

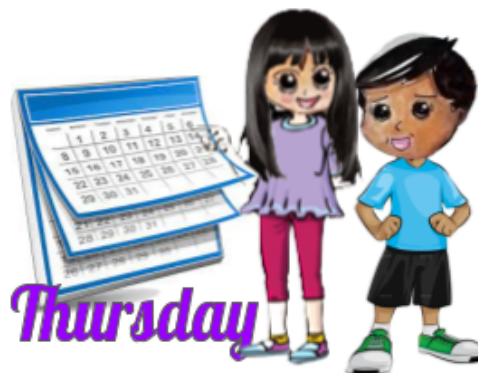


Summer Time



Alok and Vidya's mother told them that a surprise was waiting for them in their room. They rushed upstairs to their room and saw a letter from their Grandmother inviting all four of them to visit her that summer.

Alok told Vidya that he didn't remember what 'Nani's' house looked like. Vidya told him that's because he was only four years old, the last time they visited her. Vidya was just as delighted as Alok to know that they would be leaving next Thursday. They both ran to mark the dates on the calendar.





It was finally Thursday and their train was at 10 in the morning.

Alok ran out to get some 'Chameli' flowers from their garden as he remembered that his Nani always wore a string of those in her hair. He carefully wrapped them in brown paper and put it in his bag. Mother prepared some snacks for their journey and kept some candies in her purse too.



They all set out for the train station in a rickshaw. However, there was a roadblock on their way and they missed the train. Vidya and Alok were very disappointed. Father then said they could go to the bus station and catch a bus and still make it to Nani's house.





Vidya and Alok were so excited about the bus journey. They got their favourite seats in the bus, right next to the conductor, and soon started to talk with him.



They told him all about their last visit, and how they made houses of twigs and leaves next to the river. Vidya remembered the neighbour's dog, Baloo, who would wake her up every morning with his bark. Alok remembered Baloo growling every time he tried to touch his fur.



They reached just before dark. Their grandmother was waiting at the gate of her house and they both ran towards her to give her a hug. As soon as they kept their bags in the room, they washed their hands and came down to have some biscuits and 'Vadas'.