

KARNA

Note: The transactional processes suggested in CISCE curriculum are highlighted in grey.

Learning Outcomes

- To inculcate the habit of evaluating the intent behind actions
- To analyse a historical text
- To practise inference, chart out a plot diagram and re-tell the story

Pre-reading



This section focuses on *assessment for learning*. It indicates to the reader that there is a possible twist in the story and that the usual supposed hero is not the outstanding character in the episode.

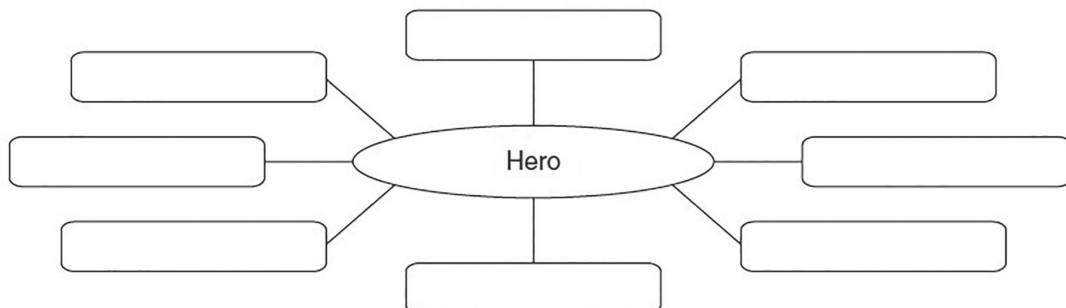
A. Tell students to do the exercise in the Pre-reading section of the Reader.

Group Work

Divide student into groups and initiate a discussion on:

- *Are people born heroes of made heroes* – Do you think people become heroes because of their lineage/ heritage/ families they were born into, or is it a person's skill that makes a person a hero?
- Discuss this message: You should not look down on somebody, because of their heritage. Always remember that the other person may possess qualities which you may appreciate and cherish by offering friendship.

Characteristics / Traits / Qualities of a hero:



READING

Students infer, chart out a plot diagram, re-tell the story

Tell students to take parts and role play this unit. Instruct them the previous day to read the play and be prepared. You may take the role of the narrator. Before you begin give students an introduction to all the characters in the play. Let students close their books and watch the play being enacted.

Have students discuss these questions in groups:

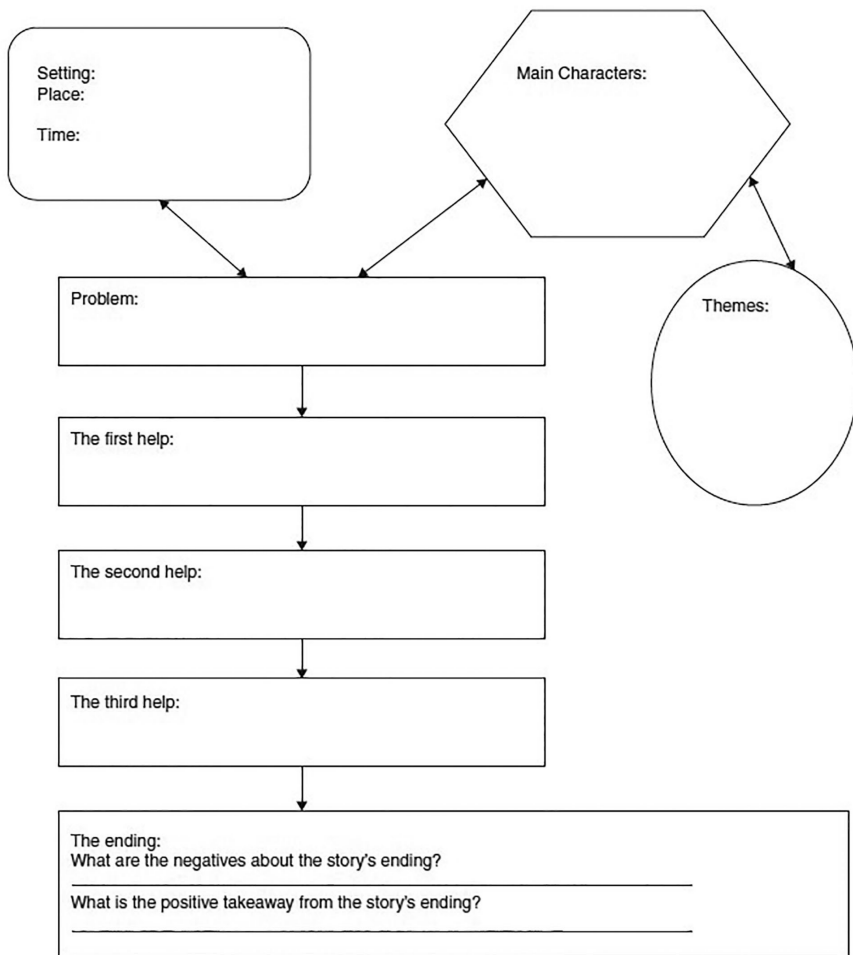
Between who was the life-long rivalry? Who are the characters? Why was Duryodhana ecstatic? Identify all the emotions that each of these characters experienced and state why they felt that way:

- a) Arjuna
- b) Karna
- c) Duryodhana
- d) Bhima

What are the qualities of each of these characters? Who is your favourite character and why? How does the story end? Do you agree with the fact that Karna does not get to challenge Arjuna just because of his lineage? Suggest an alternate ending? Do you think

future generations should carry on lifelong feuds? Why / Why not?

Now review the groups' answers with the class and have them fill this chart. (Put it up on the board for students to copy.)



Put students in pairs and ask them to discuss the following question with their partner.

1. *Is it okay to laugh at someone because of their background or skills?*
2. *Is it okay to stand up for someone when everyone else is belittling them?*
3. *What would you have done if you were:*
 - a. Arjuna
 - b. Karna
 - c. Bhima
 - d. Duryodhana
4. *What is the moral of the story?*

Post-reading

Ask students:

Retelling the story: Have the students retell the story with an alternate ending.

Invite some students to present their ending to the class.

GRAMMAR**Conditionals: If**

Follow the inputs given in the Reader.

Group Activity: Chain Story with *If* Conditionals

Have one person start a sentence with an *if* conditional. Have the next person continue to form the next line of the story. This repeats till the story is complete.

e.g.: *If I drink coffee... I won't sleep all night... If I don't sleep tonight... I'll fall asleep in class tomorrow... If I fall asleep in class tomorrow my teacher will be very angry...*

VOCABULARY**Simile, Metaphor****Simile**

A simile is a phrase or figure of speech that compares two things using the words *like* or *as*.

Pattern 1: "like" verb + like + noun *She swims like a fish.*

Pattern 2: "as" as + adjective + as + noun *She is as graceful as a swan.*

bat mouse lightning daisy cucumber bee feather tree bone button

Tell students to write the phrase associated with these words:

Example: *blind as a bat*

quiet as a mouse; fast as lightning, fresh as a daisy, cool as a cucumber, busy as a bee, light as a feather, tall as a tree, dry as a bone

Metaphor

A metaphor is a term or phrase that is used to make a comparison between two things that are not alike but have something in common.

The snow is a white blanket. The classroom was a zoo. Life is a roller coaster.

Ask students to brainstorm within their group and list out as many animal metaphors as they can think of.

LISTENING**Dictation—speech****While listening**

Tell students to listen to part of Theodore Roosevelt's speech.

Ask students to take down notes as they listen. Play the recording and answer the questions. Play the recording a second time and ask them to note down any details they had missed out the first time. Check their answers.



SPEAKING

Responding to negative comments

This task can be used for *assessment as learning* as students act the situations with their partners and assess the words used by others, while they communicate using the right words and expressions. They learn to respond politely to negative comments.

Group Work

Ask students:

Have you received criticism from someone? How did you react? What are different ways of reacting to criticism? What is the best way to react? (Answering calmly and assertively)

Checklist for handling criticism positively: (Some pointers are listed below, encourage groups to first come up with their own lists. Guide them along the way)

Listen first *Figure out whether the criticism is constructive or simply rude*

Stay calm *Acknowledge that you might be wrong*

Respond calmly *Understand that you cannot please everybody*

Respond with grace *Be respectful no matter what*

Thank someone if the feedback is useful...

Have few volunteers read out and role play these dialogues in front of the class:

Self-Reflection: Now ask students to reflect silently on "Have I ever criticised anyone?" "Has my criticism been constructive, respectful and polite?"

WRITING

Story completion

Pre Writing

1. Ask students to draw the face of a person in the top right-hand corner of the page.
2. Tell them to give the person a name.
3. On the top left of the page ask them to write five adjectives to describe the person's appearance.
4. Now tell them to write five more adjectives to describe the person's character.
5. Next ask them to write three things that the person likes doing.
6. Then ask them to write who the person lives with.

This way the character profile is built.

7. Now ask students to frame a story about the character they made and tell their partners. Time the activity.
8. Interrupt and ask them to pass their papers to the person on their right.
9. Now tell them to continue the story including this new character.



PRONUNCIATION

Syllable stress

This task can be used for *assessment as learning*. Students listen to the audio, and then try out the sentences with the correct syllable stress. They take control of learning by listening to the audio once again and correcting themselves wherever required.

Monitor the activity.

STUDENTS' BOOK ANSWER KEY

Karna

Pre-Reading

Sample answer: Yes, an anti-hero can do something good or a hero/heroine may have some not-so-admirable qualities, because most realistic works of literature include characters that are a mix of good and bad and not purely good or purely bad, as in real life.

Comprehension

- A.**
1. Everyone was at the arena because the princes had completed their studies in the art of warfare. It was the day fixed for them to exhibit their skills. The royal family and the public had gathered to watch the exhibition.
 2. At first, Duryodhana was jealous because Arjuna displayed excellent skills with his weapons. Everyone was full of admiration. The Kauravas and the Pandavas were rivals, so Duryodhana did not like Arjuna's success.
 3. Duryodhana felt happy when Karna showed up at the arena, challenged Arjuna, and then repeated all Arjuna's feats easily.
 4. When Karna and Arjuna were about to face each other, Kripacharya interrupted, saying that high-born princes could not compete with unknown adventurers. It was then that Duryodhana, who wanted to see Arjuna lose, obtained the permission of his elders and crowned Karna the king of Anga, so that he became Arjuna's equal in that sense.
 5. Adhiratha was a charioteer. He had adopted Karna as a baby. When Karna saw him, he bowed his head and paid his respects, although he was then the king of Anga and Adhiratha was still a charioteer.
 6. Duryodhana left with Karna because when everyone realised that Adhiratha was Karna's father, Bhima laughed at them and insulted Karna, saying that he was not worthy of being killed by Arjuna or ruling Anga. Duryodhana supported Karna, saying that he was worthy to rule the whole world, and left angrily with Karna.
- B.**
1. a. Karna said this.
b. The skill of using weapons.
c. Yes, the speaker, Karna, showed great skill by repeating all of Arjuna's feats easily.
 2. a. Duryodhana's heart was flooded with love to see someone copy all of Arjuna's feats, thus proving that Arjuna was not an unmatched warrior.
b. Arjuna was feeling wrathful because a stranger had arrived and repeated everything he had achieved, thus reducing his own glory.
c. Soon after this, Arjuna prepared to face Karna in an armed fight.

3. a. The sight of Karna bowing his head and paying respect to Adhiratha, who was a charioteer.
- b. Bhima remarked that since Karna was only a son of a charioteer, he should take up the driving whip and become a charioteer himself. He was neither worthy of being defeated by Arjuna, nor was he worthy of ruling Anga.
- c. Karna felt greatly insulted by Bhima’s words and behaviour. His lips trembled with anger and unhappiness.
4. a. Duryodhana said this about Karna.
- b. He explained his opinion by pointing out that bravery was the mark of a true warrior. It did not matter where great heroes or mighty rivers came from. There were many great men who were of humble birth. Karna’s form, bearing and his skill with weapons made him, in Duryodhana’s opinion, worthy to rule not only Anga, but the whole world.

C. Suggested answers (accept any logical answer):

1. Perhaps Duryodhana respected Karna’s courage and talent, and could not stand silently while he was put down for no fault of his own. Or perhaps he recognised that Karna’s talent and his ability to stand up to Arjuna would benefit the Kauravas against the Pandavas. He may have supported Karna for either or both of these reasons.
2. This text suggests that Karna remained a loyal friend to Duryodhana because Duryodhana had supported him at a time when he needed support—when he had come to challenge Arjuna, proved himself as capable as Arjuna, but had still been insulted for being the son of a charioteer. Duryodhana had, at that important point, appreciated his talent, supported him and made him the king of Anga. This would make Karna grateful to Duryodhana.

Grammar

- A.** 1. will examine 2. would set up 3. boil
 4. will; go 5. had turned 6. drive

- B.** 1. If oil is poured on water, it floats.
 2. If you take a walk every day, you will feel more energetic.
 3. If there were fewer cars on the roads, the air would be cleaner. / If there are fewer cars on the roads, the air will be cleaner.
 4. If you mix flour and water, it becomes dough.
 5. If you add more salt to the soup, it will taste better.
 6. If I had had your address, I would have sent you a postcard.

Vocabulary

1. He has a temper as explosive as a volcano. / His temper is as explosive as a volcano.
2. The exam was a breeze.
3. Nikhil’s room is a disaster zone.
4. Our cat Flash pounces on rats like lightning / as fast as lightning.
5. Mihir and Minal, the twins, are like two peas in a pod / are as alike as two peas in a pod.
6. When we looked out of the window, the snow was a white blanket over the field.

Listening

Listening text:

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who

is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

Answers:

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. strong man | 2. better | 3. in the arena | 4. comes short |
| 5. do the deeds | 6. worthy cause | 7. achievement | 8. daring greatly |
| 9. victory | 10. defeat | | |

Writing

Free response

Punctuation

1. "Are you going to the function?" asked Neelam.
2. "Oh, how exciting that would be!" exclaimed Albert. / "Oh! How exciting that would be!" exclaimed Albert.
3. "Don't you think we should report this?" asked Pema.
4. "Be careful!" cried Mother. "That water is boiling hot."
5. "A holiday!" exclaimed the students. "But what is the occasion?"
6. "Hello," said Frank, picking up the phone, "how may I help you?" / "Hello," said Frank, picking up the phone. "How may I help you?"

Life Skills

Free response

ANSWER KEY TO WORKSHEET 5

- A.**
1. If it stops raining, I will join you at the food festival.
 2. If Dave had a small cottage in the hills, he would write a book.
 3. If the programme had started on time, we would have missed the first act of the play.
 4. If it rains for an hour, water stagnates on the road.
 5. If it was winter, the migratory birds would flock at the lake.
 6. If I practise the sarod every day, I will play it better.
 7. If a few drops of lemon juice are poured over salt, it turns blue in colour.
 8. If the raft had overturned in the water, we would have drowned.
- B.**
1. a veil of darkness: M
 2. a primrose path to success: M
 3. as regular as clockwork: S
 4. as pretty as a picture: S
 5. a cloud of indifference: M
 6. laughter sounded like the merry peal of bells: S
- C.** *Free response*

QUESTION BANK

Karna

A. Answer in brief.

1. Why was Duryodhana thrilled to see the mighty newcomer Karna?

Ans: Duryodhana, Arjuna's cousin was filled with envy and hatred when he witnessed Arjuna displaying superhuman skill with his weapons. It was at that time the newcomer Karna, duplicated all of Arjuna's feats with careless ease. Duryodhana was ecstatic on seeing someone who could be on par with Arjuna's unmatched skill.

2. Why did Arjuna feel insulted?

Ans: Arjuna was greatly insulted when Karna, in reply to Duryodhana, sought only two things from him. One was Duryodhana's love and another was single encounter with Arjuna at the war field. On hearing this, Arjuna swore to kill Karna and cursed that Karna would go to the hell appointed for intruders.

B. Answer in detail.

1. How did Kripa's interference stop the combat between Arjuna and Karna?

Ans: A heated argument ensued between Arjuna and Karna and both were getting ready to face each other in combat. Everyone, including the gods, was ready to witness the deadly combat between the two mighty warriors. Suddenly Kripa stopped them by saying that Arjuna was a descendent of the Kuru race and belonged to royalty while Karna's lineage was unknown. Arjuna, according to Kripa, would engage in single combat only with those whose antecedence was known. So Kripa wanted Karna to speak about his parentage and dynasty he was blessed with. Karna was unable to answer and that stalled the combat.

2. What did Duryodhana honour Karna with? Why?

Ans: Duryodhana crowned Karna the king of Anga, after performing all the necessary rites and gave him royal identity. Duryodhana wanted someone as strong as Arjuna to be on his side in a combat. He was elated to find that skill in Karna. That was the best opportunity for Duryodhana to defuse Arjuna's pride. When Kripa challenged Karna about his lineage, Duryodhana, lost no time in honouring Karna by making him the King of Anga.

C. Choose the correct answer.

"I hold him worthy to rule the world". Why did Duryodhana feel this way?

- a. He felt this way because Karna was able to effortlessly duplicate Arjuna's feats.
- b. He knew that his lineage was from a renowned royal family.
- c. He became a good friend of Karna and wanted to support him.

Ans: a

D. Read the lines and answer the questions.

1. *What is the use of mere talk, which is the weapon of the weak? Shoot arrows instead of words.*

- a. Who speaks the above line?
- b. Why does he make the above remark?
- c. Was he able to overpower the person?

Ans: a. These lines are spoken by Karna to Arjuna.

- b. He makes the above remark on Arjuna's swearing that he would slay Karna and send him to the hell appointed for intruders.
 - c. No, the fight did not take place because he was questioned by Kripa about his parentage.
2. *And there isn't much sense in tracing great heroes and mighty rivers to their sources.*
- a. Who speaks the above line? To whom?
 - b. What message is he trying to convey?
 - c. Who is he supporting by making the above remark?

Ans: a. Duryodhana speaks the above remark to Bhima.

- b. When Bhima made fun of Karna calling him the adopted son of a charioteer, Duryodhana said that it is bravery that defines a warrior, and that it is foolish to trace the source of mighty warriors or great rivers.
- c. He was supporting Karna when Bhima laughs at him.

E. Answer in brief. (Think and answer)

1. Was it right on Bhima's part to ridicule Karna in the open?

Free response. *Suggested Ans:* No, Bhima should have exercised more restraint. His behaviour was very unbecoming of a warrior belonging to royal lineage. He laughed at Karna when he was bowing to his father and spoke ill of him. Bhima should not have used offensive language in public, especially about a fatherly figure.

2. Who do you admire more – Arjuna or Karna? Why?

Free response

Answer in detail. (Think and answer)

Karna and Duryodhana became the best of friends. Do you think Duryodhana would have made Karna his friend had he not been equal to Arjuna in valour?

Free response. *Suggested Ans:* Karna entered the arena when Duryodhana was seething with envy at the superhuman skill displayed by Arjuna and also the admiration of the crowd. Duryodhana was thrilled when he saw Karna duplicating Arjuna's feats. Duryodhana took that as the best opportunity to befriend Karna as he found a match for Arjuna in him. Duryodhana was always jealous of Arjuna's valour and wanted to somehow insult him. Karna became the instrument for Duryodhana to fulfill that wish. Karna was indebted to Duryodhana for his timely support and remained loyal to Duryodhana and the Kauravas. I feel Duryodhana's friendship was more conditional because he thought he could use Karna to outsmart Arjuna. I doubt if it would have been the same had Karna been an ordinary warrior.