



LITERATURE

STD-VI

SUBJECT : ENGLISH
CHAPTER NUMBER: 1
PERIOD NUMBER : 1
CHAPTER NAME :THE WHY-WHY GIRL
BY MAHASWETA DEVI

CHANGING YOUR TOMORROW

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EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

- (i) Reading Comprehension followed by questions
- (ii) Be acquainted with short story/Fiction
- (iii) Understanding the plot
- (iv) Understanding characters
- (v) Developing LSRW Skills
- (vi) Know how to write a story- Beginning, middle and end

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES/ EXTENDED OBJECTIVES

- (i) Develop LSRW
- (ii) Appreciating the story, plot, characters
- (iii) Developing skill of Critical appreciation
- (iv) Focus on the underprivileged tribal of India
- (v) Be aware of the importance of asking questions
- (vi) Be acquainted with typical vocabulary meant for story writing
- (vii) Appreciating varieties of style and diction in literary writing

Slide 2

- 2 @Format for content and slide heading is missing? Just like you have mentioned in DOC., We need to specify, for each slide's heading and text content, what will be the font style +amanrouniyar@odmegroup.org
Assigned to you
-Swoyan Satyendu
, 17-06-2020

INTRODUCTION TO THE AUTHOR

Mahasweta Devi (1926–2016) was one of India's foremost literary figures from the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries—a writer and social activist in equal right. Author of numerous novels, plays, essays and short stories, she received the Jnanpith Award, India's highest literary honour, in 1996. She was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1997 for her 'compassionate crusade through art and activism to claim for tribal peoples a just and honourable place in India's national life'.

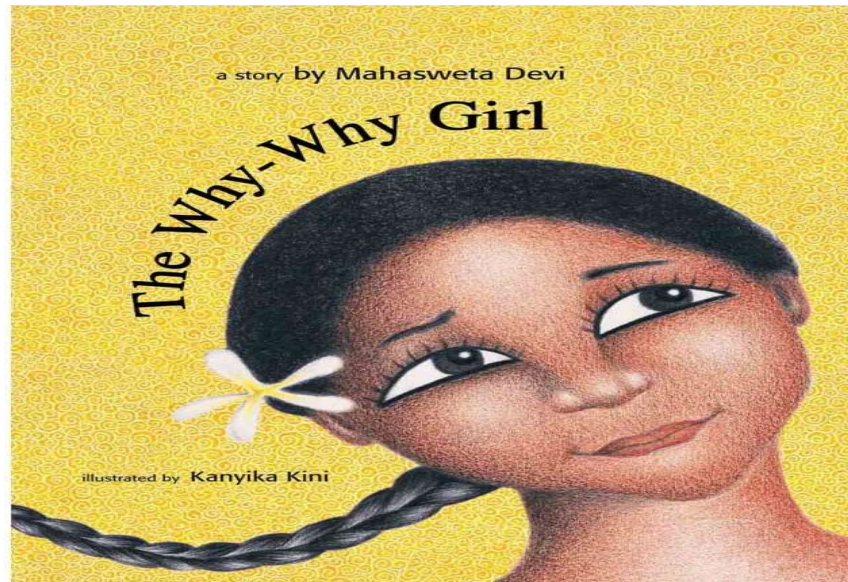


Slide 3

- 1 @Format for content and slide heading is missing? Just like you have mentioned in DOC., We need to specify, for each slide's heading and text content, what will be the font style +amanrouniyar@odmegroup.org
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THEME OF THE STORY

In the lesson 'The Why-Why Girl ' Moyna lives in a little tribal village. She cannot go to school because she has to tend the goats, collect the firewood, fetch the water... But she is so full of questions that the postmaster calls her the 'why-why girl'! Mahasweta Devi is one of India's foremost writers. In this delightful story, her first picture book, and the only children's book she has written in English, she tells us how she meets Moyna (and her mongoose!) and helps her find answers to all the why-whys – in books, that Moyna herself learns to read.



Introduction by the Author

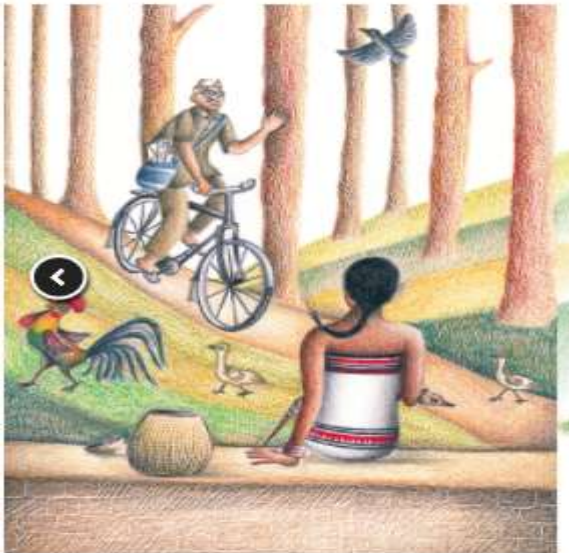
"All over India there are children, tribal and non-tribal, who always ask the question 'Why?'. I have seen many children like this, and I have selected Moyna's experience for this book. "I have been very close to the tribals, especially in Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Gujarat. In these tribal belts, which are generally hilly, schools are far away. You have to cross many low hills and walk five to six kilometers away and there are no roads. It is difficult for teachers to reach pupils and for pupils to reach teachers.

"Moyna is a Shabar. The Shabar samiti started in 1968. Till date it has set up many schools. They are increasingly doing better. The books are better, the facilities are better.

"I have found that because tribal children are close to nature in mind, it is easy to explain things scientifically to them. They truly love nature. In writing about Moyna, I have written about so many children. And I write because I love children.

MAHASWETA DEVI

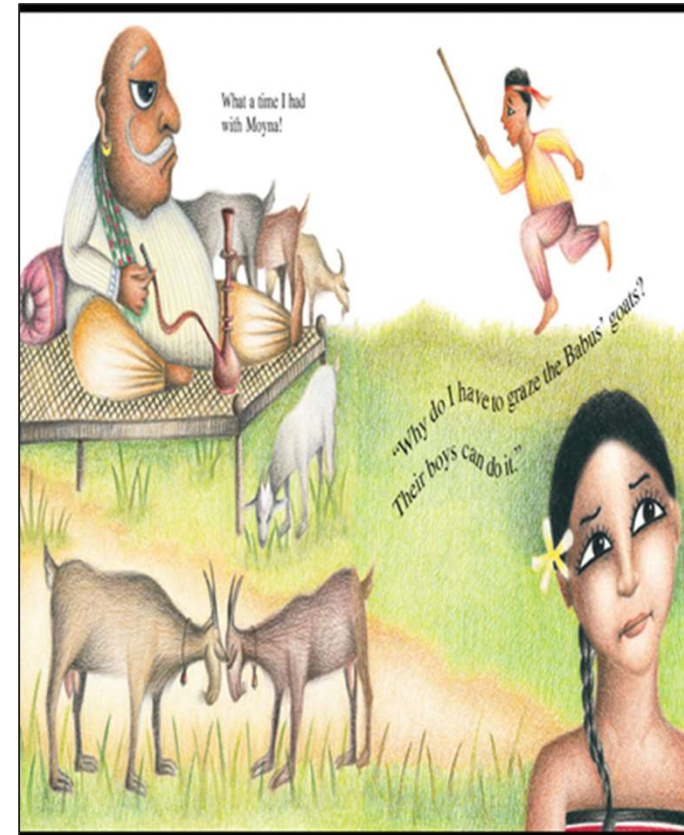
EXPLANATION (Page-2&3)



- Moyna is a ten year old bubbly girl who always questions the happenings around her. Her questions are very interesting, logical and thought provoking much to the exasperation of her mother ! But the author likes the child for her inquisitive nature.
- Moyna was barely ten years old when the narrator found her chasing a cobra.
- She dragged Moyna into the samiti office, where her mother works.
- Moyna cannot go to school because she has to tend the goats, collect the firewood, fetch the water and do other works of the landlord.
- She is so full of questions that the post master calls her the 'why – why girl.'

EXPLANATION (Page-3&4)

- Moyna belonged to a tribal community called shabars.
- They were poor and did not own land. The shabars did not usually send their daughter to work.
- Moyna's had to work because Moyna's mother had a bad leg and so couldn't walk properly.
- Her father had gone to Jamshedpur in search of work and her brother Gora, went to the forest ever day to collect firewood.

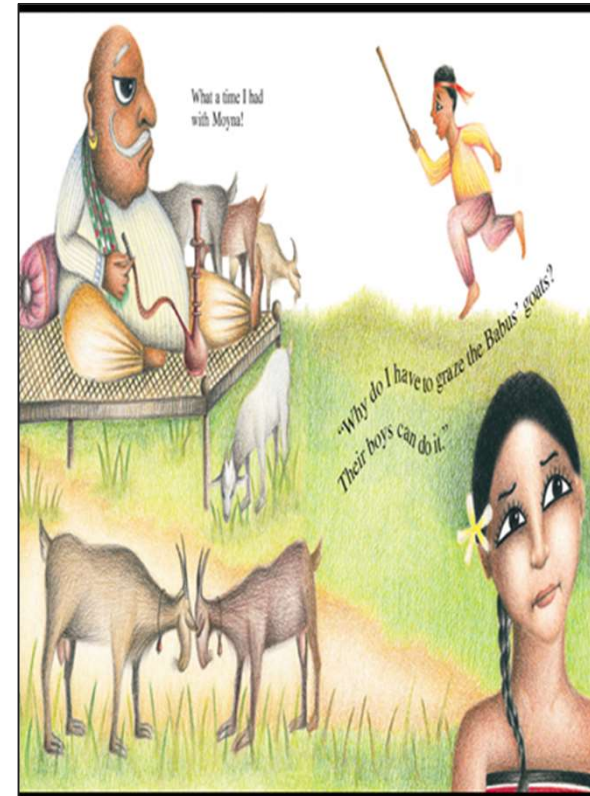


EXPLANATION (Page-3&4)

Moyna belongs to a tribal group called Shabars who are very poor and earn their living doing odd jobs in and around the hills. When none of the other people complain, Moyna's questions go on like these :

- Why do I have to walk so far to the river to get water ?
- Why can't we eat rice twice a day ?
- Why do I have to eat the landlords' left over foods ?
- Why do I have to graze the Babus' goats when their sons are there ?
- Moyna never thanked the landlords for giving left over rice.

These questions definitely touch a chord in us readers as it presents the stark reality of the poor in our country. It also goes to show that everyone has a sense of self respect and sadly it is never given a thought by the rich and the urban classes. Just because someone is poor does not mean they are any less human than us.



VOCABULARY

- Chasing: to hurry after someone or something in order to catch him, her, or it
 - Grabbed: to take hold of something or someone suddenly and roughly
 - Plait: a length of hair or other material that is divided into three parts that are then crossed over each other in a special pattern
 - Grass snake: a reptile with a long body and no legs
 - Vigorously: in a way that is very forceful or energetic
 - Obstinate: unwilling to change your opinion or action despite argument or persuasion; stubborn
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- HOME ASSIGNMENT: Reading A, Page 8, One Page Handwriting.
 - ACTIVITY: Find out more about Shabar community .



THANK YOU
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