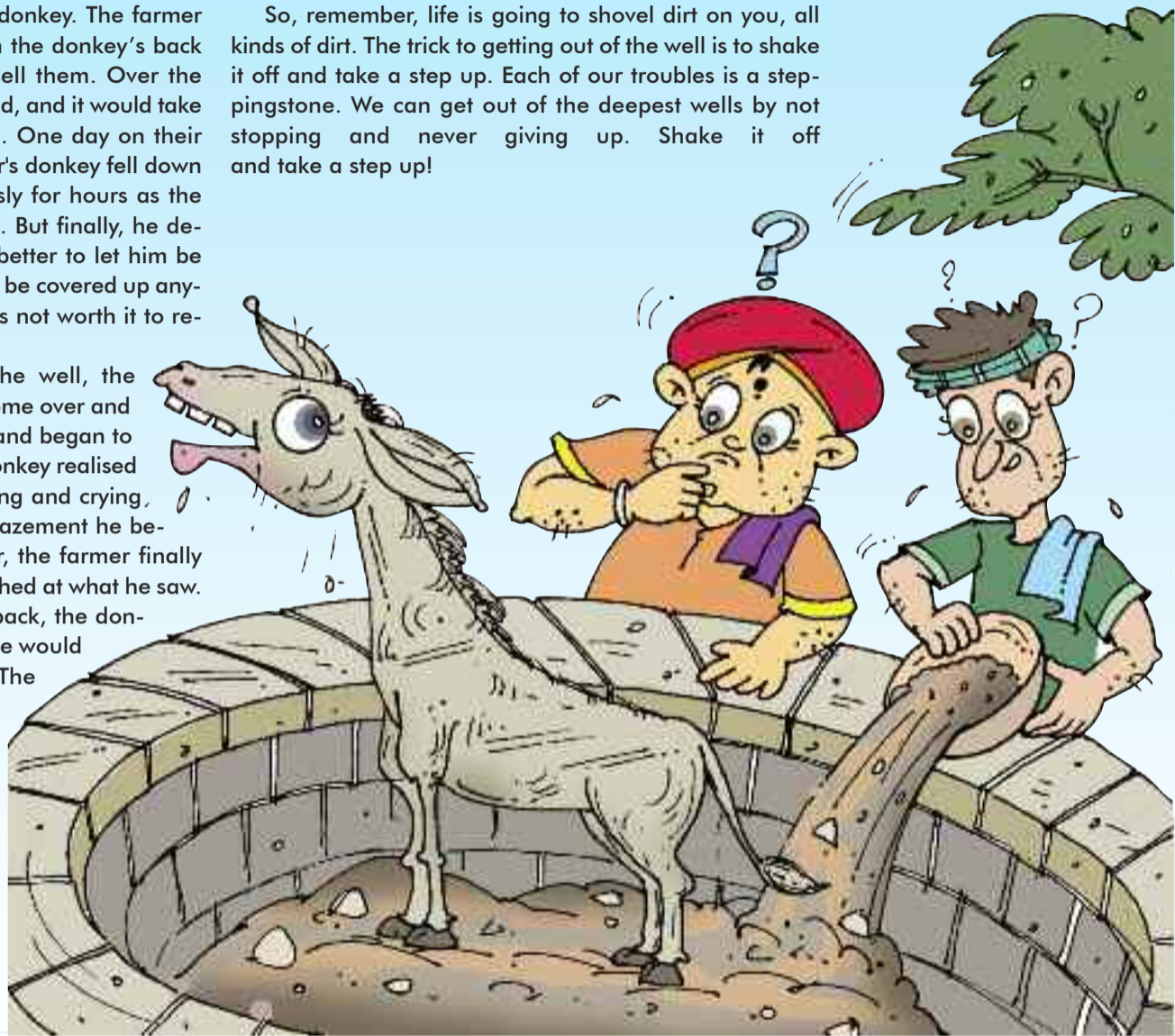


Never Give Up!

There was a farmer who owned a donkey. The farmer used to pack all the vegetables on the donkey's back and go to the market everyday to sell them. Over the years, the donkey became old and tired, and it would take a long time to reach the destination. One day on their way back from the market, the farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. But finally, he decided the animal was old, so it was better to let him be there. Also, the village well needed to be covered up anyway; so the farmer thought it just was not worth it to retrieve the donkey.

With the idea of covering up the well, the farmer invited all his neighbours to come over and help him. They all grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. At first, the donkey realised what was happening and kept howling and crying, continuously. Then, to everyone's amazement he became quiet. A few shovel loads later, the farmer finally looked down the well. He was astonished at what he saw. With each shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was doing something amazing. He would shake it off and take a step up. The farmer stopped shoveling dirt and looked at the donkey with wonder. But the neighbours continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal. As this continued, the donkey would shake the dirt off and take a step up. Pretty soon, everyone was amazed to see the donkey step up over the edge of the well. He came out and shook the last bit of dirt on him and happily trotted off!

So, remember, life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up. Each of our troubles is a steppingstone. We can get out of the deepest wells by not stopping and never giving up. Shake it off and take a step up!



POETIC HUES



Birthday Greetings

This is a very special eve,
Breezes are flowing of pleasant glee,
May all your dreams come true,
May all your wishes come true. . .

Showers of happiness may fall around you,
Breeze of satisfaction may flow around you,
These are sweet wishes of mine to you,
Wish you a very happy birthday,
May all your dreams come true,
May all your wishes come true. . .

Let angels of prosperity stay with you,
Let fairies of strength encourage you. . .
Let flowers of opportunities bloom around you,
Let coins of good luck shine around you. . .
May all your dreams come true,
May all your wishes come true. . .

Wishes are small, giving big cheer,
This is a gift of pleasure just for you dear,
May God fulfill this wish and bring you a merry cheer,
These are my wishes only for you dear!

*Vaishnavi Raote, Std VIII
Kidland English School, Dombivli (W)*



Glimpses of Nature

The sky is too high;
The water too deep
The sun is too far;
But seems to be near.

As clear as crystals;
The pearls in the ocean.
The trees that sway,
In the summer wind.
Thunder and lightning,
Flashing the clouds;

The snow that is sprinkled
In the winter.
The roses that blossom;
In the spring.

The nature is so beautiful
That words cannot describe,
So we can only view
The glimpses of nature.

*Aishwarya Nair, Std IX
St Therese Convent School,
Dombivli*



Virtue

Virtue is the power
To influence people.

Virtue is the capacity
To work hard and succeed.

Virtue is the strength,
To fight against fickle.

Virtue is intelligence,
Towards achieving excellence.

Virtue is valuing
Everything that God gave us.

Virtue is the goodness,
Of our inherent nature.

Virtue is morality,
Shown through the purity of our heart.

*Gopi Kapadia, DAV Public School,
Adani, Gujarat*