

THE DAY THE RIVER SPOKE

ABOUT KAMALA NAIR:

Kamla Nair is an Indian writer known for writing children's literature

Her stories often focus on:

1. Everyday life situations
2. Social issues like education and gender equality
3. Strong, thoughtful young characters

Writing style:

- Simple, clear, and engaging
- Uses imagination to convey meaningful messages

Narrative Style: Third-person narrative, written in simple and descriptive language, includes dialogues and uses personification.

Category: A fictional short story with elements of social realism and fantasy.

Tone of the Text: Emotional, hopeful and encouraging, inspirational.

Word Meanings:

1. Bask in the sun – to sit or lie in the sunlight and enjoy its warmth
2. Soul in sight – not a single person visible nearby
3. Puzzled – confused; unable to understand something
4. Mind your brother – take care of your brother
5. Breathless – out of breath; unable to breathe normally
6. Startled – suddenly surprised or frightened
7. Panting – breathing quickly with difficulty (often after running)
8. Crept – moved slowly and quietly
9. Squatting – sitting close to the ground with knees bent
10. Earthen – made of earth or clay
11. Scratching – rubbing or digging the skin or surface with nails
12. Nodding – moving the head up and down to show agreement or understanding
13. Make out – to understand something
14. Chuckle – to laugh quietly or softly

List of Characters:

1. Jahnavi – A young girl who dreams of going to

school

2. Father – Believes only boys should be educated
3. Mother – Busy with household work; depends on Jahnavi
4. Brothers – Go to school; represent privilege
5. Younger sibling – Cared for by Jahnavi
6. River – Personified guide, friend and motivator
7. Teacher – Supports Jahnavi and convinces her parents to let her go to school

Themes :

1. Importance of Education
2. Gender Equality
3. Courage and Self-Belief
4. Power of Encouragement
5. Inner Voice and Determination

SUMMARY:

Jahnavi, a young girl, longs to go to school but is held back by family responsibilities. One day, she sits by the river feeling sad and helpless. The river, personified, speaks to her and encourages her to be brave. Motivated, Jahnavi gathers courage and goes to school despite her fears. With support from her teacher, her parents agree, and her dream of

education begins.

Why the River Was Personified?

1. To act as Jahnavi's guide (Without the river, Jahnavi would likely remain silent and helpless)
2. To represent inner voice and courage (The river can also be seen as:
 - Jahnavi's inner thoughts
 - Her hidden courage and desire to learn
 - The river says what Jahnavi is afraid to say aloud.)
3. To symbolize nature as a source of wisdom (It shows that wisdom and inspiration can come from unexpected places.)
4. To make the story engaging for young readers

Message of the story:

1. Education is the right of every child, especially girls
2. Courage and small steps can bring big change
3. Self-belief helps overcome social barriers
4. One voice of support can transform a life
5. Determination leads to success