

Reading
About
Krishna
is
Fun

READING ABOUT KRISHNA IS FUN

Come, little book about Krishna, to me
Come and be my friend,
I'll read all His pastimes - one, two three -
And never reach the end.

The Great Kirtan

If all men's words were said for Krishna,
What a great poem that would be!
And if all men's songs were sung for Krishna,
What a great song that would be!
If all men's food was offered to the Lord,
What a lot of prasadam that would be!
And if all men worked not wanting a reward,
What devotees they would be!
And if all the devotees with all their prasadam,
And all their songs and all their poems,
Came to see Prabhupada,
What a great kirtan that would be!

WORDS TO WATCH

kirtan

offered

reward

poem

prasadam

The Butter Thief

Krishna is God. When He was on this earth, He played like a small boy. His play was so nice that you will like to hear about it and think about it all the time. That will make you happy. Krishna was so kind as to come and play on this earth - to make me happy. Here is one of the games Krishna liked to play.

The gopis or milkmaids used to churn butter every day. They would put their butter in pots and hang the pots from the ceiling. When the gopis were out of the house, Krishna and Balarama would come. They would stand on their tiptoes, or Krishna would stand on Balarama's back, and They would steal the butter hanging in the pots. Then They would run away with the butter. They would find a place to hide and eat the butter with the cowherd boys.

When the cowherd boys did not want any more butter, then Krishna would call the monkeys and give them butter to eat. And when the monkeys could not eat any more butter, then Krishna would call out to the gopis, "Your butter is no good. Even the monkeys will not eat it."

WORDS TO WATCH

churn

ceiling

monkeys

thief

The Great Kirtan

If all men's words were said for Krishna,

What a great poem that would be!

And if all men's songs were sung for Krishna,

What a great song that would be!

If all men's food was offered to the Lord,

What a lot of prasadam that would be!

And if all men worked not wanting a reward,

What devotees they would be!

And if all the devotees with all their prasadam,

and all their songs and all their poems,

came to see Prabhupada,

What a great kirtan that would be!

WORDS TO WATCH

kirtan

offered

reward

poem

prasadam

DAMODAR TEACHES SHYAMA DASİ

Damodara is six years old. He is going to Gurukula. Damodara has a little sister. Her name is Shyama dasi. Shyama dasi wants very much to go to Gurukula but she is too young. She is only four years old.

One day Shyama dasi said to her brother, "Damodara Prabhu, what do you do in Gurukula?"

"Oh, we read and write about Krishna," said Damodara.

"I want to read and write about Krishna too," said Shyama dasi.

"You cannot do those things yet," said Damodara. "You are much too little. When you are much bigger like me, then you can learn all the things that I know."

"I can learn now. I am big enough now. Show me how to read and write now," said Shyama dasi.

"Silly," said Damodara, "you are much too little. Wait two more years. Then you can learn."

"No. I want to learn now," said Shyama dasi. "Show me how to write the holy name, and then I will write the holy name."

Damodara thought this was very nice, so he did what his sister asked him to do. He got a pencil and some paper and he wrote:

K r i s h n a

"Now I will write the holy name," said Shyama dasi. Shyama dasi took the pencil and wrote:

K r i s h n a

"There," said Shyama dasi, "that is Hare Krishna."

"No, Shyama Prabhu," said Damodara, "That is not Hare Krishna, that is just Krishna."

"Then show me how to write Hare Krishna," said Shyama dasi.

Damodara smiled. He took the pencil and wrote:

H a r e K r i s h n a

"That is how Hare Krishna looks," said Damodara. "Do you think you can write it now?"

"Yes, I can write it now," said Shyama dasi.

So Shyama dasi took the pencil and wrote:

Hare Krishna

"There," said Shyama dasi, "I did write Hare Krishna. Now I can read and write too. Tomorrow I will start going to Gurukula."

WORDS TO WATCH

Gurukula	bigger	holy name	
four	learn	thought	
brother	enough	tomorrow	prabhu

WORD STUDY EXERCISE

Rhyming words

I. Read and Spell

bat	make	day	mail	bear
rat	rake	hay	tail	hair
fat	cake	say	sail	tear
hat	lake	pay	hail	care
mat	bake	gay	pail	fair
cat	take	way	nail	rare

II. Read and Answer

1. Write three words that rhyme with each of these words:

fan

map

fame

paw

III. Write

I may say it was rare what the fair pair did wear.

Nimai Tricks the Thieves

One day Nimai played near His home. The baby Lord wore gold and silver. The gold glittered with bright stones.

Two thieves were nearby. They sighted the shiny gold.

"I'll steal the baby's gold," one said.

The sly thief said to Nimai, "Here are some sweets for you to eat. Will you go with me to eat these sweets?"

"Pick a sweet. Take a cake," invited the thief.

Nimai smiled and ate a fine cake.

"Take another," the wicked thief said. He lifted the Lord and gave Him a swift ride. The thieves tried to hide the baby to take His gold.

The tiny Lord tricked the thief. First they tried to go one way.

"This isn't the right way," one said. The thieves turned and tried to go another way. They still didn't find the right way.

Soon they came again to Nimai's home.

THE HOUSE THAT JADU BUILT

This is the house that Jadu built.

This is the prasadam

That lay in the house that Jadu built.

This is the mouse

That ate the prasadam

That lay in the house that Jadu built.

This is the cat

That chased the mouse

That ate the prasadam

That lay in the house that Jadu built.

This is the dog

That worried the cat

That chased the mouse

That ate the prasadam..

That lay in the house that Jadu built. This is the cow with
the crumpled horn

That tossed the dog

That worried the cat

That chased the mouse

That ate the prasadam

That lay in the house that Jadu built.

This is the lady every morn
That milked the cow with the crumpled horn
That tossed the dog
That worried the cat
That chased the mouse
That ate the prasadam
That lay in the house that Jadu built.

This is the man twice-born
That chanted Hare Krishna with his wife each morn
That milked the cow with the crumpled horn
That tossed the dog
That worried the cat
That chased the mouse
That ate the prasadam
That lay in the house that Jadu built.

WORDS TO WATCH

built

crumpled

chanted

worried

twice-born

Taruni's Story

Taruni had just finished reading a new book.

"What is your new book about, Taruni?" asked the teacher.

"It is about a little girl who wanted to do just as she liked and not serve Krishna for one whole day. And do you know what happened, Prabhu?"

"What happened?" asked Taruni's teacher.

"Well, Krishna let her do just as she liked and not serve Him for one whole day. The first thing she did was to eat sweet balls without giving any to Krishna, and she made herself sick.

"Then she put on her best sari to play in the garden, and she tore it.

"After that, she climbed up a tall ladder. Just as she was near the top, she heard a noise in the garden. She looked around and saw a dog chasing a cat. Her foot missed the next step on the ladder, and she fell and hurt herself.

"That was the end of her day of doing just as she liked and not serving Krishna."

"Those were not very good things that the little girl did, were they Taruni?" said the teacher.

"No," said Taruni dasi. "When you don't serve Krishna then something bad always happens."

"Yes, Taruni dasi," said her teacher, "but tell me, does the bad thing always happen right away like it did in this story?"

"No." said Taruni dasi, "sometimes it doesn't happen for a long time. Sometimes it doesn't happen until the next lifetime. But Krishna said that if we do anything that is not for serving Him, then something bad will happen to us later on.

"That is called karma. I heard about that in Bhagavad-geeta class."

"That is very good, Taruni dasi," said her teacher. "You have heard well."

finished

noise

teacher

whole

sari

Bhagavad-geeta

happened

climbed

QUESTIONS

1. What did the foolish little girl do in Taruni's story?
2. If you could do anything you liked for one whole day, would you do something to serve Krishna? What would you do?
3. What did Taruni dasi tell her teacher about karma? Do you know anything more about karma?

All I Want to Do

All I want to do is play with Krishna,
All I want to do is play with Krishna,
All I want to do is play with Krishna,
All day long.

We'll play demons,
We'll play tag,
We'll play stealing someone's lunch bag.
All I want to do is play with Krishna,
All day long.

WORD STUDY EXERCISE

Rhyming Words

I. Read and Spell

pet	seed	sheep	tea	bed
bet	lead	heap	me	head
let	bead	deep	see	shed
set	need	leap	bee	red
wet	read	reap	he	fed
net	speed	keep	tree	led

II. Read and Answer

1. Add three more words to the list in Part I.
2. Write three words that rhyme with each of these words:

seat mean end best

III. Write

1. The bee in the tree will not see me.
2. We fed the redhead prasadam instead.

The little Cowherd Boy

There was a little cowherd boy
Blue like a cloud.
Just to be His friend
Made the other boys proud,

'Cause He was the strongest boy
They ever did see;
He killed many demons
By the time He was three.

He pulled the calf's tail
And was dragged through the clay
He liked to steal butter
Then give it away.

One day He was bad,
So His mother had Him tied;
He pulled down two trees,
With demigods inside

When floods of rain came
From Lord Indra,
He used Govardhana Hill
For an umbrella.

With the cowherd boys,
He liked to go and play
Tag and catch
And hide and seek all day.

If you like to hear His pastimes,
Then it is sure
That your life will be happy
And your heart will be pure.

WORDS TO WATCH

blue

proud

demigods

cloud

strongest

umbrella

demons

THE OAK TREE

I am an oak tree. My leaves are green. Soon they will be a deep red. After that they will be dry and brown. Then Vayu, the wind, will carry them away.

The edges of my leaves are deeply cut. My wood is hard and strong. Temple floors, altars, the Vyasasana, or anything that should be strong is often made from my wood.

There are many kinds of oak trees. There are red oaks, white oaks and many others.

This is one of my brown acorns. An acorn cannot be given to Krishna to eat, but squirrels like to eat them.

Did you ever stop to look at one of my acorns and think what a big tree it could be? In the same way, the seed of love for Krishna may be very small now, but it will grow and grow if we water it by chanting Hare Krishna. It will grow until it reaches the lotus feet of Krishna.

WORDS TO WATCH

edges

Vayu

Vyasaana

squirrels

leaves

altars

acorns

QUESTIONS

1. What happens to the leaves of an oak tree during the year?
2. What is the wood of oak trees used for?
3. What does chanting Hare Krishna do?

The Kartals Were Ringing

The kartals were ringing
And the prabhus were singing
Then Kumara sat down crying
For his broken little car -
O you silly boy Kumara!

Sobbing and sighing
For a broken little car,
When the kartals are ringing
And the prabhus are singing.

WORD STUDY EXERCISE

I. Read and Spell

sit	kite	side	pile
hit	bright	ride	mile
bit	bite	tide	tile
fit	light	hide	file
pit	night	wide	dial

II. Read and Answer

1. Add three more words to the lists in Part I.
2. Write three words that rhyme with each of these words:

tin shirt tire mice

III. Write

1. The bright light might not be right.
2. I bit a bite of pit.
3. Don't hide the wide side from my sight.

12B, 12C, 12D, 12E

The Chapati Boy

Once upon a time there lived a little old woman and a little old man.

One day the little old woman made a chapati shaped like a boy to offer to baby Krishna.

She put it in the pan to cook.

By and by she went to take it from the pan.

The Chapati Boy had gotten all puffed up, and he did not want to be offered to Krishna. Out of the pan he jumped.

Away he ran, out of the door and down the road.

The little old woman and the little old man ran after him.

But the Chapati Boy looked back and called out,

"Run! Run! As fast as you can! You can't catch me,

I'm the Chapati Man, I am! I am!

I can run away from Krishna, I can!"

And they could not catch him.

The little Chapati Boy ran on and on.

Soon he came to a goat.

"Stop, little Chapati Boy," said the goat. "I should like to eat you."

But the little Chapati Boy called out,
"I've run away from Krishna,
I've run away from a little old man,
And I can run away from you,
I can! I can!"

The goat ran after him.

But the Chapati Boy looked back and called.

"Run! Run! As fast as you can!

You can't catch me,

I'm the Chapati Man, I am! I am!

I can run away from Krishna I can!"

And the goat could not catch him.

The little Chapati Boy ran on and on.

Soon he came to a horse.

"Please stop, little Chapati Boy," said the horse, "You look very good to eat."

But the little Chapati Boy called out,

"I've run away from Krishna.

I've run away from a little old woman,

I've run away from a little old man,

I've run away from a goat,
And I can run away from you,
I can! I can!"

The horse ran after him.

But the Chapati Boy looked back and called,
"Run! Run! As fast as you can!

You can't catch me,

I'm the Chapati Man, I am! I am!

I can run away from Krishna, I can!"

And the horse could not catch him.

By and by the Chapati Boy came to a field where a man was
working.

The man saw him running and called.

"Do not run so fast, little Chapati Boy, you look very good to
eat." But the Chapati Boy ran faster and faster.

As he ran, he called,

"I've run away from Krishna,

I've run away from a little old woman,

I've run away from a little old man,

I've run away from a goat,

I've run away from a horse,

And I can run away from you,

I can! I can!"

The man in the field ran after him.

But the Chapati Boy looked back and called out,

"Run! Run! As fast as you can!

you can't catch me,

I'm the Chapati Man, I am! I am!

I can run away from Krishna, I can!"

And the man could not catch him.

Then the little Chapati Boy saw a fox.

By this time, the little Chapati Boy was very puffed-up.

He was pleased that he could run so fast.

So he called out to the fox,

"Run! Run! As fast as you can!

You can't catch me,

I'm the Chapati Man, I am! I am!

I've run away from Krishna.

I've run away from a little old woman,

I've run away from a little old man,

I've run away from a goat,

I've run away from a horse,

I've run away from a man in the field,

And I can run away from you, I can! I can!"

"Why," said the fox very politely, " I wouldn't dream of catching you."

Just then the Chapati Boy came to a river. He dared not jump into the water. Still the goat, the horse and the people were chasing him, and he had to cross the river to keep out of their reach.

"Jump on my tail, and I will take you across," said the fox. So the little Chapati Boy jumped on the fox's tail and the fox swam into the river. A little distance from the shore the fox said,

"Little Chapati Boy, I think You had better get on my back, or you may fall off!"

So the little Chapati Boy jumped on the fox's back.

When they were in the middle of the river, the fox cried out suddenly,

"The water is deep. You may get wet where you are. Jump up on my nose!"

Then in a twinkling the fox threw back his head, and snip, snip snap! He ate the Chapati Boy.

So don't be puffed up like the Chapati Boy.

30

WORDS TO WATCH

chapati pleased could

should himself caught

field about

If you think you don't want to serve Krishna, then the sly fox (Maya) will catch you.

FOUR FOOLISH WAYS OF THINKING

MR. FROG

Mr. Frog lived in a well. One day, after taking a trip to the ocean, his cousin frog came to see him.

"My dear Mr. Frog," said cousin frog, "I have seen the ocean, and you cannot imagine how big it is."

"Oh?" said Mr. Frog. "Is it bigger then my well?"

"It is much bigger then your well, Mr. Frog. You cannot imagine how big it is !" said cousin frog.

"Well," said Mr. Frog, puffing himself up a little as he asked, "is it two times as big as my well?"

"It is much bigger, much bigger, Mr. Frog. You cannot imagine how big it is." said cousin frog.

"Is it five times as big as my well?" Mr. Frog asked, puffing himself up still more.

"Yes, yes, it is much more than five times as big as your well. My dear Mr. Frog, the ocean is much bigger than you can imagine. "Oh cousin," said Mr. Frog, "it cannot be more than

ten times the size of my well. Nothing can be that big. "As he spoke he puffed himself up more and more until he got so big that he popped.

There are many people who get puffed-up like Mr. Frog, thinking that they can know how great Krishna is. But we cannot imagine with our tiny minds how great Krishna is.

WORDS TO WATCH

well cousin ocean

imagine

MR. JACKASS

Mr. Jackass works very hard all day. He belongs to the washerman who goes to the houses to get everyone's dirty clothes to wash. The washerman piles all the dirty clothes on Mr. Jackass's back for him to carry.

The washerman knows how to make Mr. Jackass work. He ties a stick to Mr. Jackass's head and ties a carrot to the end of the stick. The carrot hangs right in front of Mr. Jackass's eyes, and all day long Mr. Jackass walks, trying to eat the carrot. On his back there are heavy piles of clothes, but Mr. Jackass is just thinking about the carrot.

After working hard all day, the washerman feeds Mr. Jackass the small carrot, and Mr. Jackass thinks he is happy.

There are many people like Mr. Jackass who work very hard all day, just thinking about some little bit of fun they will have when they get home at night. They spend their life working to please their senses. They do not understand the purpose of life: to love and serve Krishna.

WORDS TO WATCH

Jackass washerman clothes belongs catch

MR. CAMEL

Mr. camel has a kind master who puts him in a field full of green grass to eat. But Mr. Camel does not eat the green grass. He goes to the thorny bush and eats the thorns. Mr. Camel is thinking, "Ah, these thorns taste so good."

He does not know that the thorns are cutting the inside of his mouth and he is tasting his own blood.

There are many people like Mr. Camel, who think they are enjoying when they are really hurting themselves by their godless work.

WORDS TO WATCH

taste mouth godless

MR. DOG

Mr. Dog is always very busy. First he runs to one end of the block. He sniffs the ground and looks this way and that. Then he runs to the other end of the block and barks. Then he runs back up the block, and halfway along he stops and scratches himself. All day long he is busy running and sniffing and barking and scratching. But at the end of the day what has he done?

There are many people like Mr. Dog who are very busy all day, but when their lives are over they have done nothing for Kṛishna. Everything they ever did is lost, therefore what good have they done?

WORDS TO WATCH: scratches

QUESTIONS

1. What do we mean when we say that someone is puffed-up?
2. Why does Mr. Jackass keep walking all day with the heavy load on his back?
3. Why does Mr. Camel think that thorns taste good?
4. What work does Mr. Dog do?
5. What do you think people should do so they will not be like these foolish animals?

SUN

The sun is shining all around,
It shines on hill and tree;
And if I don't stand in the shade,
Then it will shine on me.

In the same way Lord Krishna's love
Is shining everywhere;
So if I give Him all my love,
He will always be near.

WORD STUDY EXERCISE

In the Temple

I. Read and Spell

altar	japa beads	candles
sari	prasadam	devotees
dhoti	bead bag	kartals
tilaka	conch shell	flowers

pujari Vyasasana Deities
fan ghee lamp pictures

II. Read and Answer

1. Which of them things in Part I are offered to the Deities?
2. Tell how the devotees use each of these items to serve Krishna.

japa beads kartals tilaka

3. Name three things that are found on Krishna's altar.

III. Write

Write three sentences. Put a word from Part I in each.

The Pine Tree

I am a pine tree. I stand tall and straight. I like to grow in a big forest or on the side of a mountain.

I do not have leaves like the oak tree. I have needles. I keep my needles all year long. By Krishna's mercy they do not fall off in the cold weather. You can pick my branches and put them on Krishna's altar in winter.

I do not have acorns like the oak tree, but pine cones grow on my branches.

There are also many kinds of pine trees. There are white pines, yellow pines, lodgepole pines and pinon pines. Pinon pines have nuts on them, and these nuts are good to offer to Krishna.

My wood can be used in many ways to serve Krishna. People use my wood to make temples, Deity houses and paper for books.

These are a few of the ways that I serve Krishna.

WORDS TO WATCH

forest

needles

mercy

mountain

pinon

furniture

QUESTIONS

1. How is a pine tree different from an oak tree?
2. How does the pine tree serve Krishna?
3. What are some kinds of pine trees?

Five Sad Gopis

Five sad gopis cry by the river.

The first gopi begs Krishna please to forgive her.

The second gopi cries, "Why did He go?"

The third gopi sighs, "Oh, don't you know?"

The fourth gopi says, "Our pride was too great."

The fifth gopi says, "And now it's too late.

Our Krishna is gone, and we are alone."

WORDS TO WATCH

first fourth pride second fifth
gone third

WORDS STUDY EXERCISE

I. Read and Spell

one four eight two five
nine three six ten seven

II. Read

three two ten seven five eight
four nine six one

III. Write

One, two, three, four, five.

We caught some bees in a hive.

Six, seven, eight, nine, ten.

We let them go again.

The Demon's Mouth

Once upon a time, Krishna and the cowherd boys were taking their cows to the hillside to eat grass.

On their way, the cowherd boys saw a big cave. Right away they knew that the cave was really the mouth of a giant snake demon. "Look here," said one cowherd boy. "The lower lip of his mouth is on the ground, and the upper lip is way up in the sky."

"Just look at his teeth," said a second cowherd boy. "They are like big hills."

"And his eyes are blazing like fire," said another cowherd boy. "I am sure this is some demon who has come to eat Krishna."

"We do not have to be afraid," a little cowherd boy piped up. "Krishna can kill any demon. Let's go inside and look around."

So the cowherd boys took all their calves and walked right into the demon's mouth.

When Krishna saw this, He made a plan. Then he walked into the demon's mouth also.

All the demigods were looking down from the sky, and they began to cry in fear, "Oh Krishna, don't go in ! Krishna, be careful. Oh no! Our Krishna is lost."

Inside the demon's mouth, Krishna began to make Himself big. He got bigger and bigger and bigger until He was so big that the demon could not breathe. There was no room for the life air to come out of the demon's mouth. Pop! It broke a hole in the top of his head, and he died.

Then Krishna and the cowherd boys and all their cows came out of the demon's mouth. The demigods threw flowers from the sky and began to worship Krishna for His pastimes.

The body of the demon was made pure by Krishna's touch. The demon's body stayed in that place for a long time. The cowherd boys liked to go there and play on it.

WORDS TO WATCH

- | | | |
|-------|---------|-----------|
| mouth | flowers | worship |
| lower | upper | wonderful |

The Swing

How I like to go up in a swing,
Up in the sky so blue;
And think of Krishna the cowherd boy,
And His brother Balarama, too.

Up in the air and over the trees,
Till I can see so wide,
Streams and trees and cows, I see,
The Vrindavan countryside.

I look down on the garden green,
Down on the cow fields afar,
And then I see the temple so clean,
Where Radha and Krishna are.

Everyone Works For Krishna

"I don't feel like going to school and learning about Krishna today," said Samba one morning, "I am going for a walk through the fields."

Instead of going to school, Samba strolled along through the nearby meadow. He walked and walked. The clear blue sky and the fresh air make him feel good. But soon he became bored, because he was not doing anything for Krishna.

Suddenly, he saw Shuka the ox. "My dear Shuka," said Samba, "how would you like to run and play with me in the meadow?"

"No, I have no time now to play," said Shuka. "I must plow Krishna's fields so the Lord can have nice prasadam."

Samba went on, and before long he met a robin.

"My dear Mr. Robin," said Samba. "come and play with me."

"I cannot play with you, little devotee," replied the robin. "I am busy singing nice songs for Krishna to hear."

Samba walked on a little farther until he came upon a honeybee.

"Please come and play with me, Mr. Bee," said Samba.

"I cannot play with you," said the bee. "I must gather nectar from the flowers to make honey for Krishna."

Samba then began to think. "Everyone is doing his job for Krishna." He ran back to school as fast as he could go.

WORDS TO WATCH

instead meadow busy

strolled bored nectar

through Mr.

QUESTIONS

1. Why didn't Samba want to go to school?
2. Whom did Samba meet in the meadow?
3. What did Samba learn from talking with the ^{OX}~~horse~~ and bird and bee in the meadow?
4. Why did Samba run back to school?
5. How do you work for Krishna?

The Surabhi Cow

I never saw a surabhi cow,

But I do hope to see one.

And I can tell you, here and now,

I'd like someday to be one.

WORD STUDY EXERCISE

I. Read and Spell

book

eraser

teacher

pen notebook paper
desk reading spelling
pencil writing art
dictionary studying music
alphabet blackboard report card
proofreading ruler gym

II. Read and Answer

1. Why do you think it is important to go to a Krishna conscious school?
2. What do you think is the most important thing you learn in school?
3. What would you like to learn to do for Krishna?
4. Why do we study Srila Prabhupada's books?

III. Write

A book about Krishna is to me
As a flower is to a honeybee.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

I.A. You have read these stories in your book. Tell what each story is about.

The Butter Thief

Nimai Tricks the Thieves

The Demon's Mouth

Taruni's Story

Damodara Teaches Syama dasi

The Chapati Boy

Everyone Works for Krishna.

B. Which story did you like best? Why?

C. Read the story you like best to your class or read it again to yourself.

II.A. Learn by heart one of the poems you have read in your book and recite it to the class.

B. Copy the poem you like best. Copy it carefully.

PART TWO

Some stories in my Krishna Book

I've never read before,

And now that I can read so well

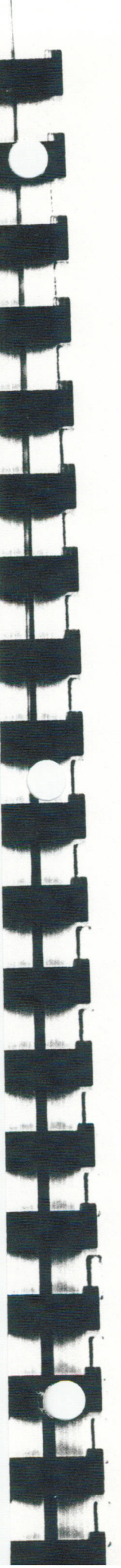
I'm ready for some more.

MOTIHER SHYAMA DASI

Mother Shyama dasi
Took Samba to Arati
To see Radha and Krishna there.
They saw the devotees
All dressed in their dhotis.
What else would devotees wear?

On the seat of Vyasa
Sat His Divine Grace,
Being fanned by Girish dasa,
A smile on his face.

Hung on the walls
Were colorful pictures
of Sri Bala Gopala
And Radha and Krishna.



Shri Shri Radha Krishna
Were dressed all in red,
With jewels round Their necks
And crowns on Their heads.

All were there
Just to worship Lord Hari
Right next to the altar
Stood the poojari.

First she offered sweet incense,
Then a ghee wick burning bright
Then water, cloth, flower, fan,
See the beautiful sight.

Such a wonderful arati
Samba won't want to miss;
The devotees all dancing
And feeling pure bliss.

"Srila Prabhupada," said Samba.

"Your mercy has saved me:

I'm so lucky to live

With Krishna's devotees."

WORDS TO WATCH

arati

colorful

ghee wick

dhotis

crowns

lucky

His Divine Grace

poojari

THE TULASI TREE

When you look at the small tree in the picture, you may think it is just like any other small tree, but it isn't. This is Tulasi devi, and she is a pure devotee of Lord Krishna. Her green leaves and buds are always resting at the Lord's lotus feet.

When Tulasi devi appears on the earth, she is cared for with great love by the devotees of Lord Krishna. Every morning the devotees give her water to drink, and then say a prayer which means: I offer my repeated obeisances unto Tulasi devi who is very dear to Lord Keshava. O Goddess, you give devotional service to Lord Krishna and possess the highest truth.

When Krishna is given prasadam, He likes to have some Tulasi leaves on His plate. And when a devotee wants the very nicest beads on which to chant Krishna's holy names, then he carves them from one of Tulasi devi's branches.

Tulasi devi is always serving Krishna's lotus feet, and therefore Krishna likes her better than any other tree. Because she is so dear to Lord Krishna, she makes the devotees of the Lord very happy when she comes to live with them.

WORDS TO WATCH

prayer	repeated	obeisances	Goddess
devotional service		carve	possess
highest truth			

A Rhyme

Little D.D.D.

Sat next to me

Eating a bowl of sweet rice.

He set his bowl down

On the cold ground,

And it was eaten by  mice.

then

Moral: Everyone loves prasadam.

WORD STUDY EXERCISE

I. Read and Spell

hop	hot	floor	book	boat
mop	rot	tore	took	coat
pop	pot	boar	brook	float
top	tot	roar	look	wrote
drop	trot	more	hook	goat

II. Read and Answer

1. Add more words to the list in Part I.
2. Write three words that rhyme with each of these words.

soup rope home goes

III. Write

1. The cook took a look at the book.
2. The goat on the boat is eating your coat.
3. Don't drop the hot pot on top of the mop.

Govinda dasi's Plans

On Thursday afternoon Govinda dasi stayed at the temple to make sweet balls for Krishna's Sunday feast.

It takes many hours to cook sweet balls. The small balls are put into a pan of hot ghee and stirred slowly for an hour. When they are cooking, they get bigger and bigger until they are three times as big as they were at first.

Only a few sweet balls can be made at one time. When one panful is done, then another one has to be started. After all the sweet balls are cooked, they must soak in sweet juice for three days. Then they are ready to offer to Krsna. He likes sweet balls very much.

Govinda dasi put the pan of ghee on the stove to heat. Then she began to roll the little balls from the batter she had made. While she was rolling balls, she heard some guests come into the temple. All the other devotees were out on sankirtan, so Govinda dasi went into the temple.

"I will talk to the guests for a few minutes," she thought, "and then I can come back and cook the sweet balls for Krishna." She turned the heat off under the pot of ghee and left the kitchen.

The guests had seen the other devotees on sankirtan and had heard them chanting Hare Krishna. They wanted to know what

that pretty song was and why the devotees were always singing it.

Govinda dasi was thinking of the sweet balls still to be made, but she knew it was her duty to tell the guests about Krishna. First she told them about Shrila Prabhupada.

"His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada is our spiritual master. He is teaching us how to go back to our real home with Krishna. He tells us to chant Hare Krishna and be happy. Why don't you try singing with me right now? You will see how nice it makes you feel. The words are: Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare, Hare Rama, Hare Rama, Rama Rama, Hare Hare."

Soon the devotees came back from sankirtan, and Govinda dasi saw that it was too late to start making the sweet balls for Krishna's feast. "That is Krishna's mercy," she thought.

"I planned to make sweet balls today, but instead Krishna sent these nice guests for me to talk to. We make our plans, and Krishna makes His."

WORDS TO WATCH

Thursday guests sankirtan hour kitchen

duty juice preach talking batter middle

QUESTIONS

1. How do you make sweet balls?
2. Did the guests like Krishna consciousness, how can you tell?
3. Why was Govinda dasi feeling blissful? What makes you feel blissful?
4. Was Govinda dasi mad that she could not make sweet balls for Krishna? Why not?

WORD STUDY EXERCISE

Days of the Week

I. Read and Spell

Thursday Tuesday Wednesday Friday
Monday Saturday Sunday

II. Read and Answer

1. Say the days of the week in the right order. Start with Sunday.
2. Which day do you think is the hardest name to spell?
3. Which day do you think is the easiest name to spell?
4. Which day do you like the best? Why?

III. Write

I say His names all through each day:

It makes me feel so very gay.

A Day at the Farm

Jamini was staying all summer at the Gita-Nagari farm. She had never been to a country temple before, and many things were new and strange to her. The devotees did not go out on Sankirtan everyday. Instead they milked Krishna's cows, churned butter and planted a big garden with beans, okra and squash for Krishna's prasadam.

One day Jamini and her Godsister Lalita went into the meadow to watch the men gather the hay for Krishna's cows. They had a good time helping cut the long grass and watching the men load the wagon with hay.

After a while they took a walk in the woods. They wandered about and picked wild flowers for Krishna.

They saw a squirrel running along the branch of a tree, and a little rabbit ran across the path in front of them.

On the other side of the woods was a small field. There they saw the cows grazing. In the field was a pond where many white lotus flowers were growing. Jamini knew that Krishna likes lotus flowers very much, so she picked one for Him.

She looked into the water and saw five fish swimming around. Just then a frog jumped into the pond with a loud splash.

After walking around the pond, Jamini and Lalita started back to the meadow where the men were working. Soon they heard the gang calling them in for prasadam. Jamini and Lalita hopped upon the load of hay, and the men drove them to the temple.

"I don't know which I like better," said Jamini, "riding on Krishna's hay wagon in the country, or riding in Krishna's truck on the way to Sankirtan in the city."

WORDS TO WATCH

country	lotus	Godsister	: kirtan
grazing	heard	rather	strange

QUESTIONS

1. What do the devotees do in the country
2. Would you rather live in a city temple or in a country temple? Why?

The Barnyard

When the working day is done,
In the barnyard everyone,
Beast and bird, politely say,
"Thank You Krishna for my food today. "

The cow says, "Moo!"

The pigeon, "Coo!"

The sheep says, "Baa!"

The hen, "Cluck cluck!"

"Quack!" says the duck.

The dog, "Bow wow!"

The cat, "Meow!"

The horse says, "Neigh!"

I love sweet hay!"

And even the mouse

Squeaks in his house.

As they end another day,

The devotees gladly say,

"My dear Krishna, serving You,
Is all I really want to do."

WORDS TO WATCH

done politely pigeon

barnyard beast neigh

WORD STUDY EXERCISE (Rhyming words)

I. Read and spell

rug	cut	bump	flute	sound
bug	hut	hump	shoot	wound
tug	nut	lump	root	round
mug	rut	dump	toot	found
dug	jut	stump	fruit	hound
hug	but	jump	hoot	ground

II. Read and answer

1. Write three words that rhyme with each of these words.

sun under dust tumble bull

2. Think of another word with a 'u' in it and write three words that rhyme with it.

III. Write

The hoot and toot of the flute made the bug jump.