Personal Stories

A. Our house got collapsed during Gorkha earthquake in 2015. It was a terrible time. We had to stay outside in a tent for more than six months. Then, we made a make-a-shift house and lived there. After the aftershocks of the quake abated, our father decided to construct the house at the same spot where our old house was. Actually, our old house was pretty old. It was constructed by our great granddad, a well-known pundit and astrologer, about seventy years ago. The house was solid and saw at least four generations of people. Most of the debris had been removed. The stones were put in a pile. We needed to dig for base of the house. Since there weren't enough labourers available to get the work done, father told us all to get ready to work. It was a sunny Saturday afternoon. My father along with two brothers and I was taking out the foundation stones of the old house one by one.

   As we dug a couple of feet, my brother felt something made of iron. When we unearthed the box, it was full of jewelleries—rings, necklaces and bracelets. "Gosh!" my father said, "I suppose someone hid these things in the ground—perhaps during a war!" Then I said, "Maybe our great granddad had kept it for us. He was a great soothsayer. He must have known what would fall on us days to come." Anyway, the money we got from the jewelleries was enough to construct our new house and we are living in it now.

B. I came home tired after a day of work. I was attending numerous meetings all day. I was tired, hungry and looking forward to spending a good time with my family. I walked into the house. Nothing seemed to be in place. My oldest daughter, Lily, was watching TV. She was eating honey straight from the jar. She had all her belongings thrown around her. My younger son, Suyog, was a bigger mess. He was playing a remote control game and was hitting the coffee table now and then. The things that were on the table were all falling down. He had also spilled some orange juice and his clothes looked as if they were dipped in dirt. The room was in total chaos. My youngest daughter, Neha, was crying out loud because the dog had eaten all her food. Nobody was consoling or taking care of her. She was only two years then. I wondered where my wife was. I was very annoyed by this mess. I have always valued discipline and it made me furious and impatient to see my kids in such a mess. I went running into the room to show it to my wife. Then, I was shocked to see my wife writhing on the floor. She had a severe stomachache.

C. As I was going outside, I was a little nervous because I was going to ride on my dad's motorcycle. "Come on. Get up," said my dad cheerfully. "Okay," I answered. But just as I was getting onto the seat, I burnt myself on one of the pipes! "Ow!" I yelled as I started to cry. "Are you all right?" asked my mum. "No," I answered. "Come here," said my mum. "Let's take a look at the burn. It's not so bad but I don't think you should go for a ride right now." I felt glad that my mum had said that. "Aw, come on. It won't hurt once we get going," said my dad. Then, he picked me up and set me on the seat of the motorcycle. "Dad, I'm not sure I want to go!" I said. "Nonsense. It'll be fun," said my dad. And we took off. I have to admit that during the ride, I started to laugh. My burn hardly hurt anymore. I wasn't nervous and I had a great ride. I'm really glad my dad convinced me to get on the motorcycle. If he hadn't, I probably never would have gotten on it again. From that day on, I knew I would never give up after I got hurt. I would just get back up and try it again.

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D. My aunt, Minu, had a terrible experience last Saturday. You won't believe what happened! A thief burst into her house while she was 38. She heard the door open. Thus she hurriedly reached for the phone by the bed and called the police. She told the operator in shaking voice that there was an intruder in her home. To save herself, she hid in her bedroom closet while the thief was sneaking around her study room. Soon, she heard sirens as the police sped to her building. From the crack in the closet door, she saw the thief as he ran outside with her computer. The police jumped out of their cars and followed the thief but he managed to get away in a car that was waiting for him. The police got back into their cars and drove after him. Later, we came to know that the police caught the thief a few miles from her building. She felt really frightened by all this and called my dad to take her to us. My father and I went to her house and brought her along with us. She was upset and scared. It took her three days to come to normal.

Comprehension

A. Match the titles with the texts. Write letter in the boxes.

B. a. The theft

C. b. That's how I learnt not to give up.

D. c. A man talks about a distressful day.

E. d. Treasure chest for building a house

B. Are the following events true or false? Write.

a. The family could not get labour easily to manage the debris.

b. The new house has been built at the same spot.

c. Mr. Thapa wanted strict discipline at home.

d. Miss Thapa had fallen sick on that day.

e. The girl's mother was willing to let her stay home after the burn.

f. Aunt Minu was along that day.

g. Minu hid behind the door and looked at the thief.

h. The thief took her jewelleries and gold.

i. The police were able to catch the thief.

C. Read the texts C and D and complete the sentences.

a. After riding for some time, the girl started to .....

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b. The girl burnt her legs by .....

c. The girl has learnt not to .....in life.

d. Aunt Minu woke up after the .....was broken.

e. The thief took .....from Mina's home.

f. The thief escaped in a .....

D. Answer the following questions.

a. What day was it when the family was removing debris of old house?

b. What was the profession of great grandfather?

c. How old was the house that got damaged during the quake?

d. What were the two opinions regarding the treasure chest?

e. What were the children doing when Mr Thapa came home?

f. Why was he annoyed?

g. What had actually happened at Mr Thapa's home?

h. What happened to the girl while going to go out on a bike?

i. What lesson did she learn form the event?

j. Why was Aunt scared?

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