



## A REAL LIFE STORY

Growing up with a father in Railways means moving often. This school in Bharuch was my fifth school. I was always considered as 'a new girl'. Once or twice I managed to make friends. But before we could know each other, I had to move to a different school, again as a 'new girl.'

***Make a list of difficulties faced by a boy/girl whose parents have a transferable job.***

One day in August, 1967 I stood in the doorway of my newest classroom. As always my stomach ached with some unknown fear. I **shivered** (trembled) and tried to hold back my tears: Thirty five boys and girls stared at me. I tried hard to keep my eyes on the floor to avoid strange looks. Then I saw a girl smiling like warm sunshine at me. She actually seemed to welcome me. When the teacher told me to sit next to Manisha, my frozen **terror** (ભય) began to melt.

"Hi, I'm Manisha," Her voice had warm ring, her face was long, her eyes were dark and soft and hair long and brownish.

|| Friendship is the elixir of life ||

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And I learned by the end of the day that her heart was 24 carat gold. She helped me with assignments, introduced me to her friends praising me, "Panni is a real nice girl". On the very first day, an unspoken promise had been made. Manisha and I knew we would be best friends.

Both of us would always move together out on the silent railway tracks, or in the garden behind the school. We explored the forest in the vacation, did camping on Mount Abu, and participated in Navratri festivals. She was tall and **slim** (thin). I was short and **plump** (fattish). She was good at Maths, I liked reading novels. She was a good athlete and dragged me into some games. We talked and sang and quarrelled and wept and yet sat together on one bench.

Three years flew by - the miracle years filled with fun, growth, discovery and **intense** (strong and deep) feelings. Manisha's father got a promotion and they had to move to Assam.

As promised, Manisha and I wrote occasional letter. Long distance phone calls were out of question in those days. Her last letter came when I was in T.Y.B.Sc. She had fallen in love with a doctor. She married him and had just given birth to a beautiful baby girl.

I wrote back immediately but didn't get any answer. I wrote again and again. Finally my letters were returned with a stamp 'address unknown'. How I worried about her ! To be married at the age of 19 and have a baby ! I knew she would be a wonderful mother.

I got my M.Sc. degree. Worked as a lecturer, and got married. My children grew up, went to college and my daughter was now a mother. I would often talk about my friendship with Manisha. My family members knew all about my best friend.

On a hot day of April 2005 the telephone rang.

"Is it Panni ?"

"Yes"

"Is it Panni Bhatiya ?"

"Yes."

"Is this Panni Bhatia the Bharuchwala"

"Who are you ?" I roared.

"This is your Manisha."

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**How would Panni react ?**

I screamed. I was in the balcony and the entire town must have heard me. Dancing around the jumping up and down, I shouted out of joy. "Oh, dear Manisha, where are you ?"

**Do you think why her eyes were wet ?**

Before thirty five years we had said good-bye, she had found me. She was in Sweden. Shorting through piles of paper and old suitcases she had opened an ancient box marked "letters". My letter of 1975 was in it.

Immediately she called everyone surnamed Bhatia who lived in Bharuch. Nobody knew my address, she didn't give up. She called to my college. After much begging and **pleading** (explaining to get a favour), the in-charge teacher of 'Old-students' union' gave her my phone number.

**Will this story have a happy end or a sad one ? Why do you believe so ?**

In that Diwali vacation Manisha and her husband Ashok came to India. They spent a few days with us in Anand. My Manisha looked exactly the same. She was overflowing with the same **warmth** (affection- ॐ) and love. She missed me as much as I missed her. She had faced difficult time, but as always had managed to find good in life. Twenty-four carat gold does not get rusted, you know !

And now we are together again: best friends, forever.



**A POEM  
YOU HAVE GOT A FRIEND**

When you are down and troubled,  
And you need some loving care  
And nothing, nothing is going right,  
Close your eyes and think of me,  
And soon I will be there,  
To brighten up even your darkest night.  
You just call out my name  
And you know where I am,  
I'll come running to see you again

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Winter, spring, summer or fall,  
All you have to do is call  
And I'll be there.

You have got a friend.

If the sky above you  
Grows dark and full of clouds,  
And that cold north wind  
Begins to blow,  
Keep your Head together,  
And call my name out loud,  
Soon you'll hear me  
Knocking at your door.  
And I'll be there.

You have got a friend.



### **A THOUGHT** **FRIENDSHIP IS A BLESSING**

One of the greatest things that make life worthwhile is a heart-to-heart friendship. No matter, what happens to us, it is comforting to know that someone dear to us shared our sorrows and happiness. A friend's sincere sympathy is the dearest comfort in this world. Such a friend is a tower of strength when our burden is greater than we can bear alone. When life is easy, friendship increases our happiness.

Riches in the world may suffice for a time and make life pleasant, but a **clasp** (to hold tightly) of hand with a friend is a timeless treasure. The cares of life will knit good friends close together, and the tie will grow dearer with each passing year.

Many come into our life, but a few come into our heart to stay. The love and intimacy of a true friend is the loveliest thing in all the world. Close your eyes, remember a friend and feel your heart overflowing with sweetest emotions.

### **QUOTATIONS**

- How often do we die before we really leave this world ? In every departing friend we lose a part of ourselves, and the best part.  
- **Alexander Pope**

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- Better are the blows of a friend than false kisses of an enemy.  
- **Thomas Becket**
- Life has no blessings like a wise friend. - **Euripides**
- It is one of the **severest** (most difficult) tests of friendship to tell your friend his faults. If you pass the test you go to higher grades of friendship. - **Emily Dickinson**

## Do it Yourself

**Q.1 (A)** Find out the word / words from the whole lesson showing effect of friendship.

makes life worthwhile,      dearest comfort, \_\_\_\_\_

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**(B)** Make a sentence using both of these words. you may use forms of these words. you may make change in the words to suit your expulsion.

1. slim - shiver
2. intimacy - warmth
3. scream - plead
4. intense - overflow

**Q.2 (A)** Here are some expressions which show a friendship of happiness (H) or unhappiness (UH). Write H or UH against each one.

1. Manisha's father got a promotion and they went to Assam.
2. A silent promise of friendship was given.

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3. I felt uncomfortable to face a new class. ☐
4. Her smile was like a warm sun-shine for me. ☐
5. Letter returned with a stamp 'address unknown.' ☐
6. This is your Manisha. ☐
7. And we are together again. ☐
8. The entire town must have heard me. ☐
9. The in-charge teacher gave the phone number. ☐
10. Long distance phone calls were out of question. ☐

**(B) Answer the questions.**

1. Why was Panni always a new girl ?
2. Manisha's heart was 24 carat gold. What does it mean ?
3. What activities did Panni and Manisha do together ?
4. What were Panni and Manisha good at ?
5. What did Manisha do to find out Panni's phone number ?
6. Draw a tree diagram and note down qualities of your friend.
7. What similarities and dissimilarities do you share with your friends ?

Your Name :

Your Friend's Name :

Similarities :

Dissimilarities :

**(C) Read these sentences carefully. They describe your possible behaviour with your friends. The columns against each statement show the frequency of that behaviour. Put tick mark (✓) to show YOUR OWN frequency. Count the tick marks and put total in each column.**

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No.	Statement	Always	Most of time	Some time	Never
1.	I defend my friends even when they are wrong.				
2.	I keep on changing my friends.				
3.	My friends care for me more than I care for them.				
4.	I insist that my friends do not keep relations with persons I dislike.				
5.	I send cards / gifts to maintain my friendship.				
6.	I try to prove myself superior to my friends.				
7.	I stick to my plans even when my friends press me to change them.				
8.	I feel bad if my friends do not meet me everyday.				
	<b>Total</b>				

**Now multiply the total number of tick marks as under :**

'always' by 1,

'Most of time' by 2,

'some time' by 3,

'never' by 4.

Add up all the figures. It is your **Friendship Score**.

**Now evaluate your score keeping in mind of following score-board :**

The Score 26 and above is EXCELLENT.

From 20 to 25 is GOOD.

From 15 to 19 is AVERAGE and

below 15 means YOU NEED TO IMPROVE YOUR BEHAVIOUR WITH YOUR FRIENDS.

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Discuss your Score with your friends and parents. Think about the changes you need to bring in your behaviour.

•  
We have fewer friends than  
we imagine,  
but more than  
we know.

• • •  
We are all inclined  
to judge  
ourselves by your ideals,  
others by their acts.

• • •  
God, grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change,  
courage to change the thing I can,  
and wisdom to know  
the difference.

22

### PUNCTUATION MARKS

Read and notice the difference.

- Let's eat, daddy  
Let's eat daddy.
- Hang him, not let him free.  
Hang him not, let him free.

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