

16

16.03.2009

Leela's Friend~~Ch~~ XI

MONDAY

WEEK 12 DAY (250-270)

MARCH

Character of Siddha.

L.F. by P.P.

Siddha has been described in the story as a very responsible servant of the Sivashankar household and a reliable and constant companion of Leela. He performed all his duties faithfully and took good care of Leela. He had a great imaginative faculty and from his imagination sprung stories that enthralled Leela. He had great power of convincing little Leela and he made her believe that he had the power to control the moon. He had no interest in studies and never learnt anything that Leela tried to teach him. He also had no idea how to prove his innocence when he was accused of stealing the chain. He remained speechless throughout and fell victim because he belonged to the lower class whose voice is never heard.

Why Siddha's company made Leela 'supremely happy'? Why was Leela so fond of Siddha's company?

In Leela's friend Leela, 5 year old daughter of Mr and Mrs Sivashankar makes friendship with their newly appointed servant

MARCH '09

Notes

Mon	10	02	09	16	23
Tue	11	03	10	17	24
Wed		04	11	18	25
Thu		05	12	19	26
Fri		06	13	20	27
Sat		07	14	21	28
Sun	01	08	15	22	29

2009
MARCH 9

WEEK - 12 / DAY (289-076)

17.03.2009

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TUESDAY

Sidda. Sidda's stay at Shivarankar's house turned out to be much enjoyable and invigorating to little Leela. In him Leela found a reliable companion who would be willing to carry out her orders and demands behind his routine jobs, thereby Sidda's company made her supremely happy. On the other hand Siddha was an imaginative storyteller who could easily touch the "mind" of Leela. Siddha showed Leela the tricks regarding the ball and the moon. He motivated her to believe that it touched the moon before coming down and a little bit of the moon stuck to it. Even in the bed time Sidda had to be ready with a story. He sat down on the floor near the bed and told incomparable stories of animals in the jungle, of Gods in heaven, of magicians who could conjure up golden castles and fill them with little princesses and their pets. In this way, Sidda ~~came~~ came closer to Leela who perhaps had never received such company and close friendship from her parents. These are the things that made Leela supremely happy.

APRIL '09

Mon		06	13	20	27
Tue		07	14	21	28
Wed	01	08	15	22	29
Thu	02	09	16	23	30
Fri	03	10	17	24	
Sat	04	11	18	25	
		12	19	26	

What were Sidda's duties at Mr. Sivasankar's house? What was he given in return of his work? What duties did Siddha perform at Sivasankar's house? What was given to Sidda in exchange of his duties? Was he merely a servant?

In the short story Leela's Friend by R.K. Narayan, Sidda worked as a servant at Mr. Sivasankar's house. His duty was to wash clothes, tend the garden, run errands, chop the wood and look after Leela.

In exchange of his work, Sidda was given 2 meals a day and 4 rupees a month. He had to sleep outside the house as he was the servant of the house.

There is no denying of the fact that S joined the house as a servant but gradually he became Leela's favourite friend. Though he was ill treated by Leela's parents, but Leela always wanted to be in his company.

How did Leela try to teach Sidda?

Leela used to make Sidda squat on the floor with a pencil between his

MARCH '09

Notes

Mon	30	02	09	16	23
Tue	31	03	10	17	24
Wed		04	11	18	25
Thu		05	12	19	26
Fri		06	13	20	27

2 MARCH 9

WEEK - 12 / DAY (287-078)

19.03.2009

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THURSDAY

fingers and a catalogue in front of him. She then used to command him to write and Sidda had to try to copy whatever Leela wrote in the pages. When Sidda failed to copy Leela's writings and drawings, Leela would rebuke Sidda and double her efforts to teach him. But Sidda, though he had an excellent rapport with the moon, was incapable of studying and Leela used to keep him there pinned to his seat, till his stiffly inflexible wrist cracked. Sidda then used to say that he thought Leela's mother was calling her to dinner and that would end the school hour.

APRIL '09

Mon	06	13	20	27	
Tue	07	14	21	28	
Wed	01	08	15	22	29
Thu	02	09	16	23	30
Fri	03	10	17	24	
		11	18	25	