Before you read

In this lesson we look at what we are like and how each of us is different. We are all interesting people in different ways and we are all good at different things. As you read this, think about what you are like and what you enjoy doing.

Who I Am

Part I

MANY VOICES

Radha

My favourite activity is climbing trees. Just outside our house, there is a guava tree which I love to go up. Its branches spread out, so it is simple to climb up the tree, and I can sit comfortably in the fork of two branches. My mother tells me it is not sensible for girls to climb trees, but one afternoon she climbed up too, and both of us sat there talking and eating raw mangoes. When I am high up in the tree, I feel like I can rule the whole world.
NASIR

When I grow up, I want to become a seed collector. We have cotton fields in our village and every year, my father spends a lot of money on buying new seeds to grow our cotton plants. My grandfather told me that many years ago, he could collect the seeds from his own plants which could be sown to grow new plants during the next year. But today that doesn’t work so we have to spend money to buy new seeds every single year. I want to find out why that is so. I want to learn how to preserve seeds so that we can use them again and not spend money every year.

ROHIT

If I had a huge amount of money I would travel and travel. I want to see the mountains of New Zealand because they looked beautiful in a magazine picture. I wish I could sail down the Amazon river in South America on a raft. I want to live on
the beaches of Lakshadweep and dive down to see coral. I suppose I should go to the Konark temple in Orissa or the old city in Beijing in China and the Pyramids in Egypt too, but what I actually enjoy is seeing nature more than old buildings.

SERBJIT

What makes me very angry is when people don’t believe me when I am telling the truth. For example, if I tell my teacher that I couldn’t do my homework because Ravi borrowed my book and forgot to return it. Or I tell my parents that it wasn’t me but my little brother who started the fight. Or if I tell my teacher that I really did study for the test even if I have got bad marks. They all look at me as if they think I am telling lies. The look on their faces really angers me. Sometimes I have to look down at my shoes and count to ten so that I do not show that I am angry.
**DOLMA**

When I grow up, I am going to be the Prime Minister of India. People always laugh when I say that, but I am sure that I will do it. Everyone in my class asks me what to do when they have a problem, and my teacher always trusts me when something needs to be done in school. I want to make things better for everyone. I want us to have good hospitals and roads and schools. I want to make sure that there are many good scientists in India who will invent cures for diseases and send a spaceship to Mars.

**PETER**

My favourite day is the second Sunday of every month. On this day our whole family always goes to the cinema hall to see a film. My father gets the tickets in advance and all of us — my grandmother, my parents, my two brothers and I — take the bus there. In the interval my father
buys us peanuts and I love to sit in the darkness of the hall eating and watching the film. Afterwards we always stop to eat ice cream. Everyone is in a good mood and we all feel very lucky that we are such a happy family.

**WORKING WITH THE TEXT**

A. Answer the following questions.

1. Peter's favourite day of the week is Sunday because ________________________________________________

2. Nasir wants to learn __________________________________________________________

3. Dolma believes that she can make a good Prime Minister because ____________________

B. Write True or False against each of the following statements.

1. Peter is an only child. ______________

2. When Serbjit gets angry he shouts at people. ______________

3. Nasir lives in the city. ____________

4. Radha's mother enjoys doing things with her. ______________
Each one of us is skilled or good at something. But do you know that different people are intelligent in different ways?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Visual Intelligence</strong></th>
<th><strong>Verbal Intelligence</strong></th>
<th><strong>Mathematical Intelligence</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>You like to:</strong></td>
<td><strong>You like to:</strong></td>
<td><strong>You like to:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>think in pictures,</td>
<td>use words and</td>
<td>use reason, logic and numbers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>create mental images</td>
<td>language. You speak</td>
<td>Always curious about the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to remember things.</td>
<td>well and think in words</td>
<td>world around, you ask</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You enjoy looking at</td>
<td>rather than pictures.</td>
<td>lots of questions and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maps, charts,</td>
<td></td>
<td>like to do experiments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pictures, videos, and</td>
<td><strong>You are good at:</strong></td>
<td><strong>You are good at:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>movies.</td>
<td>speaking, writing,</td>
<td>problem solving,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>story telling, listening,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>explaining, teaching,</td>
<td>solving puzzles,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>using humour,</td>
<td>experimenting,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>understanding the</td>
<td>questioning and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>meaning of words,</td>
<td>wondering about</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>remembering information,</td>
<td>natural events, doing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>convincing someone of</td>
<td>mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>your point of view.</td>
<td>calculations, working</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>You can become a:</strong></td>
<td><strong>You can become a:</strong></td>
<td>with geometric shapes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>navigator, sculptor,</td>
<td>poet, journalist, writer,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>artist, inventor,</td>
<td>teacher, lawyer,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>architect, interior</td>
<td>politician, translator.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>designer, mechanic,</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>You can become a:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>engineer.</td>
<td></td>
<td>scientist, engineer,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>computer programmer,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>researcher,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>accountant,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>mathematician.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Being good at your studies is one kind of intelligence, but there are many others too. Read the descriptions to find out which of the following types of intelligence best describes you. Remember that there will probably be more than one type of intelligence which fits you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bodily Intelligence</th>
<th>Musical Intelligence</th>
<th>Interpersonal Intelligence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>You like to:</strong></td>
<td><strong>You like to:</strong></td>
<td><strong>You like to:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>control your body</td>
<td>play and enjoy music.</td>
<td>understand others. You</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>movements and handle</td>
<td>You think about</td>
<td>try to see things from</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>objects skillfully.</td>
<td>sounds, rhythms and</td>
<td>other people’s point of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You have a good sense of balance and can catch or hit a ball well, and</td>
<td>patterns. You</td>
<td>view in order to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>like to dance. You like to move around while learning.</td>
<td>immediately respond to</td>
<td>understand how they think or feel. You are a good organiser and manage to get other people to cooperate and work as a team.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>You are good at:</strong></td>
<td><strong>You are good at:</strong></td>
<td><strong>You are good at:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dancing, physical coordination,</td>
<td>singing, whistling,</td>
<td>seeing things from others’ view, listening,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sports, crafts, acting, miming, using your hands to create or build. You express emotions through your body.</td>
<td>playing musical instruments, recognising tunes, composing music, remembering melodies, understanding the structure and rhythm of music.</td>
<td>understanding other people’s moods and feelings, solving problems, cooperating with groups, noticing people’s moods, communicating, building trust.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>You can become a:</strong></td>
<td><strong>You can become a:</strong></td>
<td><strong>You can become a:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dancer, athlete, physical education teacher, actor, firefighter, craftsperson.</td>
<td>musician, disc jockey, singer, composer.</td>
<td>counsellor, salesperson, politician, business person, teacher.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Based on Howard Gardner’s theory of Multiple Intelligences]
**WORKING WITH THE TEXT**

Fill in the blanks to name the different kinds of intelligence. One has been done for you.

When I enjoy listening to people and solving their problems I use my **interpersonal** intelligence.

(i) When I enjoy dancing or physical activity, I use my ______________ intelligence.

(ii) When I enjoy looking at maps and examining pictures I use my ______________ intelligence.

(iii) When I enjoy working with numbers and solving maths problems I use my ______________ intelligence.

(iv) When I enjoy telling a story or arguing, I use my ______________ intelligence.

**WORKING WITH LANGUAGE**

Match the job on the left with its description on the right.

(i) Navigator  ______ (a) Advises people what to do about jobs, personal problems, etc.

(ii) Architect  ______ (b) Works in politics, usually by standing for election.

(iii) Politician  ______ (c) Finds and monitors the route to get to a place, or the direction of travel.
(iv) Engineer _______  (d) Reports on recent news for newspaper, radio, or TV.

(v) Computer programmer _______  (e) Plans the design of a building, town, or city.

(vi) Athlete _______  (f) Controls and puts together a programme of music.

(vii) Disc jockey _______  (g) Works in sports or activities such as running, jumping, etc.

(viii) Composer _______  (h) Designs and builds things like roads, bridges, or engines.

(ix) Counsellor _______  (i) Makes up notes to create music.

(x) Journalist _______  (j) Designs the system by which a computer runs or gives information.

**WRITING**

Write a paragraph about yourself so that people who read it will get to know you better. You could write about yourself from any point of view, or choose one of the following topics.

- What I enjoy doing most
- What makes me angry
- What I hate to do
- What I want to become

(Remember to give a reason or details of what you write about, so that anyone reading it will understand you better.)

After you have finished your paragraph affix your photo on the sheet and display it on the wall. Read each other’s paragraphs. Did you understand someone else better after you had read what he/she wrote?
**WORKING WITH LANGUAGE**

Read these columns about careers in environment, that is, working to keep our world — the land, air, water and the people, animals and plants — safe from natural and man-made dangers. Check out the

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What’s Your Nature?</th>
<th>Adventurous</th>
<th>Creative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thinker or Tinker?</strong></td>
<td>You Are: Stoic, determined, patient, romantic, calm, curious, physically tough, unflappable. You Like: Adventure, travelling, outdoors, forests, trekking, wild creatures, rain, climbing mountains, camping, being alone. You Are Good at: Biology, outdoor activities, keeping calm under duress, running long distances, dealing with bad weather, looking at a wild elephant in the eye. You Can Become: a wildlife biologist, zoologist, botanist, naturalist, forester, zoo curator, veterinary doctor, biology teacher, environment educator, organic farmer, rural community worker.</td>
<td>You Are: Creative, imaginative, artistic, a dreamer, romantic, sensitive, liberal, cooperative, cordial, clever, perceptive, humorous, intuitive. You Like: Colours, good design, outdoors, communicating, creative writing, art and craft, watching films, nature walks, engaging with social issues, travelling, studying liberal arts. You Are Good at: Art and craft, drawing, photography, creative writing, painting, dreaming, communicating ideas. You Can Become: a film maker, copy writer, graphic designer, artist, sculptor with a social concern who does development communication projects or works for NGOs, school teacher, community worker, wildlife artist/illustrator, environment educator, communication expert.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
personality profiles needed to be successful at different kinds of careers in the environmental field. Find out whether you are more adventurous than your partner, or whether your partner is a better inquirer than others. You may wish to prepare a personality profile of yourself/your partner. In groups, attempt some of the activities suggested at the end.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INQUIRER</th>
<th>COMMUNICATOR</th>
<th>IDEALIST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>You Are</strong></td>
<td>Systematic, logical, practical, organised, inquisitive, thorough, outward-looking, rational, studious, methodical, intuitive.</td>
<td>Confident, intelligent, creative, gregarious, talkative, opinionated, alert, energetic, purposeful, forthright, sociable, eloquent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>You Like</strong></td>
<td>Building and fixing things, finding reasons behind phenomena, figuring out how things work, learning about new technologies, doing maths, gadgets.</td>
<td>Reading, writing, thinking about the state of the world, politics, cultures, arguing, travelling to remote places, meeting people, stating your opinion, intellectual pursuits, current affairs, cities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>You Are Good at</strong></td>
<td>Physics, mathematics, chemistry, fixing and repairing the plumbing or electrical gadgets at home, engineering, fantastic structures with Lego.</td>
<td>Literature, history, languages, communicating, debating, oratory, demanding your rights, sensitive to injustice, interacting with all kinds of people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>You Can Become</strong></td>
<td>an environmental engineer, bio-engineer, chemical engineer, meteorologist, climatologist, toxicologist, water expert, appropriate technologist.</td>
<td>a documentary filmmaker, environmental lawyer, newspaper/magazine journalist, urban researcher, ecological historian, development consultant, communications expert, government official.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Word-finders group

1. Thinker becomes Tinker if we leave out an 'h'. Who is a tinker?
2. Make a list of words that your classmates want to find out the meanings of. Then find out the meanings by consulting a dictionary or asking your teacher. Tell your classmates what you have found out.

### People-finders group

Find people in the jobs mentioned here. They may be people you know, or people mentioned in newspapers, etc. Make a chart.

### Picture-finders group

Get pictures or photographs of the kinds of people, subjects, activities, places, etc., mentioned above.

### Speaking

A. Why does Radha’s mother tell her that it is not suitable for girls to climb trees? Find points to agree with Radha or her mother.

Plan what you will say by making notes like this:

- **Girls should be able to climb trees if they wish**
  1. 
  2. 
  3. 

- **Girls should not be allowed to climb trees**
  1. 
  2. 
  3. 

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WHO I Am

Now divide the class into two groups. Present to the rest of the class the opinion of Radha who thinks there is no harm in girls climbing trees and of her mother who thinks girls should not do this.

B. Sit in a circle so that you can see each other. Each one must talk to complete the following sentence in your own way.

“What makes me very angry is ...”

Remember to listen with respect and without comment to each person as he/she speaks.

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Know Your Country

1. The Hirakud Dam is built on a major river. Name it.

2. In which state is Kanyakumari, the southernmost tip of the mainland?

3. Name the channel that separates the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Answers on page 137
Imagine a world without language. All humans speak at least one language. The words we speak bring out our thoughts. Read the following poem on words.

*Never let a thought shrivel and die*
*For want of a way to say it*
*For English is a wonderful game*
*And all of you can play it.*
*All that you do is match the words*
*To the brightest thoughts in your head*
*So that they come out clear and true*
*And handsomely groomed and fed—*
*For many of the loveliest things*
*Have never yet been said.*

*Words are the food and dress of thought*
*They give it its body and swing*
*And everyone’s longing today to hear*
*Some fresh and beautiful thing;*
*But only words can free a thought*
*From its prison behind your eyes*
*May be your mind is holding now*
*A marvellous new surprise!*

MARY O’NEILL
WORKING WITH THE POEM

1. With your partner, complete the following sentences in your own words using the ideas in the poem.
   
   (i) Do not let a thought shrivel and die because ________________
   
   (ii) English is a _______________________ with words that everyone can play.
   
   (iii) One has to match ________________________
   
   (iv) Words are the _______________________ of thought.

2. In groups of four discuss the following lines and their meanings.
   
   (i) All that you do is match the words
       To the brightest thoughts in your head

   (ii) For many of the loveliest things
       Have never yet been said

   (iii) And everyone’s longing today to hear
       Some fresh and beautiful thing

   (iv) But only words can free a thought
       From its prison behind your eyes