

## The Lost Casket

Look at the pictures and discuss the questions that follow:



Akbar



Shah Jahan



Shivaji

1. What do you know about the persons in the pictures?
2. One of the above was a brave Maratha king, also known as Chatrapathi. Can you name him?
3. There are many stories about his acts of bravery and generosity. Talk about one of them.

### A. Reading

Read the following story and answer the questions that follow:

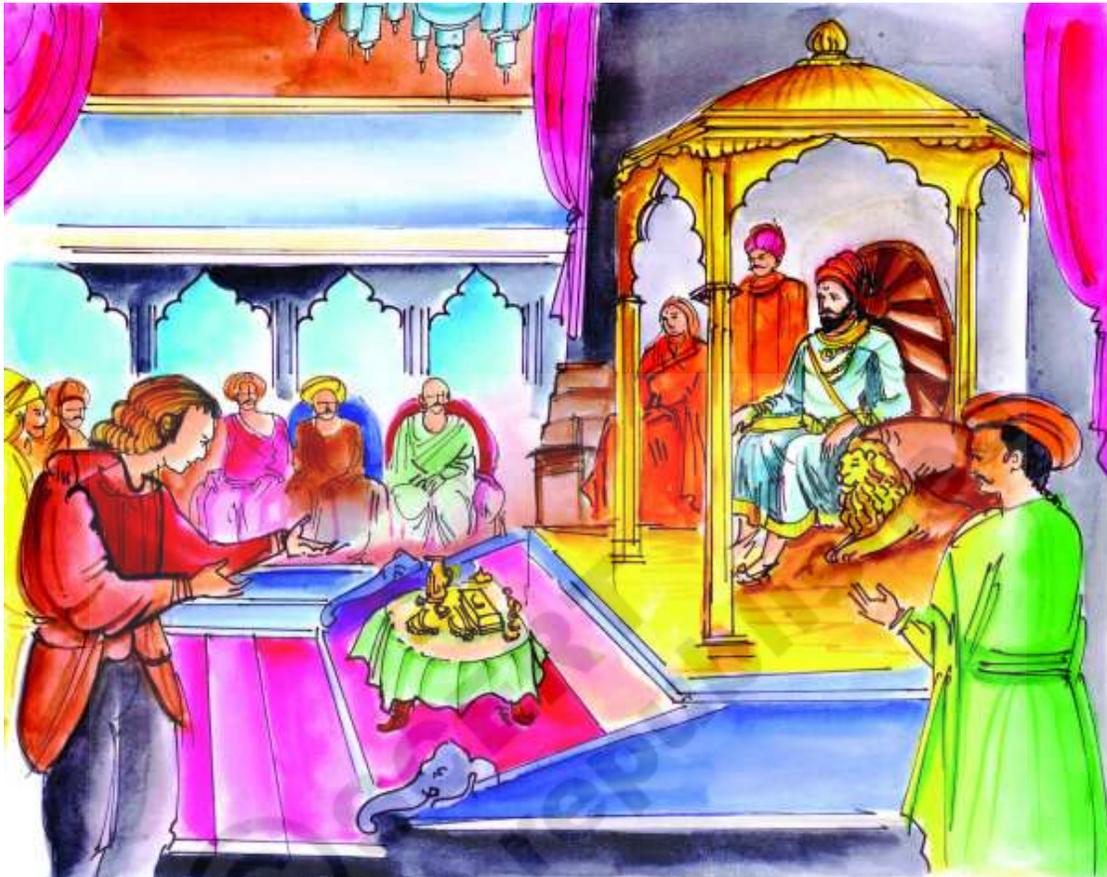
Shivaji once attacked the city of Surat, which was under the Mughals then. The Englishmen who lived in Surat fled for safety. Though they escaped, their belongings were taken away.

The attack shook Adam Smith and his nephew John. Adam Smith was particularly upset because he had lost what he valued most - a small gold casket, containing a beautiful picture of his dead wife, inlaid with rubies and diamonds.

John came up with a plan to recover the casket. He decided to go into the Maratha country secretly, along with a companion.

Many days later, they overtook a train of bullock carts carrying all the the spoils of war to Raigarh. John and his companion were taken prisoners.

At the durbar, the spoils of Surat had been spread out. A rich carpet was piled high with gold, silver, diamonds, rubies and emeralds.



There, along with the rest of the loot, stood the casket. Now, John saw Shivaji for the first time. He wondered how to get a private audience with the king. Luckily for him, Shivaji was curious about the Englishman in his court.

“What brings you to Raigarh?” asked Shivaji. John told him the whole story. Shivaji listened. He explained that everything was now the property of the State and it would be unfair to his people to give away even a part of it. He added that he was freeing John but that he would have to leave Raigarh within three days.

The next evening, John went to a lonely part of the fort, which overlooked the surrounding country. After watching the sunset, he turned to go back. Ahead of him, he saw a single Maratha soldier walking, head down, as if lost in thought. The next minute, John realised with shock that the soldier was being stalked by three men! All at once the three men drew their swords and rushed upon the solitary figure. But the soldier with remarkable swiftness threw off his heavy shawl, drew his sword and ran to a narrow passage between two blocks of stone. In that position, he waited and was ready for his attackers.

John had no weapon except a stout walking stick, but he struck the last attacker with it and knocked him to the ground. The next man turned savagely on John and thrust his sword under his arm, but it only plunged into his thick overcoat. As he withdrew the sword, John fell upon him, and using all his strength, threw him down and pinned him to the ground. He then turned to the remaining two men.

To his surprise, he found that the lone Maratha soldier was none other than the great Shivaji himself. Though his enemy was taller and stronger, Shivaji more than made up for this by the quickness of his movements and his wonderful skill with his sword, the famous Bhawani. It flashed like lightning and he soon drove it through the heart of the attacker.

Shivaji turned to John who rose to his feet to greet him. The man beneath John took advantage of this, leapt to his feet, and attacked Shivaji. But he lost his balance and fell over the parapet to the rocks below. A smile lit up Shivaji's face as he looked at John. "You have saved my life today and thereby prevented a tragedy. Ask what you will, for there is nothing I can refuse to one who has done so much for the Maratha people." At the durbar next morning, the casket was waiting for John. Shivaji also gave him a necklace of precious pearls, and arranged to send him back to Surat.

## Glossary

casket (n):	a small, decorated box for keeping jewellery and valuables
spoils (n):	the benefits that someone gets when they win something, for example a war
audience with:	a formal meeting with a very important person
stalk (v):	follow and watch in a threatening way
savagely (adv):	violently
plunge (v):	to move or fall suddenly
assassin (n):	someone who kills an important person for political reasons

### I. Answer the following questions:

1. Why was Adam Smith so possessive about the casket?
2. How did John reach Shivaji's durbar?
3. Why did John wish to have a private audience with the king?
4. Why do you think Shivaji disguised himself as a soldier?
5. What did John do to save the soldier?
6. What surprised John in the fight?
- \* 7. What would have happened, if John had not saved Shivaji?

- \* 8. Do you agree that John was as brave as Shivaji? Justify your answer.
- 9. How did Shivaji repay John?
- 10. Which line in the last paragraph tells us about Shivaji's generosity?
- \*11. What qualities of Shivaji impress you / inspire you most?
- \*12. If you were John, would you save Shivaji? Justify your answer.

**II. Say whether the following statements are True or False. Correct the false statements.**

1. Surat was under the control of Englishmen at the time of Shivaji's attack.
2. The casket was one among the spoils of Surat displayed at the durbar.
3. Shivaji agreed to give back the casket when he listened to the whole story in the durbar.
4. John did not know before the fight that the lone soldier was Shivaji.
5. Adam Smith was not worried about the loss of the small casket.
6. All the three men who attacked Shivaji got killed in the fight.
7. Shivaji was pleased with the heroic fight of John.

**III. Rearrange the following sentences in the order as they occur in the text.**

1. One evening when a Maratha soldier was walking in the fort, three men attacked him violently.
2. At the end, the casket was returned to John.
3. Shivaji expressed his gratitude to John by presenting him precious necklace.
4. John was shocked to know that the Maratha soldier was none other than Shivaji.
5. Shivaji killed the assassin with his sword, the Bhawani.
6. Shivaji refused to give away the casket to John because it belonged to his people.
7. When Shivaji attacked the city of Surat, the Englishmen fled for safety.

## **B. Vocabulary**

**I. Look at the following words,**

**quickness                      swiftness**

The above words are nouns, but they are formed when the suffix “-ness” is added to the adjectives “quick” and “swift.”

Read the passage again, pick out adjectives, and see if they take the suffix ‘-ness’ to form nouns. Check your work using a dictionary. Then write them in your notebook.

## C. Grammar

Read the following passage. Observe the underlined words.

It was the New Year’s Day. It was celebrated by people all over the world. Sushma wanted to buy a bunch of flowers for her teacher. She rushed to the florist. But there was a huge crowd. With great difficulty, she bought one and quickly reached her school. When she entered the class, there were already a heap of greetings and bouquets on the teacher’s table. But the teacher accepted Sushma’s flowers as if they were special. Then she distributed a packet of sweets to all the children. It was a wonderful day for them.

*The above underlined words refer to a group of people or things. Such words are called “collective nouns”.*

I. Write sentences of your own using these collective nouns.

army    group    herd    pile    fleet    flock    bunch

II. Look at the words “secretly”, “luckily”, and “savagely”. They are formed by adding the suffix “-ly” to the adjectives “secret”, “lucky” and “savage”. They are adverbs of manner. They tell us how an action happens.

Read the following passage about Rohini and circle the adverbs of manner. Then pick out the verbs of action that refer to.

Rohini was seriously preparing for the state level dance competition at Ravindra Bharathi. I went along with her mother to see the programme. We were comfortably seated in the first row of the auditorium. She appeared to be an angel on the stage, and danced wonderfully. We watched the programme enthusiastically. Though Rohini performed excellently, her mother was nervous as she waited for the announcement of the winner. After all the participants had finished, the judges took the stage. The results were announced. Unfortunately, Rohini missed the first prize. However, she accepted the second prize, a cheque for Rs.50,000, with tears in her eyes. She voluntarily donated the sum to an orphanage. The audience stood up and loudly applauded her saying “Rohini, you are really generous.”

**III. Fill in the blanks in the following conversation between Rohit and his father. Change the words in brackets into adverbs.**

Father : Your exams are approaching. Are you studying \_\_\_\_\_? (serious)

Rohit : Yes dad, I'm studying all the subjects \_\_\_\_\_.(careful)

Father : Last time you failed in Maths. Are you working \_\_\_\_\_ (thorough) on the exercises?

Rohit : I've revised them several times. Now I can do them \_\_\_\_\_(confident)

Father : I hope you'll do the exam\_\_\_\_\_. (excellent)

Rohit : Sure, dad.

**D. Writing**

**\*I. Write a paragraph on John focussing on his character. Also, talk about the reversal in the attitude of John and Shivaji about each other.**

**II. Given below is a brief biographical sketch of Shivaji.**

Shivaji was born in Shivneri on 10th April, 1627 to Jijabai and Shahaji Bhosle. His father Shahaji was a nobleman in the royal court of Bijapur. Shivaji was named so after Lord Shiva of the Hindu mythology as his mother was an ardent Hindu devotee. Since childhood, Shivaji was brave and never feared anything. There were many instances in his childhood that showed he was a born ruler. At the young age of fourteen, he had the dream of building his kingdom. At the age of 20, he took out his very first military attack and captured the Torna Fort of the kingdom of Bijapur.

After that, there was no stopping for him and he had a series of triumphs. Shivaji was known for his protective and fatherly attitude towards his citizens. He is remembered till date as a hero who worked for the welfare of his subjects and state. Shivaji breathed his last in 1680 after suffering from fever for three whole weeks.

**Based on the information given above and the information you already have, write a brief speech about Shivaji, which you are to deliver on the occasion of naming one of the Houses in the school as "Shivaji House." You may begin like this:**

Dear friends,

It's a matter of great pride and pleasure for me to talk about Shivaji, a brave Maratha king, also known as Chatrapathi.

Shivaji was a born ruler. ....

### How well did I write?

Fill in the boxes using yes/ somewhat/ no.	
I was able to explain / describe / narrate well.	
The sentences I used were properly connected.	
I was able to express my ideas in apt words.	
The ideas were arranged in proper sequence.	
I used proper punctuation marks.	

### How well did I edit my work?

Fill in the boxes using yes/ somewhat/ no.	
I deleted the excess words.	
I corrected the wrong forms of words.	
I corrected the punctuation errors.	
I added new words wherever necessary.	
I corrected the misspelt words.	

## E. Study Skills

Study the following results.

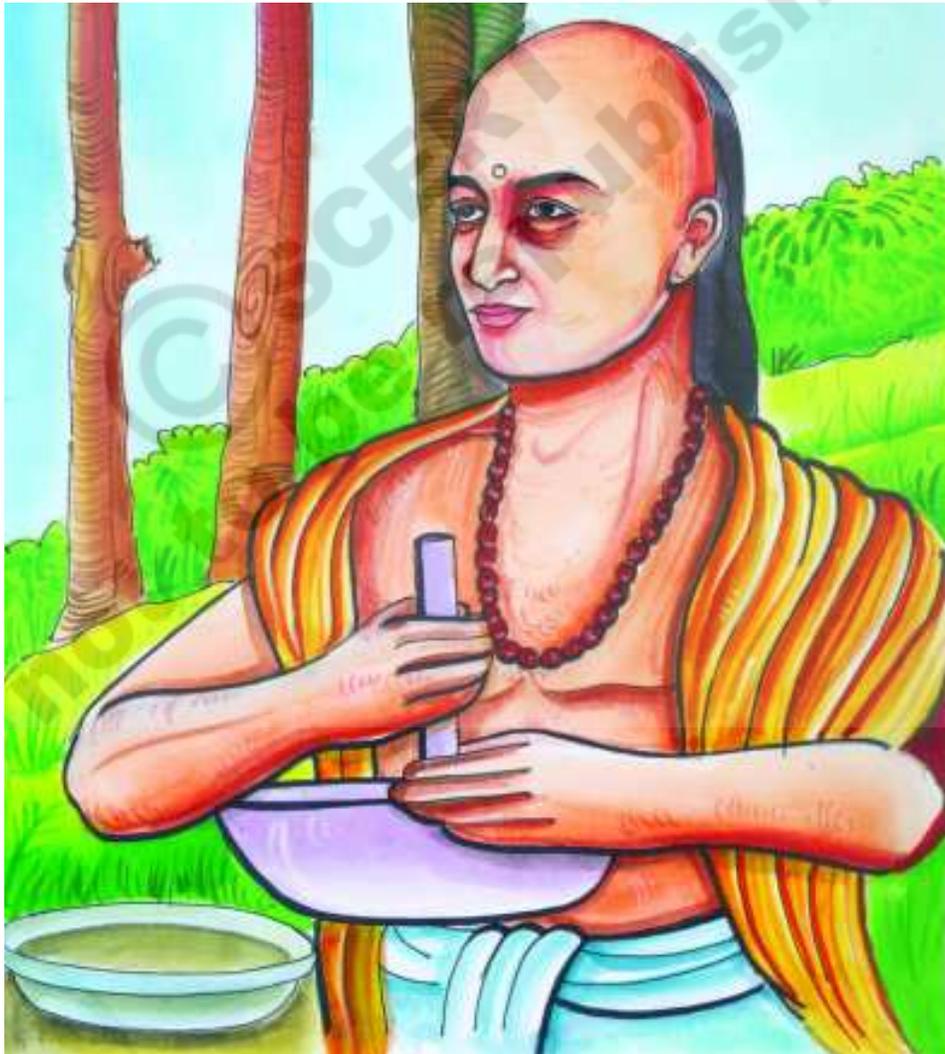
Notice Board			
Z.P. High School, Jillelaguda, Ranga Reddy Dist. (A.P)			
Percentage of marks of students in S.S.C. Examination in 2011.			
Girls	Percentage	Boys	Percentage
Swathi	86	Abhilash	85.6
Swetha	82	Farooq	85
Naga Rani	78	Sai Krishna	79.6
Hemalatha	69	Bhanu Prasad	67.6
Mamatha	68	Uday Kumar	76
Sruthi Geetha	68	Vinod Kumar	76.8
Manjula	67.6	Masanna	71

**Answer the following questions:**

1. Name the school topper.
2. Which two students scored equal percentage?
3. Who got the lowest percentage?
4. How many have scored eighty percent and above?
5. Comment on the overall performance of the students.
6. Who performed well, boys or girls? Support your answer.

## **F. Listening and Speaking**

Your teacher will tell you an interesting story about a great person “Charaka.”  
Listen carefully and do the following exercises.



**I. Fill in the blanks after your teacher has finished reading the story.**

1. Prevention is better than \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Charaka presented the concept of digestion \_\_\_\_\_ and immunity.
3. Charaka \_\_\_\_\_ the anatomy of human body.
4. Charaka gave the number of \_\_\_\_\_ present in the human body including \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Charakasamhita is a great contribution in the field of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Charaka said that the heart is the controlling \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The two ancient physicians who guided Charaka were \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**II. Tick  the correct answer.**

1. A physician should have...  
a) impatience.                      c) arrogance.  
b) sense.                                d) patience.
2. The first person to find out the cause of human sickness was...  
a) Susruta.                              c) Charaka.  
b) Dharmapada.                        d) Charakasamhita.
3. Charaka was a great...  
a) surgeon.                              c) philosopher.  
b) physician.                             d) translator.
4. Charakasamhita was written...  
a) nearly twenty years ago.        c) nearly twenty decades ago.  
b) nearly twenty centuries ago.    d) nearly twenty five years ago.

**III.\* Group work**

Have you ever been to a historic place? Talk about it in your group. Describe the things that you liked / disliked.

## G. Poem

Read the following poem.

### In the Bazaars of Hyderabad



What do you sell, O ye merchants?  
Richly your wares are displayed.  
Turbans of crimson and silver,  
Tunics of purple brocade,  
Mirror with panels of amber,  
Daggers with handles of jade.

What do you weigh, O ye vendors?  
Saffron and lentil and rice  
What do you grind, O ye maidens?  
Sandalwood, henna, and spice.  
What do you call, O ye peddlers?  
Chessman and ivory dice.

What do you make, O ye goldsmiths?  
Wristlets and anklets and ring,  
Bells for the feet of blue pigeons  
Frail as a dragonfly's wing,  
Girdles of gold for dancers,  
Scabbards of gold for the king.

What do you cry, O ye fruitmen?  
Citron, pomegranate, and plum.  
What do you play, O ye magicians?  
Spells for aeons to come.

What do you weave, O ye flowergirls  
With tassels of azure and red?  
Crowns for the brow of a bridegroom,  
Chaplets to garland his bed,  
Sheets of white blossoms new-garnered  
To perfume the sleep of the dead.

- Sarojini Naidu



## Glossary

O ye:	a meaning “you” used in the past especially to address more than one person
wares (n):	goods that someone sells in a market or on the street
brocade (n):	expensive thick cloth with a pattern woven into it
amber (n):	a hard yellow-brown substance used for making jewellery
jade (n):	a precious stone used for making jewellery and art objects
vendor (s):	someone who sells something
peddler (s):	someone who goes from one place to another selling things
ivory (n):	the yellowish white bone that an elephant’s tusk is made of
dice (n):	a small block with six sides marked with spots
frail (v):	thin and delicate
scabbards (n):	a cover for the blade of a sword or dagger
aeon (s):	an extremely long period of time
tassels (n):	a group of strings tied together at one end and fastened to clothing or objects for decoration
azure (n):	bright blue
chaplets (n):	a circle of flowers and leaves that you wear on your head

### How well did I read?

Fill in the boxes using yes/ somewhat/ no.	
I enjoyed reading the poem.	
I got the idea of the poem on my own.	
I got the idea with the help of my friends in the group.	
The teacher helped me to understand the poem.	
I used the glossary given at the end of the poem.	

### Answer the following questions:

1. What is the poet talking about in the first stanza?
2. What is that you like most about the poem?
3. Which words or images describe the grandeur of the market?
4. What impression do you form about the market?
5. \*When you happen to visit the bazaars of Hyderabad, what things in the poem come to your mind?

## H. Project

Collect details about some historical persons like Srikrishna Devaraya, Harsha, Ashoka, and write a biographical sketch. Display it on the wall magazine or publish it in the school magazine. Talk about the significance of their rule.

## I. Extensive Reading

Read this biographical sketch of a famous musician.

### Tyagaraja, the Immortal Musician

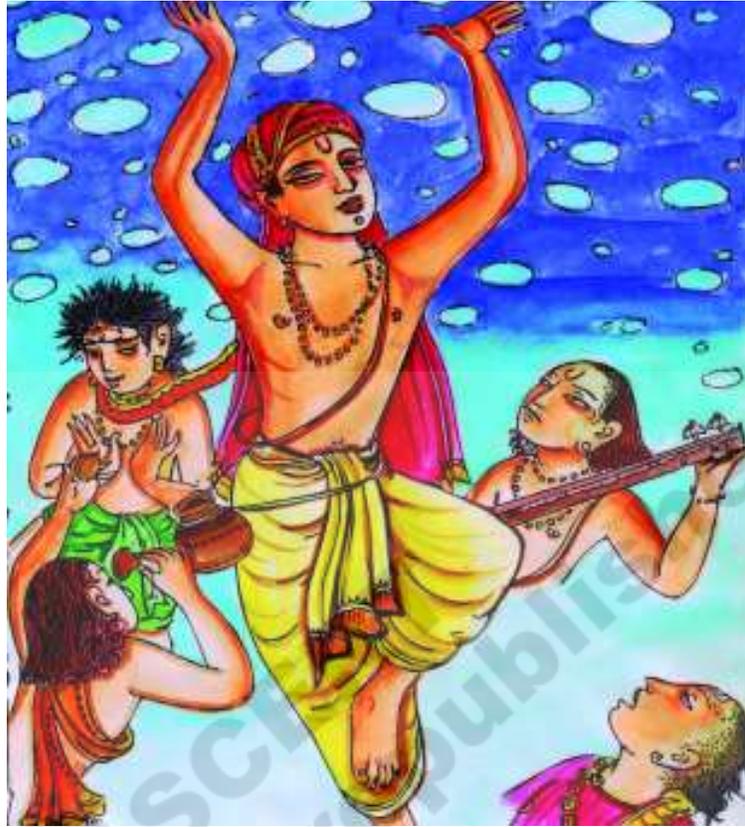
Tyagaraja was a gifted musician. He was also a great composer of songs. He composed as many as seven hundred songs in Telugu. There were three great composers in Carnatic music. They were, Tyagaraja, Shyama Sastri and Muthuswami Dikshitar. Among them Tyagaraja was the greatest and most famous. Tyagaraja was also a great saint. He was a great devotee of Lord Rama, whom he worshipped in his house every day. He even had “darshan” of the Lord, people say.

Tyagaraja was born at Tiruvarur in Tanjavur District of Tamil Nadu on May 4, 1767. He was the third child of his parents, Ramabrahmam and Sitamma. They spoke Telugu at home. Tyagaraja had an elder brother named Panchapakesan or Jalpesan.

There was music in Tyagaraja’s blood. His mother was a good singer. He had his first lessons in music from her. His father was a good scholar in Telugu and Sanskrit. He learnt both the languages from him. When he was seven years old, the family moved to a village called Thiruvaiyaru.

Tyagaraja was interested in music from his childhood. Even as a young boy he used to compose songs and write them on the walls of his house. Noticing his son’s interest in music, his father took him to Sonti Venkataramayya, a musician at the court of King Sarabhoji of Tanjavur. Tyagaraja became his disciple and learnt music from him.





When he grew up, he spent most of his time composing songs and singing them in front of the idol of Lord Rama in his house. He married at the age of eighteen. He had only one child, a daughter named Sitalakshmi. Once a week, he went along the streets singing songs in praise of God and maintained his family with what people gave him. He never cared for wealth. He did not want to join the royal court. But his elder brother, Jalpesan, wanted him to earn money through his music.

One day the Raja of Tanjavur invited Tyagaraja to sing in his court. He offered him a gift of fifty acres of land and a lot of gold coins. But Tyagaraja refused to sing in the King's Court. Jalpesan, his elder brother was wild with anger. "Your Rama is not going to give you food. Why don't you sing in the king's court? We can be rich and live a happy life." he said to Tyagaraja. But Tyagaraja did not heed his brother's words. Jalpesan took the idol of Lord Rama and threw it into the river Kaveri.

Not finding his deity at home, Tyagaraja was in a great sorrow. He composed many songs in praise of Lord Rama and sang them with great feeling. After two months he had a dream. In his dream, he saw the place where his idol of Lord Rama was lying. The next morning he went to the place, found the idol and brought it back home. In a joyful mood, he sang many fine songs in praise of his deity.

In his old age, Tyagaraja set out on a pilgrimage. He went to Tirupathi to have “darshan” of Lord Venkateshwara. In the temple he saw a curtain in front of the image of Lord Venkateshwara. He could not see the Lord’s image. He was disappointed. Then he sang a song expressing a strong desire to see the Lord. As he sang, the curtain parted and he had ‘darshan’ of Lord Venkateshwara.

After his pilgrimage, Tyagaraja returned to Thiruvaiyaru and spent the rest of his days there. He composed songs in praise of his deity and sang them with great devotion. One day, when he was eighty years old, he said to his disciples, “I am going to join my Lord Rama tomorrow.” The next day he passed away.

But Tyagaraja lives through his music. He is as popular today as he was two hundred years ago. Today Thiruvaiyaru is a place of pilgrimage for musicians. In the month of January every year, musicians from all over South India gather at Tiruvaiyur to sing his songs and show their regard to the great saint musician.

### Glossary

composer (n):	a person who makes songs
grief (n):	a great sorrow
pilgrimage (n):	a journey to a holy place
heed (v):	to pay attention to something

### How well did I read?

Fill in the boxes using yes/ somewhat/ no.	
I enjoyed reading the passage.	
I got the idea of the passage on my own.	
I got the idea with the help of my friends in the group.	
The teacher helped me to understand the passage.	
I used the glossary given at the end of the passage.	

### Answer the following questions:

1. Why does the writer say that Tyagaraja was an immortal musician?
- \*2. Which part of the passage is appealing to you? Why?
- \*3. Does this remind you of any other eminent musicians like Bhaktha Ramadasu? Who are they? How are they similar to or different from Tyagaraja?