

Class 6 · English · Poorvi · Unit 1: Fables and Folk Tales

Chapter 1

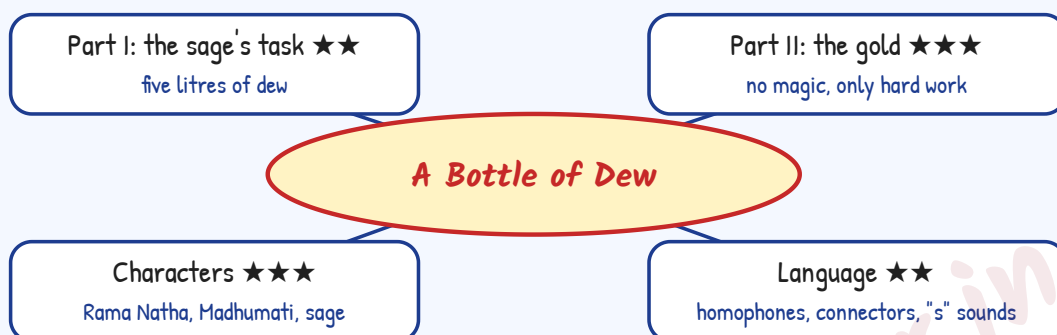
A Bottle of Dew



hard work is the real magic

Sudha Murty · NCERT Poorvi, Textbook of English for Grade 6 · CBSE 2026–27

Chapter map (★ = most important for the exam)



About the lesson

A story by **Sudha Murty**. **Rama Natha**, a rich landlord's son, wastes his time and money searching for a **magic potion** that turns things into gold. A wise **sage, Mahipati**, tells him to collect **five litres of dew** from banana leaves with his own hands. After six years of work, Rama Natha learns that his **hard work**, not magic, has made him rich.

What is inside

1. Concept notes: the story in sequence, characters, moral, key lines
2. NCERT (Poorvi) exercises, fully solved: homophones, connecting words, "s" sounds
3. **Important exam questions, fully solved**
4. Quick-reference sheet, extract sets, practice A–G, 20 MCQs, 6 A–R, answers, summary

Colour code used

red = key term green = definition

purple = sub-heading black = explanation

"purple Kalam" = a line quoted from the text

★ **Exam tip:** Learn the **sage's instructions** (banana plants, own hands, winter dew, five litres), the **six years**, the **copper vessel**, and the **box of gold coins**.

Moral in one line: there is no magic shortcut; hard work creates wealth.

1.1 The story in sequence ★★★

Part I: the search for magic

1. **Rama Natha**, son of a rich landlord, gets large tracts of land when his father dies, but never looks after them.
2. He believes in a **magic potion** that can turn any object into gold and spends all his time and money looking for it. People **cheat** him, but he does not give up.
3. His wife **Madhumati** is tired and worried: soon they will have no money.
4. A famous sage, **Mahipati**, comes to town. Rama Natha becomes his follower. The sage says he heard of such a potion in the Himalayas, *"But it is difficult."*
5. **The task**: plant banana plants, water them **with his own hands**, collect the **morning dew** from the leaves in **winter**, store it in a bottle and bring **five litres**. The sage will chant magic words over it, and one drop will turn anything into gold.
6. Rama Natha worries it will take years. The sage says he may plant as many plants as he wants, but must look after them and collect the dew **himself**.

Part II: the real gold

7. Rama Natha cleans his empty fields and plants **rows and rows of banana plants**. He tends them carefully and collects dew every winter. Madhumati helps.
8. Madhumati **sells the bananas** in the market at a good price. The plantation grows bigger every year.
9. After **six years** he has five litres of dew. The sage mutters over it: *"Try it out."*
10. Rama Natha sprinkles drops on a **copper vessel**. Nothing happens! *"This is cheating... I have wasted six precious years of my life."*
11. The sage smiles and calls Madhumati. She opens a **big box of gold coins**.
12. The sage explains: *"There is no magic potion... It was your hard work that created this wealth, not magic."* He played a trick because Rama Natha would not have listened earlier.
13. Rama Natha understands and **works even harder** from that day on.

1.2 Characters, moral and key lines ★★★

Rama Natha

Before: lazy about his land, foolish (believes in magic), wasteful (spends money on the search), easily cheated, but **persistent** (does not give up). **After**: hard-working, patient, sensible; he **changes** and works even harder.

Madhumati

Practical and sensible (worried about money), **supportive** (helps collect dew), **hard-working and smart** (sells bananas, saves the gold coins), patient.

Sage Mahipati

Wise (knows talking will not work), **clever** (plays a kind trick), **caring** (shows the right path), calm (only smiles when accused).

Before and after

before meeting the sage	after meeting the sage
spent all his time looking for a magic potion	planted and looked after banana plants
wasted money; did not look after his land	collected dew; worked even harder on his plantation

Moral and themes

1. **Hard work is the real magic:** wealth comes from effort, not shortcuts.
2. **Wisdom of elders:** a good teacher finds a way to make us learn.
3. **Teamwork in a family:** husband grows, wife sells.
4. **Patience:** six years of steady work.
5. **Don't be fooled** by promises of easy riches.

Key lines

"You have to plant a banana plant and water it regularly with your hands." (the task)

"This is cheating... I have wasted six precious years of my life." (Rama Natha's anger)

"It was your hard work that created this wealth, not magic." (the lesson)

"If I had told you about this earlier, you would have not listened to me, so I played a trick on you."
(why the trick)

Why the title?

The **bottle of dew** was the "magic" Rama Natha worked for. It had no power, but collecting it made him work for six years, which brought real gold.

1.3 Words, homophones and connecting words ★★

word	meaning
large tracts of land	large areas of land
potion	a liquid with magical properties
give up	stop trying
sage	a wise man
dew	small drops of water on leaves that form at night
chant	repeat or sing a word or phrase
tended	looked after
plantation	a large farm of one crop
muttered	spoke in a low voice
precious	valuable
wisdom	deep understanding

Homophones

Words that **sound the same** but have **different spellings and meanings**: I – eye · your – you're · dew – due · son – sun · one – won · ate – eight · see – sea.

Connecting words

word	tells	example
because, as	why	Nitin was late as there was a traffic jam.
because of	why (+ noun)	He did not climb because of his fear of heights.
before	when	They submitted their work before the deadline.
as soon as	when (immediately)	They ran as soon as the bell rang.

Sounds of "s"

/s/	/z/
sage, promising, s and, s ea, surprise (first s)	wisdom, tree s , bed s , cloth s , wa s , key s , bag s , nose, surprise (second s)

★ **Exam tip:** Plural "s" after a voiced sound (b, d, g, v, a vowel) sounds like /z/: beds, bags, keys. After p, t, k, f it sounds /s/: cats, books.

Tongue twister

"Bunty bhaiya bought a big bunch of bananas." Make your own: "Sita sells sweet sugar-cane at the seaside."

NCERT exercises, fully solved

Before you read (model)

Ans. I. worried – a sad, anxious face; plantation – rows of trees on a farm; sage – an old wise man with a beard; surprise – a face with wide eyes and an open mouth.
II. I worked hard before my exams; I made a timetable and revised every day. It helped me score well, and I felt proud and confident.

Let us discuss (Part I)

Ans. 1. He believed there was a magic potion that could turn any object into gold.
2. He told him how to make the potion: plant banana plants, water them with his own hands, collect the winter dew from the leaves, and bring five litres of it.
3. Yes, if he works patiently, because he can plant many banana plants; but it will take him years.

Let us discuss (Part II)

Ans. 1. The dew did not turn the copper vessel into gold, so he felt cheated and thought he had wasted six years.
2. Rama Natha grew and looked after the banana plants; Madhumati sold the bananas in the market and saved the money as gold coins.

Let us think and reflect

Ans. 1. (i) ...he believed there was a magic potion and wanted to learn about it. (ii) A → they cheated him (took his money but never told him). B → Madhumati was worried that they would soon be without money. (iii) A. True B. False (he worked only to collect dew) C. True
2. (i) (b) b, a, d, c, e. (ii) sprinkled. (iii) Shocked, angry and disappointed; he felt cheated.

Answer the questions

1. What did the sage ask him to do?

Ans. To plant banana plants, water them regularly with his own hands, collect the morning dew from the leaves in winter, store it in a bottle, and bring five litres to the sage.

2. Why must he do everything himself?

Ans. So that Rama Natha would work on his own land and learn the value of hard work. If others did it, he would not change.

3. How did he get a big plantation in six years?

Ans. He kept planting more banana plants every year and looked after them carefully, and Madhumati sold the fruit, so the plantation kept growing.

4. How did the sage prove there is no magic potion?

Ans. The dew did nothing to the copper vessel. Then he showed the box of gold coins Madhumati had earned by selling bananas, and explained that their hard work, not magic, had made them rich.

5. Before and after

Ans. Before: (i) spent all his time and money looking for a magic potion (ii) did not look after his land. After: (i) planted and looked after banana plants and collected dew (ii) worked even harder on his plantation.

Let us learn

Ans. 1. huge, luck, difficult, promised, cheated, remember (extra: spending, market)

2. eye - organ we see with; you're - short form of "you are"; due - happening at some time in the future (expected); sun - the star that gives us light; won - past tense of win; eight - the number 8; sea - a large body of salt water.

3. e.g. My **son** loves the **sun**. **You're** holding **your** bag. I can **see** the **sea**. The rent is **due** before the **dew** dries. **One** team **won**.

4. The children submitted their work **before** the deadline. He did not want to try rock climbing **because** of his fear of heights. The children ran towards the gate **as soon as** the bell rang. Nitin was late to school today **as** there was a traffic jam.

Let us listen: Madhumati's day

event	order
Visits her mother and gives her two dozen bananas	1
Goes to the market to sell the bananas	2
Meets her friend Kalawati in the market	3
Gives twelve bananas to her friend	4
Chooses to go home as only some bananas were left	5
Gives two bananas to a boy who is hungry	6
Visits her neighbour and gifts them a bunch of bananas	7

Let us speak

Ans. I. beds /z/ · sand /s/ · clothes /z/ · sea /s/ · was /z/ · keys /z/ · bags /z/ · nose /z/

II. "Hard work means doing your best again and again. Firstly, I feel it is important because it helps us reach our goals. Secondly, it builds confidence. Lastly, it makes us independent. To begin with, make a plan; next, break the work into small steps; finally, don't give up."

Let us write 1: a banana (model, 8 sentences)

Ans. A banana is a healthy fruit because it gives energy and is rich in vitamins. It is very filling. I like to eat a banana at breakfast and after school. It tastes sweet and creamy. The outer covering feels smooth and soft. It has a sweet, fruity smell. The skin is green when raw and yellow when ripe. The fruit inside is white and soft.

Let us write 2: a short script (model)

Ans. Madhumati: (worried) We will soon have no money left!

Rama Natha: Don't worry. The sage will teach me how to make gold.

Sage: Plant banana plants and collect five litres of dew with your own hands.

(Six years later)

Rama Natha: (angry) Nothing happened! This is cheating!

Sage: (smiling) Madhumati, show him the box.

Madhumati: (opening it) Look, gold coins from selling our bananas!

Sage: Your hard work made this wealth, not magic.

Let us explore

Ans. Banana varieties: Robusta and Dwarf Cavendish (Maharashtra, Gujarat), Nendran (Kerala), Poovan, Rasthali and Red Banana (Tamil Nadu), Malbhog (West Bengal), Grand Naine (widely grown). The Blue Java ("Ice Cream") banana has blue skin and creamy fruit; it grows in South East Asia and Hawaii.

Important exam questions, fully solved

School-exam pattern for Class 6: extract (4-5 marks), short answer (2-3 marks, 30-40 words), Long answer (5 marks, 80-100 words).

A. Extract-based questions

Extract · 5 marks

"You have to plant a banana plant and water it regularly with your hands. In winter, the morning dew is on the leaves. You have to collect the dew and store it in a bottle. When you have five litres of dew, bring it to me."

(i) Who is the speaker? (ii) To whom is he speaking? (iii) Where is the dew found? (iv) How much dew must be collected? (v) Find a word meaning "small drops of water on leaves". [5]

Ans. (i) Sage Mahipati. (ii) Rama Natha. (iii) On the banana leaves in winter mornings. (iv) Five litres. (v) dew.

Extract · 5 marks

"There is no magic potion that can turn things into gold. You worked hard on your land and created this plantation. While you looked after the trees, your wife sold the fruits in the market. That's how you got this money."

(i) Who speaks these words? (ii) What did Rama Natha do? (iii) What did his wife do? (iv) What is the message? (v) Give the opposite of "hard". [5]

Ans. (i) Sage Mahipati. (ii) He worked hard on his land and created a plantation. (iii) She sold the fruits in the market. (iv) Hard work, not magic, creates wealth. (v) easy (soft).

B. Short answer questions

Short answer · 3 marks Why was Madhumati worried at the start?

[3]

Ans. Her husband did not look after his land and spent all his time and money looking for a magic potion. People often cheated him, so she feared they would soon have no money.

Short answer · 3 marks Why did the sage play a trick on Rama Natha?

[3]

Ans. Rama Natha was so sure about magic that he would not have listened if told the truth. The trick made him work hard, so he learnt the lesson himself.

Short answer · 2 marks What did Rama Natha sprinkle the dew on?

[2]

Ans. On a copper vessel, hoping it would turn to gold.

Short answer · 2 marks How long did it take him to collect the dew?

[2]

Ans. Six years.

Short answer · 2 marks What was in Madhumati's box?

[2]

Ans. Stacks of gold coins earned by selling bananas.

C. Long answer questions (5 marks, 80–100 words)

Long answer · character How did Rama Natha change in the story?

[5]

Ans. At first Rama Natha was lazy and foolish. He did not look after the land his father left him and wasted his money searching for a magic potion to make gold. When the sage told him to collect five litres of dew from banana leaves, he worked on his land for six years, planting and looking after rows of banana plants. When the "magic" failed, he was angry, but the gold coins showed him that hard work had made him rich. He understood the sage's wisdom and worked even harder after that. He changed from a dreamer to a hard-working farmer.

Long answer · moral "Hard work is the key to success." Explain with reference to the story.

[5]

Ans. Rama Natha wanted to become rich by magic, but it only wasted his money. The wise sage gave him a task that needed hard work: planting banana plants and collecting dew with his own hands. For six years he worked on his land, and his wife sold the bananas. Their effort filled a box with gold coins. The magic potion never existed; their hard work was the real magic. The story teaches us that there are no shortcuts in life. If we work patiently and honestly, success will follow.

★ **Exam tip:** Long answers: begin with the main point, give 3–4 events from the story, and end with the lesson.

Quick-reference sheet

point	remember
writer	Sudha Murty
characters	Rama Natha (landlord's son), Madhumati (his wife), sage Mahipati
belief	a magic potion that turns objects into gold
task	banana plants; own hands; winter dew; 5 litres
time	six years

test	dew sprinkled on a copper vessel: nothing happens
reveal	box of gold coins from selling bananas
moral	hard work creates wealth, not magic
language	homophones; because/as/before/as soon as; /s/ and /z/

Extract-based practice (answers at the end of the chapter)

Set 1.

Rama Natha was the son of a rich landlord. His father left him large tracts of land when he died. But Rama Natha did not spend even one day looking after his land.

(i) Whose son was Rama Natha? (ii) What did his father leave him? (iii) What did he not do? (iv) Meaning of "tracts"?

Set 2.

Rama Natha was worried. "But winter is only for a few months. It will take me years to collect five litres of dew."

(i) Why was he worried? (ii) What must he collect? (iii) What did the sage reply? (iv) Find a word that means "anxious".

Set 3.

Rama Natha understood the wisdom behind these words and worked even harder on his plantation from that day on.

(i) Whose words does he understand? (ii) What is "wisdom"? (iii) What change do we see? (iv) What does this teach us?

Practice set: test yourself *Exam-style*

Try every question before looking at the answers. 49 or more out of 61 means you are ready for the exam.

A. Fill in the blanks (1 mark each)

- The story is written by _____.
- Rama Natha's wife was _____.
- The sage's name was _____.
- The sage heard about the potion in the _____.
- Rama Natha had to plant _____ plants.
- Dew forms on the leaves in _____.
- He sprinkled the dew on a _____ vessel.
- Madhumati's box was full of _____ coins.

B. True or false? (1 mark each)

- Rama Natha looked after his land well from the start.
- People often cheated Rama Natha.
- The sage said the potion was easy to make.
- Others could collect the dew for Rama Natha.
- Madhumati sold bananas in the market.
- The dew turned the vessel into gold.
- The sage played a trick on Rama Natha.
- In the end, Rama Natha stopped working.

C. Very short answer (1 mark each)

1. What did Rama Natha want to turn into gold?
2. Who became the sage's follower?
3. How much dew was needed?
4. How should the plants be watered?
5. Who helped Rama Natha collect dew?
6. How many years did the work take?
7. What did the sage do over the bottle?
8. Give a homophone of "sea".

D. Short answer (2 marks each)

1. What was Rama Natha's "funny idea"?
2. Why did the sage say the task was difficult?
3. What did Rama Natha do to his empty fields?
4. Why did Rama Natha say, "This is cheating"?
5. How did the sage reply to the accusation?
6. What did Rama Natha do after learning the truth?

My score (fill in after checking the answers)

Section	A / 8	B / 8	C / 8	D / 12	E / 15	F / 10	G (bonus)	Total / 61
My marks								

Rough work

E. Long answer (5 marks each)

1. Describe the role of Madhumati in the story.
2. How did the sage use wisdom to change Rama Natha?
3. Imagine you are Rama Natha. Write what you felt when you saw the gold coins.

F. Beyond the text (5 marks each)

1. Write a paragraph on "There is no shortcut to success".
2. Write a short story with the moral "Hard work pays".

G. HOTS (higher-order thinking, 2 marks each)

1. Was it right for the sage to trick Rama Natha? Why?
2. Why did the sage choose banana plants for the task?
3. What would have happened if Rama Natha had given up after one year?

★ **Exam tip:** When asked "why", use "because" and give one clear reason from the story.

Assertion-Reason (6)

(a) Both true, R explains A. (b) Both true, R does not explain A. (c) A true, R false. (d) A false, R true.

1. A: Madhumati was worried. R: Rama Natha was spending a lot of money on his search.
2. A: Rama Natha had to collect the dew himself. R: The sage wanted him to work on his land.
3. A: The dew turned the copper vessel into gold. R: The sage chanted magic words.
4. A: Rama Natha got a big plantation. R: He planted more banana plants every year.
5. A: The story is written by Sudha Murty. R: Madhumati sold bananas in the market.
6. A: Rama Natha stopped working after he got the gold. R: He understood the sage's wisdom.

Key: 1 (a) · 2 (a) · 3 (d) · 4 (a) · 5 (b) · 6 (d)

20 MCQs

1. "A Bottle of Dew" is written by:
(a) Ruskin Bond (b) R. K. Narayan (c) Sudha Murty
(d) Premchand
2. Rama Natha was the son of a:
(a) rich landlord (b) poor farmer (c) king (d) merchant
3. He believed in a potion that could turn objects into:
(a) silver (b) water (c) stone (d) gold
4. His wife's name was:
(a) Kalawati (b) Madhumati (c) Sita (d) Lakshmi
5. The sage was called:
(a) Vishnu (b) Mahipati (c) Narada (d) Valmiki
6. The sage heard about the potion in the:
(a) Western Ghats (b) sea (c) desert (d) Himalayas
7. Rama Natha had to plant:
(a) banana plants (b) coconut trees (c) rice (d) mango trees
8. He had to collect dew in:
(a) the rainy season (b) summer (c) winter (d) spring
9. The amount of dew needed was:
(a) one litre (b) two litres (c) ten litres (d) five litres
10. The plants had to be watered:
(a) by servants (b) with his own hands (c) by rain only (d) by his wife
11. It took him _____ years to collect the dew.
(a) ten (b) two (c) six (d) four
12. He sprinkled the dew on a:
(a) copper vessel (b) clay pot (c) gold ring (d) silver plate
13. When nothing happened, Rama Natha felt:
(a) happy (b) cheated (c) sleepy (d) proud
14. Madhumati brought a box of:
(a) bananas (b) dew (c) gold coins (d) clothes
15. The money came from:
(a) magic (b) a lottery (c) the sage (d) selling bananas
16. "Tended" means:
(a) looked after (b) cut down (c) sold (d) ignored
17. "Muttered" means:
(a) spoke in a low voice (b) sang (c) shouted (d) laughed
18. A homophone of "son" is:
(a) soon (b) song (c) sin (d) sun
19. The "s" in "wisdom" sounds like:
(a) /s/ (b) /z/ (c) /sh/ (d) silent

20. The moral of the story is:

(a) magic is real (b) trust strangers (c) hard

work creates wealth (d) wealth comes easily

1 (c) · 2 (a) · 3 (d) · 4 (b) · 5 (b) · 6 (d) · 7 (a) · 8 (c) · 9 (d) · 10 (b) · 11 (c) · 12 (a) · 13 (b) · 14 (c) · 15 (d) · 16 (a) · 17 (a) · 18 (d) · 19 (b) · 20 (c)

Answers

Extract sets. Set 1: (i) a rich landlord's (ii) large tracts of land (iii) he did not look after his land even for one day (iv) areas. Set 2: (i) winter lasts only a few months, so collecting dew would take years (ii) five litres of dew (iii) he could plant as many banana plants as he wanted but must look after them himself (iv) worried. Set 3: (i) sage Mahipati's (ii) deep understanding (iii) he becomes hard-working (iv) hard work brings success.

A. 1. Sudha Murty 2. Madhumati 3. Mahipati 4. Himalayas 5. banana 6. winter 7. copper 8. gold

B. 1. F (he never looked after it) 2. T 3. F (difficult) 4. F (with his own hands) 5. T 6. F (nothing happened) 7. T 8. F (worked even harder)

C. 1. any object 2. Rama Natha 3. five litres 4. regularly, with his own hands 5. his wife, Madhumati 6. six 7. muttered something 8. see

D. 1. that a magic potion could turn any object into gold 2. dew forms only in winter, so collecting five litres would take years 3. cleaned them and planted rows of banana plants 4. the dew did not turn the copper vessel into gold 5. he only smiled and called Madhumati to show the gold coins 6. he worked even harder on his plantation

E. 1. worried and practical; helped collect dew; sold bananas; saved gold coins; partner in success 2. knew Rama Natha would not listen; gave a task that needed hard work; revealed the truth with the gold coins 3. shock, then joy and shame; understanding that hard work is the real magic; resolve to keep working

F. 1. paragraph with examples (exams, sports, farming) 2. a short story with a beginning, problem, effort and happy ending

G. 1. yes: it was a kind trick for his good; telling him would not have worked 2. bananas grow quickly, have large leaves for dew and sell well 3. he would have stayed poor and lazy; no plantation, no gold

Last-night summary

- Sudha Murty; Rama Natha, a rich landlord's son, wastes time and money looking for a magic potion to make gold.
- Sage Mahipati: plant banana plants, water them yourself, collect five litres of winter dew.
- Six years of work; Madhumati sells bananas; the dew does nothing to the copper vessel.
- Box of gold coins: "It was your hard work that created this wealth, not magic."
- Rama Natha works even harder. Moral: no shortcuts; hard work creates wealth.
- Language: homophones (son/sun, ate/eight); because, as, before, as soon as; /s/ and /z/ sounds.