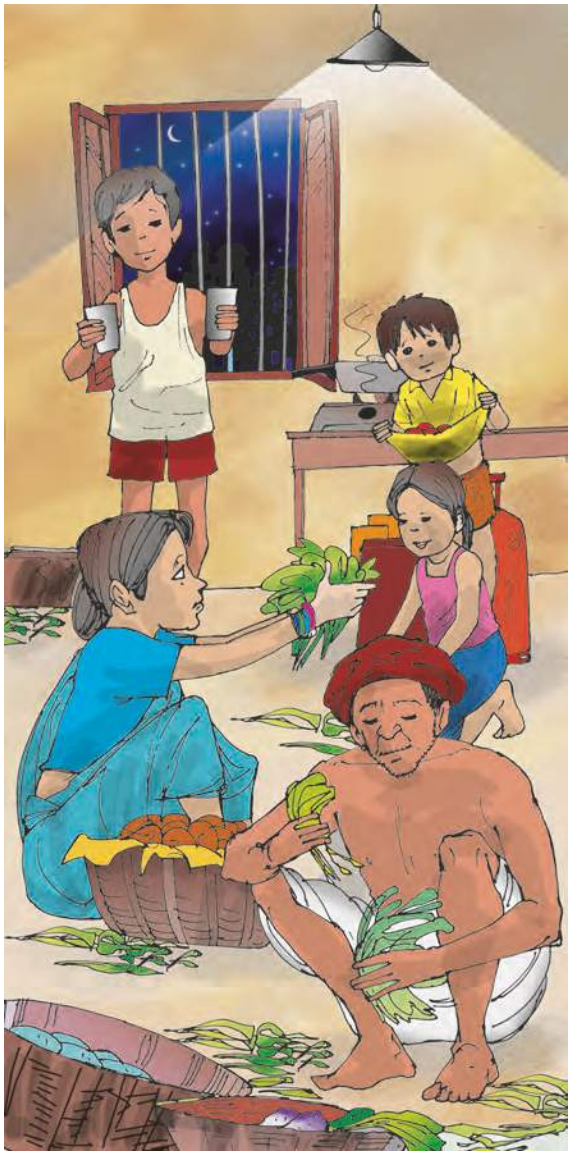




Day at night!

My name is Vaishali. My father is a vegetable-seller. My whole family – *Amma*, *Bhaiya*, *Chhotu* and I, help him with his work. Can you guess at what time we begin our work? At 3 o'clock in the morning. When most people are fast asleep, we start our work. Our day's work begins when *Babuji*, *Amma*, *Bhaiya* and I take out the previous day's vegetables from the gunny bags and baskets. This is to prepare for bringing the fresh vegetables from the *mandi*. Sometimes *Chhotu* also helps us.

As we finish doing this and are having some tea, we hear the horn of the tempo. It is time for *Babuji*, *Bhaiya*, *Chachu* (uncle) and some others from our street to leave for the *mandi*.

- Does anyone in your house have to get up very early? What time does he or she get up? Why do they need to get up so early?

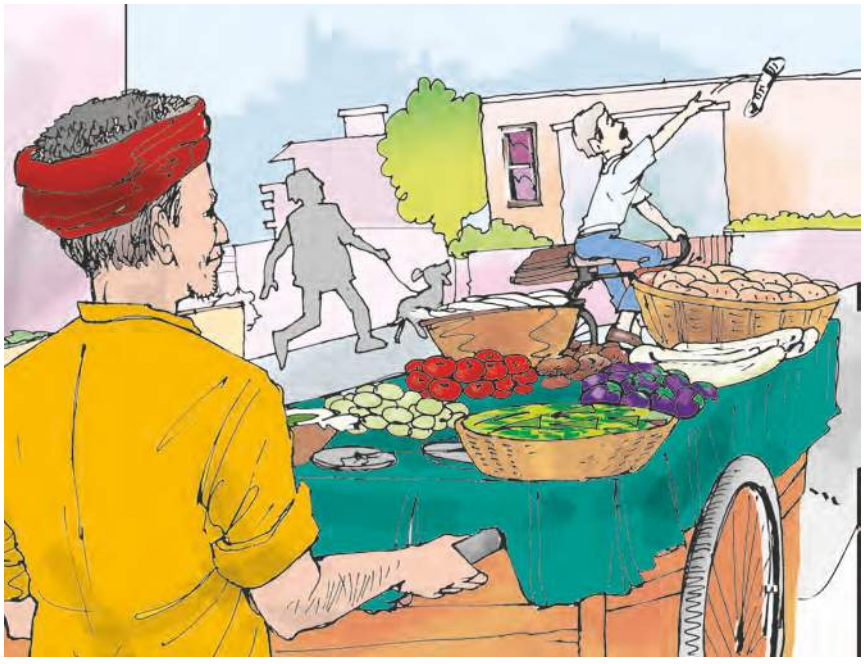
Preparing for the Day



While *Babuji* is away, *Amma*, Chhotu and I put the previous day's vegetables on gunny bags, and sprinkle some water on them. By 6.30 a.m. *Babuji* is back from the *mandi* with baskets and sacks full of fresh vegetables. At that time our house looks more like a small vegetable market! There are brinjals, potatoes, tomatoes, okra (*Bhindi*), pumpkin, gourds, chillies and many other vegetables all around. Everybody helps in sorting the vegetables. The vegetables which are not fully ripe and ready to sell are kept aside. We have to sort the vegetables fast, so as to reach the *bazaar* as early as possible.

For the teacher: Discuss the role of vegetable *mandi* with the students.

By 7 o'clock, *Babuji* arranges all the vegetables on the handcart and leaves for the *bazaar*. He says that if he is late, then his regular buyers may buy their vegetables from someone else. As soon as *Babuji* leaves, I quickly get ready as I have to reach school by 7.30 a.m.





In the Bazaar

Chhotu attends school in the afternoon. He rests for a while and goes to the *bazaar* later with food for *Babuji* and *Bhaiya*. He stays with them at the vegetable cart, until it is time for him to go to school. Sometimes he goes back after school to help *Babuji*. *Babuji* tries to see that the previous day's vegetables are sold first.

Let us talk

- *Babuji* sells the previous day's vegetables first. Why do you think he does this?
- Have you seen dried or spoilt vegetables? Where?
- How did you know that the vegetables were spoilt?
- Chhotu is helping his family. What do you think Chhotu has learnt from it?
- How do you help the elders in your family?

As the previous day's vegetables get sold, *Bhaiya* takes out fresh vegetables from the sacks and puts them in the cart. He also keeps sprinkling water on the vegetables so that they do not dry up, especially in summers. *Babuji* and *Bhaiya* return home, after a long day, only around 10 o'clock at night. By then Chhotu and I are asleep. Everyone else sleeps around 11 or 11.30 at night. And at 3 o'clock next morning – only four hours later – our family is up again. Another day has begun!

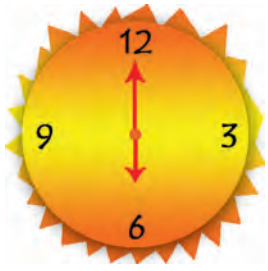
- Look at the clocks given below. Write what you do, and what Vaishali does, at the time which the clocks are showing.



Morning

Vaishali _____

You _____



Morning

Vaishali _____

You _____



Night

Vaishali _____

You _____

- From where do you get vegetables for your home? Who brings the vegetables?

_____

_____

For the teacher: Care may be taken to sensitise children to help the family and people around without encouraging child labour.

Some fun with vegetables

The next time when you get okra (*Bhindi*) at home, look at them carefully. Are all of them the same size?

- Find the longest and the shortest one. Measure them.
- Do all the okra (*Bhindi*) have the same thickness and colour? Cut two okra (*Bhindi*) lengthwise. Do both of them have the same number of seeds? Draw them in your notebook.
- Seema's mother has brought some fruits and vegetables from the market. Can you find them in this picture? Colour them and write their names alongside.



Find out

Given here is a list of vegetables and fruits. Which of these will spoil earlier, and which will stay for some days? Write the names in the correct column. You can add more names in the list.

Spinach **Potato** **Banana** **Tomato** **Pear**
Chikoo **Pineapple** **Gourd** **Onion** **Cabbage**
Cucumber **Grapes** **Ginger.**

Fruits and vegetables that spoil quickly	Fruits and vegetables that can stay for some days

Some of these fruits and vegetables are smooth to touch while some are rough. From the list above, put the names in the correct column.

Smooth	Rough

- Which vegetable do you find the heaviest to carry? Write its name and draw its picture in your notebook.
- Which is the lightest fruit or vegetable that you have eaten? Write its name and draw the picture in your notebook.
- Write names of three vegetables which do not have seeds.

_____ _____ _____

Fill in the table given below. You can add three more names and fill in the table.

	Colour	**Length**	**Weight**	**Price**
Apple			(½ kilo)	
Banana			(1 dozen)	
Potato			(½ kilo)	

- Talk with a vegetable-seller in your area. Ask the following questions and make a brief report in the notebook.
  - What is his or her name?
  - How many people are there in his or her house? How many children are there at home?
  - What are the names of the children? How old are they?
  - Who all help in the work of selling vegetables?



- Who all stay with the vegetable cart or sit in the shop?
- What vegetables do they sell?
- What time do they start work?
- For how many hours in a day do they work?
- Ask them about any three vegetables that they sell.

	Vegetable 1	**Vegetable 2**	**Vegetable 3**
Name of the vegetable			
The price of the vegetable			
Where does it come from?			
How much of the vegetable do they buy at one time?			
In which months does this vegetable usually come?			