



WHY?
WASTE

Little Dams

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Level 4



Flood. The word itself scares us, doesn't it? It is a situation where there is water - too much water- everywhere. We like to blame it on too much rain, but more often than not, natural disasters like flood and drought occur due to the lack of disaster management by human beings. Related to this fact, is the following short story: In a large forest, in a faraway land, there were many lakes, ponds and streams.

The animals had a lot of water to use, maybe that is the reason they did not realize it's value. They used too much water for everything, almost twice of what was actually needed! They crossed all limits in using water - using it for washing clothes, for farming, for household chores etc. But what was indeed tragic is that they did not make any effort to save water. Water depleted from the water resources.



One summer it did not rain at all. As the little animals had not stored any water to face a crisis such as drought, they soon realized that there was no water left in the forest. They had to bring water tanks from the big city. This cost them a lot, and to top it off, the water was also not sufficient. They pledged that they would save water for the future in case of such a crisis. Someone had told Sher Singh, the lion and the king of the forest, that dams should be constructed to save water. He was concerned about the well-being of his subjects.

He immediately sent for help. He wrote a mail to a civil engineer in the city, who knew how to build roads and dams. He came to the forest and built a large dam that was very tall and made of cement. "Now we will not have any problem in saving water," the animals said happily and danced at the inauguration party of the dam. Next year, it rained a lot. It rained so much that all the ponds, streams and lakes started overflowing.





The dam was used to save all the rain water and also store water from the water bodies so that they wouldn't overflow. The little animals had planned that once the rain began to recede, they would open the dam in many steps and slowly the water would be allowed to exit from the dam back into the huge river outside the forest. But things did not go as planned. The floods got over but the dam now contained too much water. Since it couldn't contain so much water, it exploded.

The entire forest were flooded. Many animals were drowned, their homes collapsed and the fields disappeared under water. Everyone was left in tears. Some time passed. This time the animals decided to take steps more wisely. They spoke to many experts over Skype and realized that water management is the key to avert such disasters. They decided to construct dams made mostly of natural materials like mud and clay that were small in size and could hold water within a limit. Many such little dams were constructed on water bodies across the forest.





Even if these dams broke down or were damaged, it would not lead to a large disaster. They were also not very expensive to make. What was more important was the fact that water storing mechanisms were now present all over the forest rather than in just one location. “Now everything will be alright,” said Sher Singh in the Annual Village Conference.

Indeed, everything was normal after that. Thereafter, the animals realized their mistake and used water wisely. They stored water in their little dams and used them during droughts. In years of floods, water was stored in these dams and they regulated the amount of water present in the water bodies. Thus, knowledge of water management made the little animals wealthier and wiser.







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Little Dams

(English)

In a large forest, in a faraway land, there were many lakes, ponds and streams. The animals had a lot of water for use. What happened when they did not use water fairly?

This is a Level 4 book for children who can read fluently and with confidence.



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