

5 Read the story quickly and choose the best title.

- a. A lifelong lesson b. A boy to teach c. Give me a chance

One day a wealthy man asked a scholar to help his son to break a bad habit. The scholar accepted this request and visited the little boy in their house.

He took the boy for a walk in the garden. While they were walking, they came across a small plant. The scholar wanted the boy to pull it out. The little boy took it out with his thumb and forefinger without showing an effort.

After walking for a while the scholar told him to pull out a slightly bigger and stronger plant. This time it was a bit more difficult for him so it took hard to pull but he tried a little more and the plant came out with its root.

The next target of the scholar was a bush which was in front of them.

'Now pull this out' ordered the scholar to the little boy. It was the time the boy had to show more effort to pull the whole pile out. In the end the bush came out.

While they were walking near a guava tree, the scholar wanted the boy to take this tree out. The boy obeyed again, grasped the trunk of the tree and tried to use all his strength to pull the tree out. However, it didn't work; he couldn't even move the leaves or branches. Out of breath he said 'It's impossible'.

'This is the same for bad habits' said the scholar. 'It is easy to pull them out when they are younger; as they grow it is impossible to remove them'. This talk changed the young boy's life forever.



adapted from Motivational Stories, An Anthology by Roja Sharma

6 Read the story again. Write true (T), false (F) or not stated (NS).

- ☐ 1. A wise man wanted to see a young boy who was suffering from a bad habit.
- ☐ 2. The scholar asked the boy to go for a walk in the garden to teach him a lesson.
- ☐ 3. The boy's father planted various types of plants and trees for this experience.
- ☐ 4. The boy was strong enough to pull out the small plant and the bush.
- ☐ 5. The young boy couldn't pull out the guava tree but he could remove some branches.
- ☐ 6. The scholar explained that the boy couldn't move the tree because he was too young.

7 Choose the moral of the story.

- a. Nobody will get along well with you if you don't try to overcome your bad habit.
- b. Don't wait to quit your bad habit. Keep trying to quit before it grows in you.
- c. You have to be patient if you want to break a habit.