

An illustration of a woman with long dark hair, glowing blue eyes, and a green shawl. She is holding a tiger. The background is a fiery, orange-red landscape. The title 'PRIYA AND THE LOST GIRLS' is written in a stylized, yellow, outlined font.

PRIYA AND THE LOST GIRLS

STUDENT MATERIALS

REGIONAL 
ENGLISH 
LANGUAGE 
OFFICE 



U.S. Embassy, India

PRIYA AND THE LOST GIRLS



Read the comic book, "Priya and the Lost Girls" at
www.priyashakti.com/priya-lost-girls



PRIYA AND THE LOST GIRLS

BEFORE YOU READ

A. Meet Priya

Priya is a young woman who fights for justice and the common good. Look at her and her tiger friend, Sahas. How would you describe her? Tick the adjectives.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 anxious | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 brave |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 interesting | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 weak |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 strong | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 unusual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 cowardly | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 boring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 typical | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 confident |



B. Critical thinking

Compare the adjectives you chose in Activity A in pairs. Why did you choose them? Discuss your ideas.

Example:

I think Priya is unusual because she has a tiger friend.

I agree. I also think Priya is unusual because she can ride a tiger.

C. Vocabulary

Read the adjectives in Activity A again. Match the opposites.

D. Predicting

Look at the cover of the comic and read the title. Think about the following questions. Discuss your answers in pairs.

- 1 Who do you think the Lost Girls are? Why do you think they are lost?
- 2 Do you think Priya will find the girls? Where do you think they are?
- 3 What kind of environment is shown on the cover? How does it make you feel?

WHILE YOU READ

PAGE 3

A. Using visual cues

Look at the pictures on the page. Describe where Priya lives. In groups, discuss your ideas about the following.

- 1 Where is the town?
- 2 What is the weather, or the climate, like in that area?
- 3 What kind of jobs do people do in that town?



B. Comprehension

Read page 4. In pairs, answer the questions.

- 1 What is strange about the people of the town?
- 2 Where is Priya's sister?
- 3 What is Priya going to do?

C. Critical thinking

Look at the pictures and read the page again. In groups, discuss the questions.

- 1 How does Priya talk to her parents? Do you think she is respectful to them? Why or why not?
- 2 How do Priya's parents talk to each other? Do you think they show each other respect? Why or why not?

PAGE 4

A. Using visual cues

Look at the pictures on the page. Tell the story in your own words.

B. Comprehension

Read the page and write T (true) or F (false).

- 1 ____ Priya's sister left the village with other girls.
- 2 ____ Priya's mother is happy about Lakshmi going to Rahu.
- 3 ____ Priya's father is angry because he thinks Lakshmi is doing bad things.
- 4 ____ Priya's grandmother was a kind woman.
- 5 ____ Priya's grandmother gave Lakshmi a bracelet that has been in the family for many years.

C. Vocabulary

Read the paragraph. Write the correct letters on the lines.

- A ancestors
- B bangle
- C to gift
- D passed down
- E strength
- F wisdom



When Priya was a child, her grandmother gave her a **1** _____. It was very special because it had belonged to their **2** _____. It was **3** _____ through the generations and Priya's grandmother wanted **4** _____ Priya with this special family bangle. Priya's grandmother was a special woman because she had **5** _____ and **6** _____.

D. Making predictions

How can the bangle help Priya? Discuss your answers in pairs.

For example:

A: I think Priya can sell the bangle. She can use the money to help people.

B: I think she will find some of her family when she wears the bangle. They will remember it.



PAGE 5-6

A. Making predictions

What do you think happened to the girls of the village? Why? Discuss your ideas in groups.

B. Comprehension

Read the pages and tick the true statements.

- 1 Priya gave Lakshmi the bangle.
- 2 Priya's mother told Priya not to fight with Lakshmi.
- 3 Priya thinks Lakshmi could be in trouble.
- 4 When Lakshmi played with Priya, she usually won.
- 5 When Lakshmi was ill, Priya didn't sleep at all.

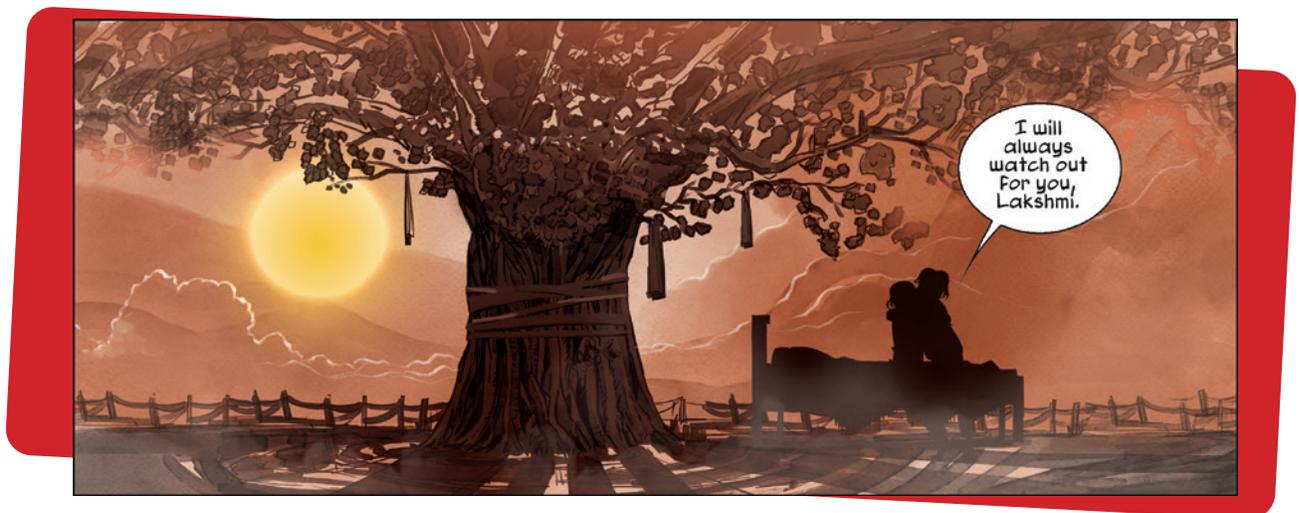
C. Connect to your world

Answer the question from your own experiences.

Describe the relationship between Priya and Lakshmi. Do you think their relationship is realistic? Why or why not?

D. Using visual cues

Look at the picture and read the text. Why do you think the artist drew Priya and Lakshmi under this tree? Why is this tree important? What does this show about Priya and her family?



A. Using visual cues

Read the page and look at the picture of Lakshmi. Answer the questions.

- 1 How does Lakshmi feel? Why?
- 2 How do the pictures make you feel? Why? Think about the colors, the shapes, her expression, etc.



LEARN ABOUT LANGUAGE!

Look at these verbs:

Take off

Take

Put on

Put

Get up

Get

Take off, put on and get up are phrasal verbs- a verb combined with another word, usually a preposition or an adverb. This word combination has a different meaning. For example, *Take your shoes outside!* How is the sentence *Take off your shoes outside!* different? *Take off* is a phrasal verb.

B. Vocabulary

Read the sentences. Find the phrasal verbs with *watch* and underline them. Think of another verb that has the same meaning.

- 1 I will always watch out for you, Lakshmi!
- 2 You said you would watch over me.
- 3 Watch out for strangers! They may want to harm you.
- 4 They watched for a sign that it was safe to leave.

A. Using visual cues

Look at the page. Then, look at pictures of Priya and the woman she meets. Discuss the questions in pairs.

- 1 How do the women feel?
- 2 How do these women know each other?



B. Comprehension

Read the page and answer the questions.

- 1 Where is Priya going? What is the name of this place? Why is she going there?
- 2 Does the air smell good? How do you know?
- 3 What is happening to the woman?
- 4 What does the woman want?

LEARN HOW TO LEARN!

In order to guess the meaning of words, think about the part of speech, for example, noun or adjective. Look for clues in the sentences. For example, is there an article like *a*, *an* or *the* before the word? Does the word end in *-ing*? If so, could it be a verb. Or, could it be an adjective?

C. Vocabulary

Find the following words on the page. Write each word's part of speech.

- 1 ___ harsh
- 2 ___ squeeze
- 3 ___ sulphur
- 4 ___ turn into

D. Vocabulary

Match the words in Activity C to their meanings.

- A ___ hard and hurtful
- B ___ strong chemical
- C ___ become
- D ___ push or hold very tightly

E. Vocabulary

Write the words from Activity C the correct sentence.

- 1 If you add water to dirt, the dirt will _____ mud.
- 2 When I lit the match, I could smell the _____ burning.
- 3 The _____ words hurt the boy's feelings.
- 4 If you _____ the tube, the toothpaste will come out.

PAGE 9

A. Using visual cues

Look at pictures on the page. Tell the story in your own words.

B. Comprehension

Read and choose the correct answers.

1 What is the woman's name?

- A** Amrit **B** Ambika **C** Anika

2 Why did the woman leave Rahu?

- A** She was forced to leave.
B She was very unhappy there.
C She was searching for water.

3 What is the reason for the answer in question 2?

- A** Because the woman didn't have food or water.
B Because the woman didn't like the people in Rahu.
C Because the woman was too old.

4 What did Sahas's tears do to the woman?

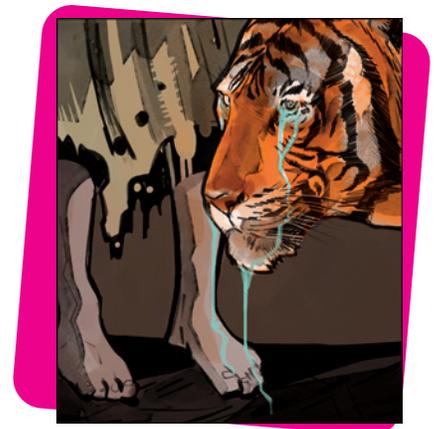
- A** Gave her water so she could survive.
B Turned her body from stone to flesh.
C Gave her magical power to turn people into stone.

5 What does the woman ask Priya to do?

- A** Save the other girls in Rahu.
B Find the people who hurt her.
C Help her get back to her home.

C. Critical thinking

Look at the picture and read the text. What do you think Sahas might say? Why? In pairs, discuss your ideas.



PAGES 10-11

A. Using visual cues

Discuss the questions in groups.

- 1 Describe the city of Rahu and its king.
- 2 Do you think Rahu is a good or evil king? Why?

LEARN HOW TO LEARN!

Sometimes people tell us things without saying them directly. For example, Meena said, "I had my umbrella, but I still got wet on my way home!" Meena didn't tell us about the weather, but we can infer what it was like. She had her umbrella, and we know she got wet, so we can infer that it was raining heavily. Remember that inferences are guesses, so it is not possible to be 100% sure! But, being able to make an inference is a useful critical thinking tool.

B. Making inferences

Read the sentences. Tick the sentences you can infer from reading the pages.

- 1 Rahu is very intelligent.
- 2 Rahu is very famous and known throughout the world.
- 3 Rahu does not respect women.
- 4 Priya wants to get along with Rahu.
- 5 Priya does not like Rahu.
- 6 Rahu is violent.

C. Role Play

Imagine you have met Rahu. What would you say to him? Why? What would Rahu say?



PAGES 12-13

A. Using visual cues

Look at the pictures on the page. Tell the story in your own words.

B. Comprehension

Read the sentences. Which sentences are true about Manidhari? Tick them.

- 1 ___ She has a wound on her arm.
- 2 ___ She knows Priya's name although they haven't been introduced.
- 3 ___ She is half human and half snake.
- 4 ___ She is afraid of fire.
- 5 ___ She wants to take Priya inside.
- 6 ___ She doesn't like Sahas.

C. Critical thinking

Look at the pictures and read the text. Do you believe Manidhari or Amrit? Why?



LEARN HOW TO LEARN!

Language can be **literal** or **figurative**. When language is literal, the meaning of the words is obvious. For example, *Priya's wound hurt*. When language is figurative, we have to think about the meaning because the words may have other meanings. For example, *Priya's wound was on fire*. We know that there was not fire coming from her wound. It was not burning, but we can understand that this sentence means the wound hurt a lot, and perhaps *felt* like it was burning.

D. Vocabulary

Look at the picture and read the text. Does the picture show the figurative or the literal meaning of the text? Explain your answer.



PAGES 14-15

A. Using visual cues

Look at the pictures on the page. Does the city look like a nice place to live? Why or why not?

B. Comprehension

Read the pages and answer the questions.

- 1 What does Priya see in the streets of Rahu? What are these for?
- 2 Why does Priya follow Amrit?
- 3 Why is the city orange?

C. Critical thinking

Discuss the questions in pairs or groups.

- 1 How do you think Priya feels in the town? Why?
- 2 Do you think there are many families and schools in Rahu? Why or why not?
- 3 Do you think the women of Rahu are happy? Why or why not?

PAGES 16-17

A. Using visual cues

Look at the pictures on the page. Tell the story in your own words.

B. Comprehension

Read the sentences. Tick the true sentences.

- 1 ___ Amrit helps Priya with her wound.
- 2 ___ Priya searches for Amrit to ask for directions to the kitchen.
- 3 ___ When women are forced to leave Rahu, they turn to stone.
- 4 ___ Priya goes to the kitchen because she is very hungry.

C. Critical thinking

Do you think Amrit is a good character? Why or why not?

D. Vocabulary

Look at the picture and read the text. What is the meaning of *Feed salt, get loyalty*? Is this figurative or literal language? Explain your answer.



PAGES 18-19

A. Making predictions

Before you read, look at the pictures. Then, complete the paragraph with your own words.

The smell of Priya's **1** _____ is delicious, so the women come to taste the **2** _____. Priya sees Lakshmi, but she says her **3** _____ is Laila. Priya is **4** _____. Lakshmi is different; there is something **5** _____ with her.

B. Comprehension

Read the pages. Then, compare your answers to the paragraph above with a partner.

C. Critical thinking

In groups, discuss the questions.

One of the women talks about the problems she had in her village. Other women say that it was her fault because she wore tight clothes.

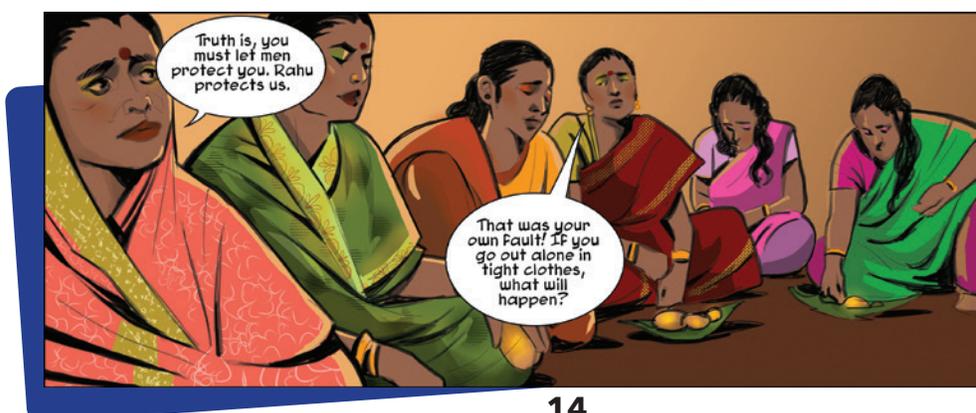
- 1 What do you think about this opinion?
- 2 Why is this opinion not fair to women?
- 3 What problems does this way of thinking lead to?

D. Speaking

What makes Lakshmi remember who she really is? Why do you think this happens? Why do you think Lakshmi cries? In pairs, discuss your ideas.

E. Role Play

Imagine you are sitting with these women. Why do you think they believe Rahu is protecting them? What could you say make them understand this isn't true?



PAGES 20-21

A. Using visual cues

Look at the pictures and describe the different emotions Lakshmi shows. Why do you think she feels these emotions?

B. Comprehension

Read the pages. Answer the questions.

- 1 Lakshmi says she is there because of Priya. Why does she say this?
- 2 Why does Lakshmi want to stay?
- 3 What does Lakshmi tell Amrit about Priya?

C. Critical thinking

Lakshmi says, "Here no one thinks badly of me." What does she mean by this? Why does she think this?

D. Role Play

Imagine you are Priya. What could you say to convince Lakshmi to leave Rahu and understand that it is a bad place?



E. Making Inferences

Why do you think Lakshmi tells Amrit that Priya is not her sister? What can you infer from this? Tick all the possible inferences.

- 1 She is protecting Priya.
- 2 She is angry with Priya and wants to hurt her feelings.
- 3 She likes her situation.
- 4 She is afraid of Amrit.

PAGES 22-23

A. Using visual cues

Look at the pictures on the page. Tell the story in your own words.

B. Comprehension

Read the pages. Complete the sentences. Then, compare your answers in pairs.

- 1 Amrit says Lakshmi _____ to be in Rahu.
- 2 Amrit wants Priya to _____ something to make her stay in Rahu.
- 3 Priya feels _____ when she smells the orange fumes.
- 4 _____ causes Priya to vomit the orange poison.

C. Critical thinking

Amrit says Lakshmi chooses to be here. Why is this not completely true?

D. Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with the words from the box.

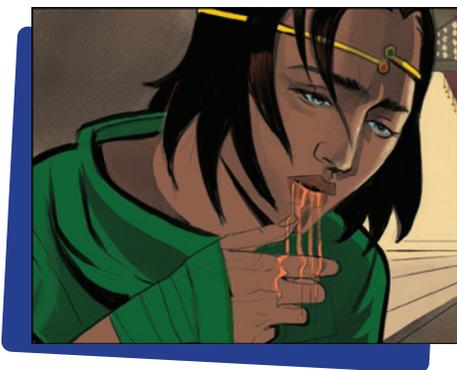
- A dizzy B elixir C fumes D vial D vomit

- 1 Amrit opens a _____ and orange _____ come out.
- 2 Priya feels _____ and falls to the floor after drinking the _____.
- 3 Sahas causes Priya to _____.

E. Vocabulary

Match the sentences from Activity D to the pictures. Write the numbers on the lines.

A _____



B _____



C _____



PAGES 24-25

A. Using visual cues

Look at the background colors in these pictures and on these pages. Discuss the questions in pairs.

- 1 How do these different colors make you feel?
- 2 Why do you think the artist used very different colors for these parts of the story?
- 3 Do you think these pages show the same time period? Why or why not?



B. Comprehension

Choose the correct answer.

- 1 Sahas **leaves / helps** Priya in order to escape.
- 2 Priya feels **energetic / weak**, but she has to escape.
- 3 Priya meets Manidhari in the **forest / city**.
- 4 The blue leaves **poison / help** Priya's wound.
- 5 Rahu used to belong to **Amrit / Manidhari**.

LEARN HOW TO LEARN!

And and **but** are *coordinating conjunctions*. Using these words can make your writing more interesting and easier to read. **And** and **but** can join two sentences, two nouns, two adjectives, or any other two items of the same grammatical type. We use **and** to give more information. For example: *Priya is an amazing person. She cares about people.* We can join these sentences with **and**. *Priya is an amazing person, **and** she cares about people.* We use **but** to show that ideas are different. For example: *Priya went to see her family. Her sister Lakshmi wasn't at home.* *Priya went to see her family, **but** her sister Lakshmi wasn't at home.* We usually use a comma before **and** and **but**.

C. Comprehension

Read the sentences. Write **and** or **but**.

- 1 Priya is leaving now, _____ she's going to return for Lakshmi.
- 2 Priya feels unwell, _____ she has to escape.
- 3 Manidhari puts the blue leaves on Priya's wound, _____ it begins to heal.
- 4 Manidhari used to be the queen of the kingdom, _____ Rahu is the ruler now.
- 5 Manidhari and her husband were kind rulers, _____ there weren't any problems in the kingdom.

D. Vocabulary

Find the words on the page. Match them to their meanings.

- 1 instantaneously
- 2 get back
- 3 eons
- 4 rightful
- 5 conflict
- 6 rule

- A many, many years / a long time
- B reclaim / recover
- C govern / control
- D lawful / correct
- E immediately / at once
- F struggle / fighting

PAGES 29-31

A. Using visual cues

Look at the pictures on the page. Tell the story in your own words.

B. Comprehension

Read the pages. Number the events in order from 1-7.

- A ___ Priya and Sahas fly toward the volcano.
- B ___ Manidhari explains how to defeat Rahu.
- C ___ Priya's blood turns Rahu's lava into stone.
- D ___ The bangle saves Priya from burning.
- E ___ Priya and Sahas jump into the volcano.
- F ___ Rahu's fire stops burning.
- G ___ Priya cuts her hand and puts the bangle to her heart.

C. Vocabulary

Read the sentences. Write the synonym for each underlined word on the lines. Find the words on the pages of the comic if you need help.

A ceases B defeat C divine D emits E incinerating F leap G neutralizes H trickle

- 1 Priya cut her hand to allow her blood to drip into Rahu's elixir. _____
- 2 Minidhari thinks Priya can beat Rahu with her kindness and courage. _____
- 3 Sahas and Priya jump into the volcano without fear! _____
- 4 Priya's heavenly blood can stop the evil Rahu. _____
- 5 The power that Priya's bangle produces stops her from burning. _____
- 6 Priya's blood cancels the elixir and the volcano's fire stops. _____

D. Role play

Look at the picture. Imagine what Rahu and Priya would say to each other. Role play their characters.



PAGES 32-33

A. Using visual cues

Compare the illustrations of the city with those on pages 13 and 14. How do they look different? Why do you think the artist chose to make them different?

B. Comprehension

Read the pages. Choose the correct answer.

- 1 The city is no longer covered with **lava / rock**.
- 2 Priya is very **weak / strong** after her battle with Rahu.
- 3 Lakshmi is very **sorry / angry** about her behavior toward Priya.
- 4 Amrit tells the woman that the world **will / will not** accept them.
- 5 Manidhari sends Amrit to the **dungeon / volcano**.

LEARN HOW TO LEARN!

Compare these two sentences: *Rahu **was defeated** by Priya and Priya **defeated** Rahu.* Is the meaning the same? Yes. In both sentences Priya did the action and Rahu received the action. The first sentence uses the passive voice. The passive voice uses a form of the verb **be** and the past participle of the main verb. When do we use the passive voice? When the sentence is about the receiver of the action. This is because, in English, the important information is at the beginning of the sentence. For example, in this sentence: *Rahu **was defeated**.* Is this sentence in active or passive voice? Do we need to mention Priya?

C. Writing

Read the sentences. Underline the verb forms. Write A (active) or P (passive). Then, circle the person who does the action. Put two lines under the person who receives the action. In pairs, discuss your answers. Then, change the sentence to the other form, active or passive.

- 1 ___ Priya is brought by Sahas to the center of the city.
- 2 ___ Manidhari banished Amrit to the dungeon.
- 3 ___ Amrit was taken to the dungeon by the female Naagas.
- 4 ___ Amrit says, "The world will not accept the women."

D. Making predictions

Look at the picture and read the text. Why is Lakshmi scared? What do you think will happen to her and the other women? Do you think Priya is right? Discuss your ideas in groups.



PAGES 34-37

A. Using visual cues

Tell the story in your own words. What do you think people are saying to the women Priya has rescued?

B. Vocabulary

Find the following words on the pages. Match them to their meanings.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1 ___ take back | A avoided someone |
| 2 ___ fairy tales | B not respect / make fun of |
| 3 ___ greeted with open arms | C accept again |
| 4 ___ treated like lepers | D say very bad words to someone |
| 5 ___ scorn / ridicule | E children's stories about magical things |
| 6 ___ curse | F welcomed someone in a very happy way |

C. Comprehension

Read the pages. Answer the questions.

- 1 Do the women think they will be accepted by their families? How do you know?
- 2 What happens to the women when they go back to their villages?
- 3 Look at the people who are saying bad things to the women. Are these people innocent or did some of them do something bad? How do you know?
- 4 What happens to Priya at the end of page 37?

D. Making predictions

Look at the picture and read the text. What do you think Priya will do? Why?



PAGES 38-40

A. Using visual cues

Tell the story in your own words. What happened to Priya?

B. Comprehension

Read the pages and answer the questions.

- 1 Why did Priya roar? What did the people do when she roared?
- 2 Why did Priya get bigger?
- 3 Is Priya only angry with the men? How do you know? What does she say?

C. Critical thinking

Look at the pictures and read the text. In pairs, discuss your answers to the question.

- 1 Why did the women jump into Priya's heart? Why did this make Priya stronger?



- 2 Who is *You* in Priya's speech? Who is *us* in her speech? How do you know?



PAGES 41-43

A. Vocabulary

Find the words on the pages. Write the letters in the sentences below.

A burnded **B** curse **C** dowry **D** enemy **E** respect **F** restrict **G** suffocate **H** trafficking

- 1 The school authorities can _____ the number of students who take the test at one time.
- 2 It is impolite to _____. No one wants to listen to bad words.
- 3 Some parents don't know that people are _____ their daughters and making them do bad things.
- 4 My family is saving money to make sure I have a _____ for my wedding.
- 5 My parents have _____ for my ideas. They often ask for my opinion about things.
- 6 My family always helps me, and they never make me feel like I am a _____.
- 7 We are not very good friends, but she is not my _____!
- 8 My parents won't allow me to have a cell phone, go to the movies, or go out after school. I feel like they _____ me!

B. Using visual cues

Tell the story in your own words. What happened to the little girl?

C. Comprehension

Read the sentences. Tick the true sentences.

- 1 ___ The girls working in Rahu knew why they were going to Rahu.
- 2 ___ Priya thinks women are not responsible for changing the attitudes of men toward women.
- 3 ___ Priya thinks that protecting women too much suffocates them and makes them more vulnerable.
- 4 ___ The young girl feels like a burden to her parents.

D. Critical thinking

Look at the picture and read the text. What do you think Priya's sentence means? In pairs, discuss your ideas and give examples to support your opinions.



AFTER YOU READ

A. Speaking

In pairs, discuss the questions.

- 1 Think back to your ideas about who the Lost Girls were and why they were lost. Were your ideas correct?
- 2 Do you think Priya's parents will accept Lakshmi? Why or why not? What would you say to Lakshmi's parents so that they would accept her?
- 3 How do you think the world can be changed to protect women like the Lost Girls? What can you do?

B. Critical thinking

Look at the pictures and read the text. Then, in groups, answer the questions.

- 1 Why do you think Priya's parents sent Lakshmi to Rahu? Do you think they knew what she was doing there?
- 2 How do you think traffickers convinced Priya's parents to let Lakshmi go to Rahu?
- 3 What are some other ways that you think traffickers convince parents to let them take their girls? If someone approached your parents about your sister, what could you and your parents say or ask them?



AFTER YOU READ

C. Projects

Option 1

Research groups that help women and children who have been trafficked. Create a poster to educate people in your community about this group and the work they do to help people who have been trafficked. To create your poster, think about these questions.

- 1 What is the name of the group?
- 2 Where are they?
- 3 Who do they help?
- 4 How do they help these people?
- 5 How can people contact this group?

Option 2

In groups, think about the things that people in your community can do to prevent trafficking. As you do this, think about the girls or boys who are trafficked, the parents, friends and family, others in the community, such as teachers, bus drivers, shop owners, the people who traffic girls or boys, and any others you can think of.

Work together and make a poster about one or more of these things.

NOTES

PRIYA AND THE LOST GIRLS

"Priya and the Lost Girls" teaching and learning materials were developed in coordination with the Regional English Language Office (RELO) of the U.S. Embassy, New Delhi. "Priya and the Lost Girls" copyright © 2021 by Rattapallax.

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Rattapallax



