Reading Booklet

Year 1 Reading Assessment - Paper 2

Arshan the Brave

Arshan the Brave

Once upon a time, there lived an Indian prince. His name was Arshan, which means brave, but the problem was that he was not brave. Instead, he was a very scared sort of prince.

He was small and shy. He hid away at birthday parties. He cried at royal school and he was terrified of loud noises. In fact, Arshan loved to find a quiet spot in the palace gardens where he could play his flute.

Arshan had two big brothers, Balbir and Zohar, who were tall and strong. They loved to fight and shout, and pick on their little brother, calling him weak and stupid.

One day, a letter was posted through the royal letter box with a loud SNAP (which of course made Arshan jump). It was from the Royal Snake Catcher.

To the Royal Family,

A king cobra is hiding in the palace gardens and I need help to catch it. It is as strong as four men, as quick as six cheetahs and as dangerous as twelve crocodiles. I know Prince Balbir and Prince Zohar are the bravest men in all the land and would not be scared of this snake, and so I ask for their help.

From the Royal Snake Catcher

"I shall catch this cobra for I am Prince Balbir, the bravest and best of all!" shouted Arshan's oldest brother.

He ran out into the gardens only to return later without the snake, shaking like a bowl of jelly and crying like a baby!

Not to be beaten, Prince Zohar rushed off to catch the cobra. Once again, the middle brother returned, his face was white and his knees were shaking. Prince Arshan crept away, hoping they wouldn't make him have a go.

A few weeks later, Arshan had forgotten about the cobra and was sitting quietly under a tree. Suddenly, he heard a noise and saw the long grass swishing beside him as the snake slid out. It hissed angrily and without thinking, Arshan began to play his flute. The huge cobra began to curl up. The more Arshan played, the quieter it became until it was fast asleep!

At that moment, his brothers were passing by. They could not believe their eyes. They watched as Arshan picked up the sleeping cobra and put it in a sack, and carried it, with a huge grin, to the Royal Snake Catcher.

From that day on, Prince Balbir and Prince Zohar never teased their brother Arshan again.