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Class-X

English

# Footprints without Feet

Chapter-9



CLAIRE BOIKO

## The Book That Saved the Earth

Part - 3

Neha Rajvanshi

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THINK-TANK : Therefore, I order you to listen to them.

OMEGA : Listen to them?

IOTA AND OOP : (to each other, puzzled) Listen to them?

THINK-TANK : Do you have marbles in your ears? I said, listen to them.

(Martians bow very low.)

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OMEGA : It shall be done, sir. (They each take two books from the case, and hold them to their ears, listening intently.)

IOTA : (whispering to Omega) Do you hear anything?

OMEGA : (whispering back) Nothing. Do you hear anything, Oop?

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OOP : (loudly) Not a thing! (Omega and Iota jump in fright.)

OMEGA AND IOTA : Sh-h-h! (They listen intently again.)

THINK-TANK : Well? Well? Report to me. What do you hear?

OMEGA : Nothing, sir. Perhaps we are not on the correct frequency.

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IOTA : Nothing, sir. Perhaps the Earthlings have sharper ears than we do.

OOP : I don't hear a thing. Maybe these sandwiches don't make sounds.

THINK-TANK : What? Does somebody suggest the Mighty Think-Tank has made a mistake?

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twirling : उड़ता हुआ

OMEGA : Oh, no, sir; no, sir. We'll keep listening.

NOODLE : Please excuse me, your Brilliance, but a cloudy piece of information is twirling around in my head.

THINK-TANK : Well, twirl it out, Noodle, and I will clarify it for you.

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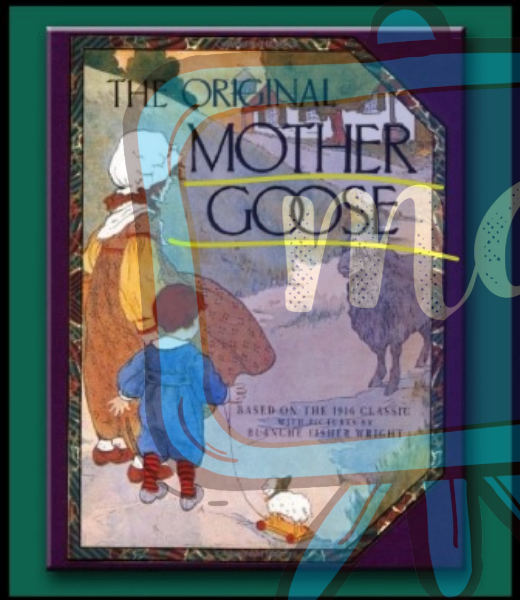

NOODLE : I seem to recall that the Earthlings did not listen to the sandwiches; they opened them and watched them.

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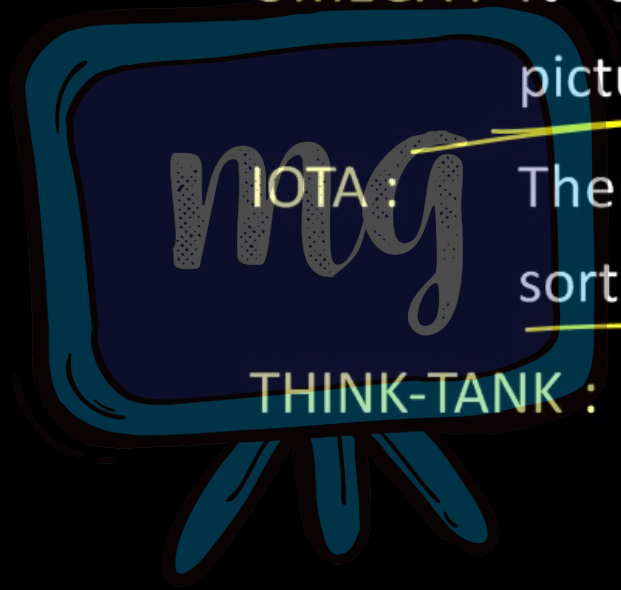
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THINK-TANK : Yes, that is quite correct, I will clarify that for you, Captain Omega. Those sandwiches are not for ear communication, they are for eye communication. Now, Captain Omega, take that large, colourful sandwich over there. It appears to be important.

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Tell me what you observe. (Omega picks up a very large volume of Mother Goose, holding it so that the audience can see the title. Iota looks over her left shoulder, and Oop peers over her right shoulder.)



OMEGA : It appears to contain pictures of Earthlings.

IOTA : There seems to be some sort of code.

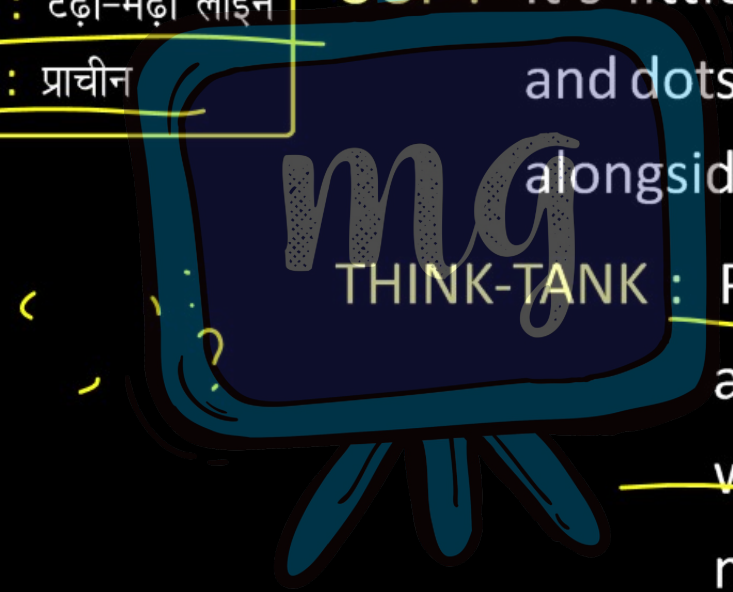
THINK-TANK : (sharply interested) Code? I told you this was important. Describe the code.

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squiggles : टेढ़ी-मेढ़ी लाइन

primitive : प्राचीन



OOP : It's little lines and squiggles and dots — thousands of them alongside the pictures.

THINK-TANK : Perhaps the Earthlings are not as primitive as we have thought. We must break the code.

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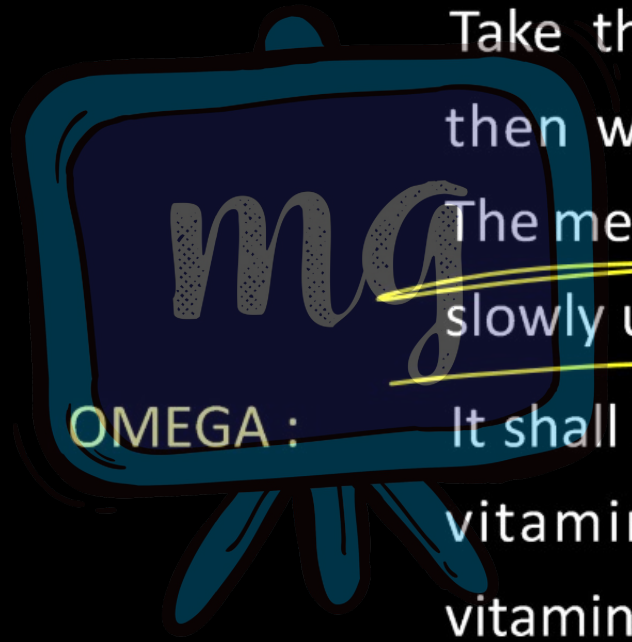
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NOODLE : Forgive me, your Cleverness, but did not the chemical department give our space people vitamins to increase their intelligence?

THINK-TANK : Stop! A thought of magnificent brilliance has come to me. Space people, our chemical department has given you vitamins to increase your intelligence.

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Take them immediately and then watch the sandwich. The meaning of the code will slowly unfold before you.

OMEGA : It shall be done, sir. Remove vitamins. (Crew takes vitamins from boxes on their belts.) Present vitamins.

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simultaneously: एक साथ

(They hold vitamins out in front of them, stiffly.) Swallow vitamins. (They pop the vitamins into their mouths and gulp simultaneously.

They open their eyes wide, their heads shake, and they put their hands to their foreheads.)

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decipher : कूटवाचन करना

THINK-TANK : Excellent. Now, decipher that code.

ALL : It shall be done, sir. (They frown over the book, turning pages.)

OMEGA : (brightly) Aha!

IOTA : (brightly) Oho!

OOP : (bursting into laughter) Ha, ha, ha.

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Transcribe: अनुवाद करना

THINK-TANK : What does it say? Tell me this instant. Transcribe, Omega.

OMEGA : Yes, sir. (She reads with great seriousness.)

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Mistress Mary, quite contrary

How does your garden grow?

With cockle shells and silver bells

And pretty maids all in a row.

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levity: मजाक/लापरवाही

OOP : Ha, ha, ha. Imagine that. Pretty maids growing in a garden.

THINK-TANK : (alarmed) Stop! This is no time for levity. Don't you realise the seriousness of this discovery? The Earthlings have discovered how to combine agriculture and mining.

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explosives: विस्फोटक



They can actually grow crops of rare metals such as silver. And cockle shells. They can grow high explosives, too. Noodle, contact our invasion fleet.

NOODLE : They are ready to go down and take over Earth, sir.

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gravely: गंभीरता से

THINK-TANK : Tell them to hold. Tell them new information has come to us about Earth. Iota, transcribe.

IOTA : Yes, sir. (She reads very gravely.)

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Hey diddle diddle! The cat and the fiddle,

The cow jumped over the moon,

The little dog laughed to see such sport,

And the dish ran away with the spoon.

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OOP : (laughing) The dish ran away with the spoon!

THINK-TANK : Cease laughter. Desist. This is more and more alarming. The Earthlings have reached a high level of civilisation. Didn't you hear? They have taught their domesticated animals musical culture and space techniques.

Cease : रूकना
Desist: रूकना

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interplanetary :
ग्रहों के बीच

Even their dogs have a sense of humour. Why, at this very moment, they may be launching an interplanetary attack of millions of cows! Notify the invasion fleet. No invasion today Oop, transcribe the next code.