

A. R. Rahman is a famous Indian composer. He began composing music for films in the 1990s with the Tamil film *Roja*. Since then, he has composed music for many Indian and international films, and has become one of the world's most notable and prolific music composers. A. R. Rahman has also won numerous awards, including two Oscars in 2009.

Read an interview with A. R. Rahman.



Music Maestro A. R. Rahman

A. R. Rahman does not need an introduction. His name itself speaks of his musical accolades¹. *Time Magazine* has honoured him with the title 'Mozart² of Madras' and



Wordfile

1. An **accolade** is something that people do or say to show how much they admire someone.
2. **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** (1756 - 1791) was an Austrian composer. He is considered one of the most influential composers of all time.
3. **Destiny** is what will happen to somebody in the future, especially things that they cannot change or avoid.
4. (here) **Divinity** means divine power.

several Tamil critics have coined the nickname 'Isai Puyal' (meaning 'Music Storm') for him. He was voted one of the '100 most influential people' by *Time Magazine*. He made history by winning two Oscars in 2009 for the music of *Slumdog Millionaire*. A. R., as he prefers to be called, is also one of the top-selling recording artists in the world.

INTERVIEWER: Welcome A. R.! Tell us something about your journey from Kodambakkam to Hollywood.

RAHMAN: Hello! My journey has been unpredictable. When I was a child, I never thought that I could perform properly. I became famous at the age of 11 because I used to appear in a children's show every Sunday. I used to play film songs that made me quite popular. Fame was not an unusual thing even then. But I acquired more confidence with age and time. It is great to meet one's favourite stars like Oliver Stone and visit places in America, like Los Angeles. So, it is really a big trip from here to there.

INTERVIEWER: Are you enjoying it?

RAHMAN: Yes, in a way.

INTERVIEWER: Do you consider yourself to be lucky?

RAHMAN: Well, I think it is a very complex question. Luck can happen once but then we need to sustain it. For that we need to have a state of mind and a way of life. Because I feel that there is definitely destiny³ and divinity⁴, which is based on the love and prayers of your well-wishers.

INTERVIEWER: Is it true that one of the forces that has shaped your life is your mother?

RAHMAN: When I was quite young, my father died. My mother suffered a lot to help me build my career. When I made my studio, she invested money in it and bought me equipment. She always stood by me as a wall of protection. Whatever



Rahman with his Oscars

Comprehension 1

A. Number the sentences in the order of events in the story.

- Matti receives a letter from home with some news. The police in Germany have attacked his father.
- Lady Dorincourt goes to hospital. She can only go home if she has someone to provide food and medical care.
- Matti goes to live in a village with Mr and Mrs Williams.
- Matti takes a cake to Lady Dorincourt and asks her if his parents could work for her as servants.
- Mrs Williams persuades Lady Dorincourt to arrange for Matti's parents to come and work for her.
- One day, Matti goes into the woods and finds that they belong to Lady Dorincourt.
- Matti arrives in England with other children from Germany.
- Lady Dorincourt says that it is not possible to bring Matti's parents over from Germany at the moment.

B. Answer these questions.

1. How do the children feel when they arrive in England?
2. Matti speaks a little English. How did he learn it?
3. What is Mr Williams' job, and who does he work for?
4. Why is it difficult to bring Matti's parents to England as refugees?
5. What do Matti's parents do for a living?
6. Why doesn't Lady Dorincourt agree to sign the forms at first?
7. Why does she agree to sign the forms in the end?

Comprehension 2

Answer these questions.

1. At the end of the story, Lady Dorincourt agrees to sign the forms to bring Matti's parents over to England. Matti says, '*It won't be easy for them at first*'. Why do you think it might be difficult for Matti's parents at first? Share your responses with a partner.
2. How does Matti cope with being separated from his parents and moving to a new country? Find examples in the story which illustrate your answer.

Think about:

- how he feels
- the language
- his new home and school
- his host parents



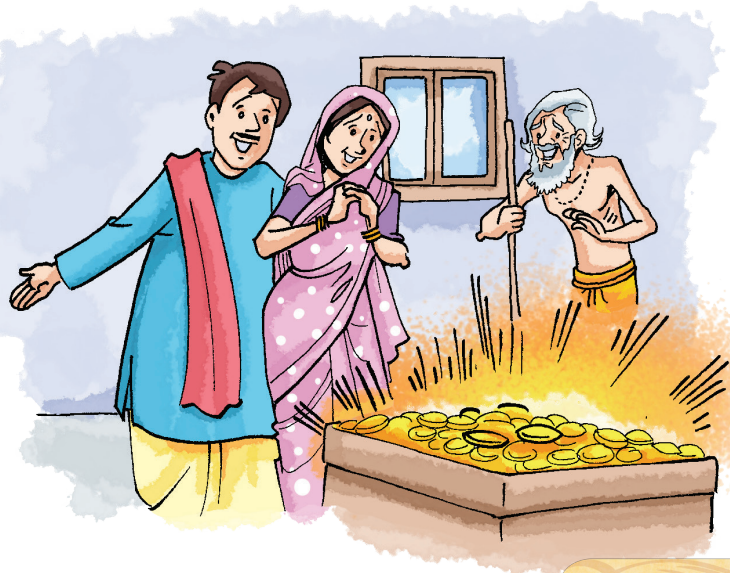


Carefully, he took the bottle to the sage. The sage smiled and muttered⁷ a *mantra* over the water. Then he returned the bottle and said, 'Try it out.' Ramanatha sprinkled a few drops of dew on a copper vessel and waited for it to turn to gold. To his dismay⁸, nothing happened!

'This is cheating,' he told the sage. 'I have wasted six precious years of my life.'

But Sage Mahipati only smiled and called Madhumati to come forward. She came with a big box. When she opened it, inside glinted⁹ stacks of gold coins!

Now the sage turned to the astonished¹⁰ Ramanatha and said, 'There is no magic potion that can turn things into gold. You worked hard on your land and created this plantation. While you looked after the trees, your wife sold the fruit in the market. That's how you got this money. It was your hard work that created this wealth, not magic. If I had told you about this earlier, you would not have listened to me, so I played a trick on you.'



Ramanatha understood the wisdom behind these words and worked even harder on his plantation from that day on.



Wordfile

7. If someone **mutters**, they say something very quietly and not clearly.
8. **Dismay** is a feeling of being very upset or worried.
9. Something that **glints**, shines or looks very bright.
10. If you are **astonished**, you are very surprised.

Read about me

Sudha Murthy is an engineer and author. She writes in Kannada and English. She also heads Infosys Foundation. She teaches engineering as well. She has been awarded the Padma Shri.

Summary

Ramanatha believed that there is a magic potion that turns everything to gold. So, he did not work on his farm, but searched for this magic potion futilely. His wife, Madhumati, worried that this would turn them to beggars. One day, a wise sage named Mahipati visited their town. Ramanatha asked him about this potion. The sage tricked him to turn his empty farmland into a huge banana plantation. Six years later, when his hard work at the plantation paid off as gold coins, Ramanatha realised his foolishness.

Vocabulary

Using *made of* or *made from*

We can say something is **made of** a kind of material.

*The toys are **made of** clay.*

*The tongs are **made of** metal.*

We use **made from** when the material is changed into a different form.

*Curd is **made from** milk.*

*Paper is **made from** wood.*

A. Read these sentences and **circle** the correct options.

1. My T-shirt is made (of/from) cotton.
2. Tofu is made (of/from) soybeans.
3. Candles are made (of/from) wax.
4. *Gulab jamun* is made (of/from) milk.
5. These tyres are made (of/from) rubber.
6. Kheer is made (of/from) rice.
7. Glass is made (of/from) sand.
8. Chocolate is made (of/from) cocoa beans.



B. Complete each sentence with *of* or *from* and the correct word from the box.

clay wool flour leather milk plastic trees wood

1. My granny's favourite chair is made _____
2. The sweater is made _____
3. *Chapatis* are made _____
4. My transparent ruler is made _____
5. Butter is made _____
6. My shoes are made _____
7. Paper is made _____
8. This vase is made _____

You know that the words **a**, **an** and **the** are articles.

We use **an** before words that begin with vowel sounds: a, e, i, o and u.

We use **a** before words that begin with other letters, also called consonants.

A, an or the?

- Use **a** or **an** when you talk about something for the first time.

*Jeffery won **a** silver cup for winning **the** race.*

- Use **the** when you mention something again.

*Jeffery won a silver cup for winning the race. **The** cup was very precious to him.*

We also use **the** when the noun is a particular thing.

*The stolen cups were found in **the** field.*

***The** Umngot River in Meghalaya is often called the cleanest river in India.*

A. Complete these sentences with articles **a**, **an** or **the**.

1. Jeffery was _____ excellent runner. He had won twelve silver cups.
2. One night, _____ burglar stole all _____ cups.
3. Jeffery couldn't find _____ cups anywhere.
4. _____ policeman came to Jeffery's house and asked many questions.
5. Then, Slowcoach escaped through _____ hole in _____ garden fence.
6. Finally, Jeffery found _____ cups in _____ sack in _____ field behind his house.

Types of nouns

Remember that nouns are naming words for people, places or things.

There are four types of nouns:

- **Common nouns** are used as names for persons, places, animals or things.

*The **boy** already had eleven **cups**.*

*The **cat** is playing with the **ball**.*

Here, **boy**, **cups**, **cat** and **ball** are common nouns.



Listening

Listening for identification

A. Listen to the problems each child is facing. Now, match the names with what they would say.

- | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Lisa | a. I am fat! |
| 2. Bela | b. Ouch! My leg hurts. |
| 3. Farida | c. My brother makes me so angry. |
| 4. Vijay | d. I got poor marks. |
| 5. Samuel | e. Oh no! I am late again. |
| 6. Yusuf | f. I lost my note. |

B. Listen and match the names with suitable advice.

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1. Lisa | a. She should go to see the doctor. |
| 2. Bela | b. He should stop eating so much. |
| 3. Farida | c. She should try waking up early and getting ready on time. |
| 4. Vijay | d. She should do her homework more carefully. |
| 5. Samuel | e. He should put things safely in his bag. |
| 6. Yusuf | f. He shouldn't argue with his brother. |

Speaking

Making sentences with *should* and *shouldn't*

Work with a partner. Look at the Listening exercise again. Say what each person should or shouldn't do and say why. Use 'because'.

Lisa should go to see the doctor because her leg hurts.

Writing

Paragraph writing

Read these words and their meanings.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| reduce | to make something smaller or less in amount |
| reuse | to use something again |
| recycle | to do something to paper, glass, aluminium, etc. so that it can be used again |

The words *reduce*, *reuse* and *recycle* are often used to remind people how to care for our environment.

Writing

Paragraph writing

Your school recently celebrated its annual day. It was a success and everyone enjoyed themselves a lot. Write a paragraph describing the day. You can write about:

- when and where the event was held
- what you participated in
- the special events of the day
- the main guest

Our school annual day was held on...

Features Highlighted

Writing tasks challenge the learners to explore new ways of expressing themselves creatively.



Project 1



Learning and awareness: *Knowing the difference between city life and village life*

Comparing city life with village life

A. A survey is a series of questions we ask people in order to get information about something. Conduct a survey on the pros and cons of living in a city and living in a village or small town. Ask the questions given below. Think of two more questions and add them to the list.

Questionnaire

1. Is there a school? If 'yes', does it have a proper building and good facilities?
2. How far is the nearest school from your home?
3. How do the children get to the school?
4. Is there a library nearby where people can get books to read?
5. Is there regular electricity and a steady water supply?
6. What do people do in their free time?
7. Are there film theatres nearby?
8. Do the locals celebrate festivals only with their immediate family or with the community at large?
9. What do most adults do for a living?
10. Do you prefer village life or city life?



They ask their friend the White-cheeked Bulbul, 'What are you doing today?'

White-cheeked Bulbul: 'I am eating a cherry and a strawberry. Tomorrow, I shall drop their seeds on the ground. Then, there will be more cherry trees and strawberry bushes.'

They ask their friend the Common Carp, 'What are you doing today?'

Common Carp: 'I am eating duckweed² in the pond. Tomorrow, I shall release³ their seeds in the water. Then, there will be more duckweeds.'

They ask their friend the Blue Pansy Butterfly, 'What are you doing today?'

Blue Pansy Butterfly: 'I am having honey from daffodils⁴. Tomorrow, I shall release the pollen⁵ on other daffodils. Then, there will be more daffodil plants.'

Gul and Kashi are sad. They say, 'Will no one play with us today?'

Then, Hangul, Squirrel, Bulbul, Common Carp and Blue Pansy Butterfly all gather around⁶ Gul and Kashi.

They say: 'We do what Mother Nature asks⁷ of us today. Tomorrow, when there will be many trees, bushes and flowers, you will have the best place to play in. Then, we can play together.'

Gul and Kashi are happy again.

Summary

Gul and Kashi want to play. But all their friends—Hangul, the Flying Squirrel, the White-cheeked Bulbul, the Common Carp and the Blue Pansy Butterfly—are busy. What are they busy with? They are busy with what Mother Nature has asked them to do—planting more trees and flowers. That will make the best place for the children. Gul and Kashi are happy again!

Wordfile

2. **Duckweeds** are very small plants that grow in lakes and ponds.
3. (here) To **release** something in water means to pour or drop that thing in water.
4. **Daffodils** are yellow flowers that grow in cool places, like Kashmir.
5. **Pollen** are very tiny grains, found in flowers that help them to bear fruits.
6. To **gather around** means to make a group or circle around someone or something.
7. (here) To **ask** means to tell someone to do something.

Kashmir is a beautiful place, high up in the Himalayas. It is also called 'heaven on earth'. Can you point out Kashmir on the map of India? Take the help of an adult and find out where Kashmir is located.

CC Explore more

Features Highlighted

Wordfile lists difficult words and phrases and gives meanings along with their usage.

the body of the *jod* (the song), the heat became unbearable and everyone began to sweat. As Tansen reached the climax of the first *taan*, the dry wood in the courtyard burst into flames. One by one, the unlit lamps became brilliant with light. Soon, the water in the large bowl began to boil. By this time the courtiers were all groaning from the unbearable heat, but the man whose voice sang like the flames of a fire hypnotized them. Even as they listened, they saw Tansen's face turn ashen. The heat generated by the *raga* was consuming him from inside.

'Rupa,' the Emperor called. 'Sing. Sing *Megh*.'

But Rupa, transfixed⁷ by the power of Tansen's voice, couldn't even move her lips.

Tansen's wife's wails burst into her trance, and she broke into the *alaap* of *Megh*. However, her voice faltered and had no effect on Tansen's body, which had begun to sag. But he continued to sing until finally, he collapsed on the floor.

A cry of despair broke out of everyone's throat.

By now, Rupa's voice had begun to gain power. She closed her eyes. Her voice began to soar to the skies and clouds began to gather. People watched in awe, cooled by the sudden change in temperature. Then the clouds burst and rain poured down from the heavens, dousing the burning pile of wood in an instant. Two courtiers carried Tansen outside, directly under the cooling rain. As Rupa concluded *Megh*, Tansen opened his eyes.

The great musician, Mian Tansen, lived that day, and he will live forever, immortalised⁸ by his music.



Wordfile

7. If you are **transfixed** by something, you cannot move because you are so amazed.
8. If someone is **immortalised**, they remain famous even after death.

About the genre

A biographical fiction is when the life story a person is written down, but the facts may not be entirely true. So, it becomes more like a story than a biography. Biographical fictions are written about people who lived long ago, and therefore we do not have a lot of facts about them.

Summary

Tansen was born after his parents visited the great Sufi saint and musician Hazarat Mohammed Ghaus. Mukund Mishra, Tansen's father named him so, in the hope that he would become the master of *taan* or musical notes. Tansen's talent was discovered by Guru Haridas accidentally. Tansen trained with him for ten years perfecting his skill. Nature responded when Tansen sang—clouds formed in the sky when he sang *Megh Malhar*. After his father's death, Tansen lived with Pir Mohammed Ghausa Baba in Gwalior for three years. Tansen's fame increased. He became the court musician at Emperor Akbar's court. The other musicians were jealous and challenged him to sing *Deepak Raga*. When Tansen was being consumed by the flames of the *raga*, he was saved by his student Rupa, who sang *Raga Megh*. Tansen has become immortal through his music.