



The Three Students

Long ago children used to study in gurukuls (residential dormitory). The children had to go to a learned rishi's or sage's place. They had to stay with him and learn there. These schools were away from their homes.

Once upon a time there was a famous sage called Vishwashrut. One day, three of his students asked permission to return home as their education was over. Sage Vishwashrut gave them permission. He felt that he needed to test them whether they were ready to leave.

As they were packing their belongings, the sage secretly spread thorns all over the path of the three boys and waited to see what they would do.

When the first boy saw the thorns he hopped across and somehow managed to reach the other side.

When the second boy saw the thorns he tried for a little while and then turned back.

When the third boy saw the thorns he first put down his luggage. Then he cleared his path of the thorns. Once he was finished he set off.

The sage let the third boy go but he called the first two boys back. "You have a lot more to study," said the Sage Vishwashrut. "Learning teaches us to remove the thorns from our own and others path. You did not do this. You gave in to the thorns. Stay back and learn a little bit more about life."

When you study you also learn about life.