



15 Arif and the apple tree

"And your Lord has commanded that you shall not serve (any) but Him, and goodness to your parents. If one or both of them reach old age with you, do not say "Ugh" or scold them, and speak to them a nice word." (Al Israa: 23)

Getting ready

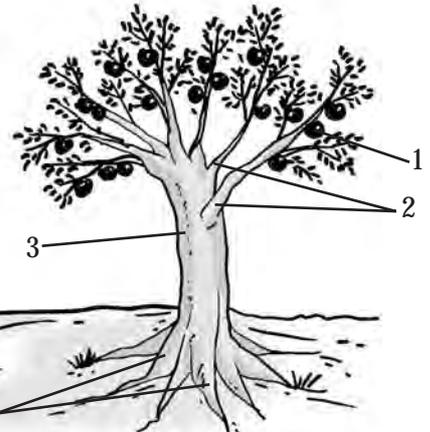
- A. Parts of a tree. You will find these words in the story.
Label the pictures (1 – 4) with the most correct words.

trunk

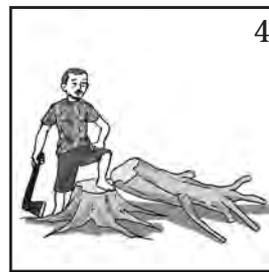
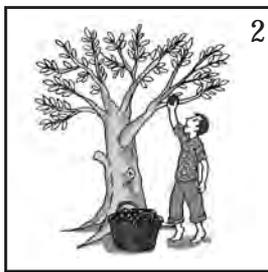
apple

roots

branches



- B. What is happening in each picture? How old do you think the person is in each picture?



- C. Now read the text about "Arif and the apple tree". Put paragraphs A – E in order.
Use pictures 1-5 in part B to help you.

A Finally, Arif returned after many years. "Sorry, my boy. But I do not have anything for you anymore. The only thing left is my old roots," the tree said with tears. "I just need a place to rest. I'm tired after all these years," Arif replied. "Good! Old tree roots are the best place to lean on and rest, come sit down with me and rest," said the tree happily. Arif then sat down and the tree was happy and smiled with tears.

B A long time ago, there was a big apple tree. Arif loved to come and play around it every day when he was 12. He climbed to the treetop, ate the apples and slept under the tree.

C One hot summer day, Arif returned and the tree was so happy. "I'm getting old. I want to go sailing to relax. Can you give me a boat?," said Arif. "Use my trunk to build your boat. You can sail far away and be happy." So Arif cut the tree trunk to make a boat. He went sailing and didn't come back for a long time.

D One day Arif, who was 30 years old, returned and the tree was excited. "Come and play with me," the tree said. "I do not have time to play. I have to work for my family. We need a house for shelter. Can you help me?" "Sorry, but I do not have any house. But you can cut my branches to build your house," the tree said. So Arif cut all the branches of the tree and left happily. The tree was glad to see him happy but Arif didn't come back for a long time.

E Time went by, Arif turned 20 and he didn't play around the tree every day. One day, he came back to the tree and he looked sad. "Come and play with me," the tree asked Arif. "I'm not a little boy anymore. I do not play around trees any more," the boy replied. "I want books". I need money to buy them." "Sorry, but I do not have money, but you can pick all my apples and sell them. So, you will have money." Arif was so excited. He picked all the apples on the tree and left happily.

Adapted from: http://www.ezsoftech.com/moral_stories/misl.asp

- D. Group Discussion. What is the story actually about? What does the apple tree symbolise? What is the moral of the story?

