

PRIYA'S MIRROR



STUDENT MATERIALS

REGIONAL
ENGLISH
LANGUAGE
OFFICE



U.S. Embassy, India

PRIYA'S MIRROR



Read the comic book, "Priya's Mirror" at
<https://www.priyashakti.com/priyas-mirror>



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PRIYA'S MIRROR

BEFORE YOU READ

A. Meet Priya

Priya is a young woman who fights for justice and the common good. Look at the picture of her and her tiger friend, Sahas. How would *you* describe her? Discuss your ideas in pairs.

Example:

I think Priya is unusual because she has a tiger friend.

I agree. I also think Priya is brave because she can ride a tiger.



B. Critical thinking

In pairs, brainstorm a list of adjectives to describe Priya.

Example: *unusual, brave*

LEARN HOW TO LEARN!

Words with opposite meanings are **antonyms**, for example, *dirty* and *clean*, or *unusual* and *common*.

C. Vocabulary

Look at the adjectives you listed in Activity B. Give an antonym for each. Then, use it in a sentence.

Example: *It isn't common for people to ride tigers.*

D. Predicting

Look at the cover of the comic and read the title. Think about the following questions. Discuss your answers in pairs.

- 1 Priya fights for justice. What group of people is Priya helping in this story?
- 2 Why do you think Priya is using a mirror? How do you think it might be used in the story?

WHILE YOU READ

PAGE 3-4

A. Using visual cues

Look at the pictures on the page. Tell the story in your own words.

LEARN HOW TO LEARN!

Words with the same meanings are **synonyms**, for example, *nice* and *kind*, or *angry* and *upset*.

B. Vocabulary

In pairs, find the words on the pages. Then, match the words with their synonyms. Use a dictionary if necessary.

1 beautiful

2 strange

3 heavy

4 nightmares

5 regained

6 control

A recovered

B lovely

C power over

D sad

E weird

F bad dreams

C. Comprehension

Read the pages and complete the sentences with the words from Activity B.

Priya stopped at the place because she thought it was **1** _____. She went swimming, but then she felt the place was **2** _____, and she felt very **3** _____ and tired. Priya went to sleep, and she had some **4** _____ about terrible things that happened to her. When she woke up and **5** _____, she wanted to help others to take back **6** _____ of their lives.

A. Using visual cues

Look at the pictures on the page. Describe the two environments you see. In groups, discuss the following questions.

- 1 What are the places? What is the weather like in each place?
- 2 Is it easy for people to live in these places? Why or why not?
- 3 What things do you notice in each place?

B. Vocabulary

Read the sentences. Match the underlined words to the definitions.

- 1 Priya shows courage when she fights for the rights of others in dangerous situations.
- 2 The fire destroyed the forest, but the building did not burn.
- 3 The land is not fertile, so nothing can grow there.
- 4 The castle is a sanctuary for women who cannot live peacefully in their communities.
- 5 Many organizations run programs to teach young people new skills and jobs.
- 6 The hunter shot the tiger and wounded it.
- 7 The boy was disfigured in a bicycle accident, so he is going to have surgery on his face.
- 8 There was a terrible plague and all the plants died.
- 9 I burned my fingers with some acid in chemistry class.

- A** ended or ruined completely
- B** a safe place
- C** a disease that affects a lot of people, animals or plants
- D** hurt or injured
- E** to damage in a way that changes the appearance, often of a person's face or body



- F** able to produce life or support the growth of plants
- G** bravery
- H** a liquid chemical that can cause burning
- I** to manage, lead or control something

C. Critical thinking

Read the sentences in Activity B again. Which sentences could describe the picture? Why?

D. Comprehension

Read the page and answer the questions.

- 1 Who is the man?
- 2 Where does he work?
- 3 What does he know about Priya?
- 4 What happened to the man's village?
- 5 Who is Ahankar? Who does he help?
- 3 What does he know about Priya?

PAGE 6-7

A. Using visual cues

Look at the pictures on the page. Tell the story in your own words.

B. Vocabulary

Read the sentences. Choose the correct meaning of the underlined words.

- 1 On a sojourn through the countryside, we saw many animals, birds and trees.
A house B plan C trip
- 2 I couldn't see the color of his eyes because I only saw his face from afar.
A a distance B the back C a long time ago
- 3 Her grandmother always brought presents, so she waited anxiously for her by the door.
A nervously B calmly C carelessly
- 4 The beautiful outfits were mesmerizing! I couldn't stop looking at them.
A shocking B unpleasant C fascinating
- 5 I was disgusted when I heard them using bad words.
A pleased B very upset C a long time ago
- 6 We couldn't leave because we were enraptured by his speech.
A bothered B bored C delighted

C. Comprehension

Read the pages and choose the correct answer.

- 1 What was Anjali's song about?
A Rafi B a man C the moon
- 2 What did Anjali's voice make Rafi think of?
A his home B his sister C the moon
- 3 What happened when Rafi first talked to Anjali?
A She was disgusted. B She was embarrassed. C She was happy.
- 4 Why did Rafi like Anjali?
A Because she was beautiful.
B Because she was the only woman in the castle.
C Because of her wonderful singing.

D. Critical thinking

Look at the picture and read the text. Do you think Ahankar is a good man? Why or why not?

E. Predicting

In pairs, discuss what you think happened to Anjali and why.



A. Using visual cues

Look at the picture and read the text.
What happened to Anjali? Why?



B. Vocabulary

Find the words and phrases on page 8 and match them to their meanings. Use a dictionary if necessary.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1 ___ not interested | A lived through something difficult |
| 2 ___ go out | B feel good about oneself |
| 3 ___ confident | C go on a date |
| 4 ___ confront | D don't want to go on a date |
| 5 ___ endured | E meet a challenge |

C. Comprehension

Read the pages. Put the events in the correct order from 1-6.

- A** ___ Anjali confronted Raj in order to tell him she didn't want him to ask her out again.
- B** ___ Anjali was first in her class but couldn't get a job.
- C** ___ Raj threw acid on Anjali.
- D** ___ Ahankar offered Anjali a place in his home for girls like her.
- E** ___ Raj asked Anjali to go out with him many times.
- F** ___ Anjali took her final exam in law school.

D. Confirming predictions

Think about your prediction about Anjali's past.
Were you correct?

E. Critical thinking

Look at the picture and read the text.
Why do you think Anjali said this to Rafi?



PAGE 10-11

A. Using visual cues

Look at the pictures on the page. Tell the story in your own words.

B. Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with the correct words or phrases. Use a dictionary if necessary.

benevolent
prison

false hope
shock

filthy
spewing

moat
turned (our) gaze

- 1 The elephant was beautiful, so we all _____ to watch it walk toward the water.
- 2 She is a _____ woman. She gives her time and money to help the poor.
- 3 I can't wear this shirt to my interview! It's _____!
- 4 The train accident was awful. Don't give them _____ that their son survived it.
- 5 When I failed my exam, I was in _____. I had studied so much!
- 6 The pipe broke, _____ dirty water into the road.
- 7 The castle was surrounded by a _____ filled with water.
- 8 The police took the criminal back to _____ after he escaped.

C. Comprehension

Read the sentences. Tick the true sentences.

- 1 _____ Ahankar doesn't believe Rafi has good intentions toward Anjali.
- 2 _____ Anjali helps Raji escape from the dungeon.
- 3 _____ Ahankar's sanctuary is a prison for Anjali and the other women.
- 4 _____ Ahankar is a kind man disguised as a demon.
- 5 _____ Ahankar's castle is protected by acid.

PAGE 12-13

A. Using visual cues

Look at picture and read the text. Answer the questions.

- 1 Who do you think Priya is talking to?
- 2 What did the artist do to show this woman is special?



B. Comprehension

Scan the pages quickly. Who is Priya talking to in the picture above?

C. Vocabulary

Read and choose the correct meaning of the underlined word.

- 1 The thief fooled everyone by hiding the gold in his shoes. **helped / tricked**
- 2 He was cruel to his friend. He often said untrue things about him to others. **unkind / crazy**
- 3 I know we can defeat their team! We are playing very well! **beat / win**
- 4 The villain in the movie was awful! He stole money from a baby! **hero / bad character**
- 5 She was imprisoned for 10 years for killing her husband. **put in jail / let go**

LEARN HOW TO LEARN!

Language can be **literal** or **figurative**. When language is literal, the meaning of the words is obvious. For example, *Ahankar has imprisoned the women in the castle*. When language is figurative, we have to think about the meaning because the words may have other meanings. For example, *Ahankar has imprisoned the women in their fears*. We know that there was not a prison made from the fears of the women. This would not be possible, but we can understand that this sentence means Ahankar makes the women afraid to leave his castle.

D. Vocabulary

Answer the questions.

- 1 How does *Ahankar imprison the women in their fears*? Read the page and find examples.
- 2 Look at the picture and read the text. Does the text use the literal or figurative meaning of *come from*? Read the pages to confirm your answer.



LEARN HOW TO LEARN!

We often use **because** to give a reason, for example, *Rafi was looking for Priya because he needed her help*. **Because** is a subordinating conjunction. We do not use a comma when **because** begins the second clause. However, if we begin the sentence with **Because**, we do need a comma, for example, **Because** he needed her help, Rafi was looking for Priya.

E. Comprehension

Read the pages. Match the sentences and the reasons.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 ____ According to Ahankar, no one can love the women... | A because Ahankar is lying to the women. |
| 2 ____ According to Ahankar, the disfigured women should stay with him... | B because she doesn't know his story and background. |
| 3 ____ Priya goes to the Goddess Parvati... | C because other people are cruel. |
| 4 ____ The Goddess Parvati tells Priya not confront Ahankar right now... | D because they are disfigured. |

PAGES 14-15

A. Using visual cues

Look at the pictures on the page. Tell the story in your own words.

B. Comprehension

Read the pages. Answer the questions.

- 1 What did Prem do for Kusum?
- 2 Who is Kusum afraid of?
- 3 Is Prem afraid of these people? Why or why not?

LEARN HOW TO LEARN!

Sometimes people tell us things without saying them directly. For example, Meena said, "I had my umbrella, but I still got wet on my way home!" Meena didn't tell us about the weather, but we can infer what it was like. She had her umbrella, and we know she got wet, so we can **infer** that it was raining heavily. Remember that inferences are guesses, so it is not possible to be 100% sure! But, being able to make an inference is a useful critical thinking tool.

C. Critical thinking

Look at the picture and answer the questions.

- 1 What kind of poem do you think Prem wrote to Kusum? Why?
- 2 Describe Kusum's attitude and behavior towards Prem before and after this picture. How is it different?
- 3 Why do you think Kusum said these things to Prem?



D. Role Play

In groups, pretend to be Kusum, Prem and Kusum's brothers. Look at the picture and read the text. Role play the conversation that you think happens after this.



PAGES 16-17

A. Using visual cues

Look at the pictures on the page. Tell the story in your own words.

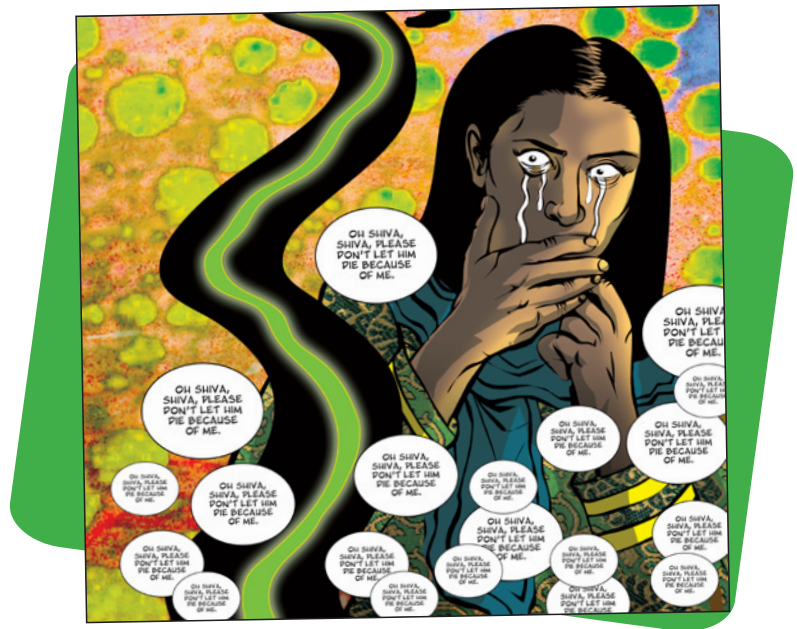
B. Comprehension

Read the pages. Answer the questions.

- 1 What do Kusum's brothers think she should be doing?
- 2 Does Prem fight Kusum's brothers? What does he do?
- 3 What do Kusum's brothers do to Prem after they beat him?
- 4 How does Kusum feel about what her brothers have done?

C. Using visual cues

Look at the picture and read the text. Why do you think the same text is repeated many times?



D. Speaking

In groups, discuss the questions.

- 1 Why do you think Kusum stood by and let her brothers force Prem to drink the acid?
- 2 What do you think Prem could have said to Kusum's brothers in order to stop them?
- 3 How do you think Kusum feels about her brothers after they hurt Prem? Why?

PAGES 18-19

A. Using visual cues

Look at the pictures on the pages. Who do you think the people are in this part of the story? Why?

B. Vocabulary

Read the sentences. Match the underlined words to their definitions.

- 1 ___ The money from Dr. Kumar was a boon to our school. We got many new books for the library.
- 2 ___ Monkeys have strong tails, enabling them to hang from trees with them.
- 3 ___ Nihita was the victor of the tennis match, beating the other player in only 30 minutes.
- 4 ___ His wounds are not serious, but he is in a lot of pain.

A allowing or permitting B injures, often with cuts C winner D a help or a blessing

C. Comprehension

Read the pages. Tick the true sentence.

- 1 ___ Shiva heard Kusum's prayers.
- 2 ___ Shiva drank the acid for Prem.
- 3 ___ Shiva helped Prem because Parvati asked him to.
- 4 ___ The acid had no effect on Prem at all. He was the same as before.
- 5 ___ Prem has no control over his future.

D. Critical thinking

Look at the picture and read the text.
What do you think Shiva's words mean?



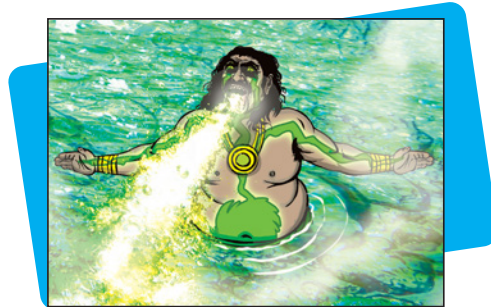
PAGES 20-21

A. Using visual cues

Look at the pictures on the page. Tell the story in your own words.

B. Vocabulary

Look at the pictures of Prem and Ahankar. In groups, make a list of words or phrases to describe each of them. Use a dictionary if necessary.



C. Comprehension

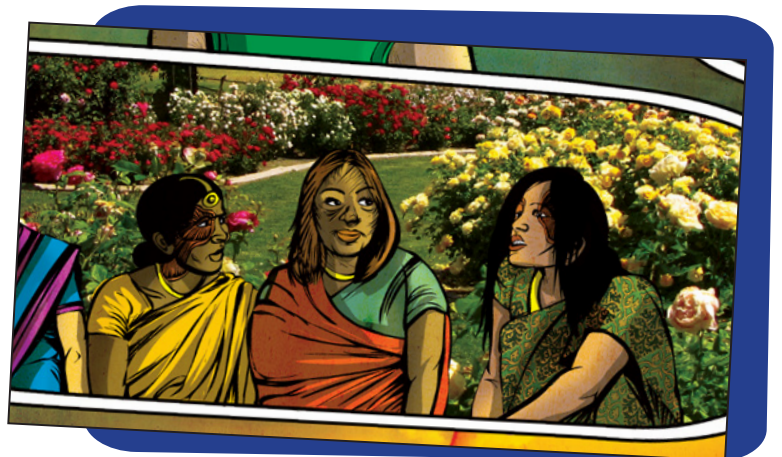
Read the pairs of sentences. Which even came first? Write 1 next to that sentence. Write the number 2 next to the other sentence.

- 1 ___ Prem's appearance changed.
___ Prem swallowed the acid.
- 2 ___ Ahankar killed Kusum's brothers.
___ Prem became Ahankar.
- 3 ___ Ahankar disfigured Kusum with acid.
___ Ahankar promised to look after Kusum.
- 4 ___ Other disfigured women went to live with Ahankar.
___ Ahankar built a castle for disfigured women.

D. Vocabulary

Look at the picture. Circle the correct words. Use a dictionary if necessary.

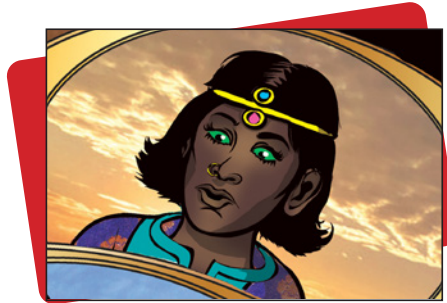
Ahankar has not been here because the flowers are **flourishing** / **fading**, and the land is **fertile** / **desolate**.



PAGES 22-23

A. Using visual cues

Look at the pictures of Priya. In pairs, describe her emotions or feelings in each.



B. Comprehension

Read the pages. Choose the correct answers.

- 1 Parvati gives Priya ...
A a mirror B courage C a weapon
- 2 Parvati's gift shows people their own ...
A love B bravery C journey
- 3 In the past, Priya was ... but she refused to be trapped by this feeling.
A afraid B loved C unkind
- 4 Anjali thinks Rafi is ...
A in trouble B hiding from her C not sincere
- 5 Anjali thinks that only ... will take care of her.
A Priya B Rafi C Ahankar
- 6 Anjali doesn't want to abandon ...
A Ahankar B the other women C her brothers and sisters

C. Vocabulary

Find the following words on the pages. Are they used figuratively, literally or both? Work in pairs.

weapon trapped stand with threw

D. Speaking

In groups, discuss what you think you would see if you looked into the mirror from Parvati. Give reasons for your answers using *because*.

I think I'd see myself helping my family because I've always helped my younger sisters.

PAGES 24-25

A. Speaking

In groups, discuss the questions.

- 1 Why do you think people who were attacked in the story were all women?
- 2 What reasons would someone give for throwing acid on a person?
Why are these not good reasons?
- 3 How do you think the women's families feel about them?
How do you think their families feel about the attackers?
- 4 Why do you think the women in the comic left their families to live with Ahankar?

B. Vocabulary

Read the sentences. In groups, create a definition for the underlined words or phrases.

- 1 I'm sorry about the broken dish. It's all my fault. I dropped it.
- 2 Hemali's husband hit her, so she left him. She didn't want to be in an abusive relationship.
- 3 They used to have a lot of mooney, but then Mr. Shah's company closed.
They spent all their money and now they're bankrupt.
- 4 The wound on your arm is very deep. It will probably leave a scar.
- 5 She had a terrible experience last year. She was raped.
She had a baby nine months later, but it died.
- 6 Mr. Patel was the victim of a horrible attack. The thieves beat him and took his money.
- 7 After she was attacked, she worked with other people like her.
She discovered work made her feel whole again.
- 8 When Vijay's car was stolen, his friends stopped inviting him places.
He was sad because his friends reduced him to his ability to drive them.

C. Comprehension

Read the pages. Match the women to their stories.



1



2



3



4



5

- A "My husband was violent. He hit me in order to feel strong. Then, he threw acid on me."
- B "No one can understand what's happened to us. We don't have anything outside of Ahankar's castle."
- C "I was wounded, but not with acid. People didn't want anything to do with me because I was raped. Now, I help other survivors of violence."
- D "I was so upset. After the boy threw acid on me, the police though I did something to the boy! I can't live in a world like that!"
- E "I was outside when a boy threw acid on me, I fell down in the street and people poured water on my burning skin."



D. Critical thinking

Look at the picture and read the text. Do you agree with the woman's statement about Priya? Why or why not?

PAGES 26-27

A. Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with the correct word. Use a dictionary if necessary.

cruel **carpentry** **peril** **outcasts**

- 1 My sister is good at _____. She made a beautiful table and chairs.
- 2 Women who were raped are often _____, even though it isn't their fault.
- 3 The child is in _____! He's going to fall into the river! Help him!
- 4 I'm not sure I can forgive him. He said some very _____ things to me.

B. Comprehension

Read the pages. Tick all the things the women see themselves doing.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 ___ helping others | 5 ___ doing art |
| 2 ___ being afraid | 6 ___ painting houses |
| 3 ___ making things from wood | 7 ___ being outcasts |
| 4 ___ saying cruel things | 8 ___ telling stories |

C. Vocabulary

In groups, find examples of figurative language on the pages.

D. Critical thinking

Look at the picture and read the text. Does Anjali think her career or her relationship with Rafi is more important to her? Why?



PAGES 28-31

A. Using visual cues

Look at the pages. Tell the story in your own words.

LEARN HOW TO LEARN!

In order to guess the meaning of words, think about the part of speech, for example, noun or adjective. Look for clues in the sentences. For example, is there an article like *a*, *an* or *the* before the word? Does the word come after *can* or *will*? If so, think about verbs.

B. Vocabulary

Find the following words on the pages. Write each word's part of speech.

- 1 ___ combat 2 ___ venom 3 ___ feeble 4 ___ cross 5 ___ turning into

C. Vocabulary

Match the words in Activity B to their meanings.

- A ___ change or become B ___ poison C ___ weak D ___ go over or go across E ___ fight

D. Vocabulary

Write the words from Activity B in the correct sentence.

- 1 That snake's _____ is very dangerous. Stay away from it!
- 2 There is so much water here. The dirt is _____ mud.
- 3 Mrs. Biswas is old, but she is not _____. She can run up the steps faster than I can!
- 4 We must _____ the belief that survivors of acid attacks should be outcasts.
- 5 You can _____ the river at two places in the city.

LEARN HOW TO LEARN!

We use **so** to give a result or a consequence, for example, *Anjali wanted to see her life, so she looked in the mirror of love.* **So** is a coordinating conjunction. This means it connects two independent clauses. We use a comma between these two clauses when **so** begins the second clause. We do not usually begin the sentences with the clause with **so** since this clause shows the result or consequence of an action. It naturally comes second.



E. Comprehension

Read the pages. Match the parts of the sentences.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 ___ Ahankar was angry with Priya and the women, so... | A Sahas jumped through the window to stop Ahankar. |
| 2 ___ Ahankar's venom was dangerous acid, so... | B he spewed venom from his mouth. |
| 3 ___ Priya and the women needed help, so... | C Priya held up the mirror to block it. |
| 4 ___ The acid in the moat turned into water, so... | D he destroyed the whole castle. |
| 5 ___ After the women escaped, Ahankar became extremely angry, so... | E the women could cross it safely. |

PAGES 32-34

A. Using visual cues

Look at the pictures on the pages. Tell the story in your own words.

LEARN HOW TO LEARN!

Words with the same meaning are synonyms, for example, scared and afraid, or little and small. We can make our writing or our speaking more interesting and descriptive by using synonyms.

B. Vocabulary

In pairs, match the underlined words to their synonyms. Use a dictionary if necessary.

- 1 ___ She was standing here a minute ago, but then she vanished. I don't know where she is.
- 2 ___ I only glimpsed the monkey's tail as it hurried into the leaves of the trees.
- 3 ___ She is in a position of strength. She can do many things for the company.
- 4 ___ Our team is dominating the match! I'm sure they'll win easily!
- 5 ___ He did not show valor when he ran away after the accident.
- 6 ___ I can't do anything to help you or myself. I feel pathetic.

A saw B weak C courage D went away E controlling F power

C. Comprehension

Read the pages. Complete the paragraph with the underlined words from the sentences in Activity B.

Priya held up the mirror of love and Ahankar **1** _____ himself in it. In that moment, he suddenly saw himself as Prem and the **2** _____ he had as Ahankar **3** _____. He became Prem again. He was upset. He said that he was **4** _____ before, and he was like this again. Priya explained that **5** _____ others was not strength, and she gave him the mirror so that he could find his **6** _____. One of the women stayed with Prem. It was Kusum. She wanted to help Prem to use the mirror.

D. Speaking

In groups, discuss the questions.

- 1 Are you surprised that Priya is kind to Prem after he is no longer Ahankar? Why or why not?
- 2 What does Priya mean by *Show others there is another kind of strength?*
What other kind of strength can Prem show?

E. Critical thinking

Look at the picture and read the text. Then, in groups, answer the questions.

- 1 Why do you think Kusum wants to stay with Prem?
- 2 In what way do you think Kusum can show Prem how to use the mirror of love?



PAGES 35-36

A. Using visual cues

Look at the pictures on the page. Tell the story in your own words.

B. Comprehension

Read the pages. Which questions can you answer from the text? Which can you answer from the illustrations? Write T (text) or I (illustrations).

- 1 ___ The time is now a year later.
- 2 ___ The café is called *Mirror of Love*
- 3 ___ The art center sells scarves and other things made from cloth.
- 4 ___ The café and art center are doing well.
- 5 ___ The women enjoy working in business.
- 6 ___ The women honor Priya with a picture of her and Sahas.

AFTER YOU READ

A. Speaking

In pairs, discuss the questions.

- 1 What do you think will happen to Prem and Kusum? Why?
- 2 Do you think the women who survived the acid attacks will return home? Why or why not? How do you think their families feel about them now?
- 3 Would you visit the *Mirror of Love Café*? Why or why not?

B. Connect to your world

In groups, discuss the questions.

- 1 What other groups of people could benefit from Priya's help? Make a list.
- 2 What problems do these people have? Do you notice any similarities between them?
- 3 How could Priya, or someone like her, help these people or solve these problems?

C. Project

In groups, choose one of the groups of people from Activity B. Write a dialog. One group member should be Priya. Others should be members of the group from Activity B, and the remaining group members should be people from the community. Make sure your dialog answers the following questions.

- 1 What is the name of the group?
- 2 What is the problem they have?
- 3 How do people in the community feel about these people or their problem?
- 4 What could Priya say or do to help this group?

D. Act

Present your dialog to the class. Talk about the questions from Activity C as a class.



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Rattapallax



