

THE JOY STORY

Gappu & Mishi

The little patch of tomorrow



A little story and A whole garden

An old clay cup. A tiny seed. A friend who
knows how to wait.

Join Gappu and Mishi on a gentle walk
through the garden. Explore around and
discover a little more about each leafy
friend.



Something old

One morning, Gappu found an old clay cup beside the garden path.

“You’re too lovely to throw away,” he whispered.

“Let’s give you a new beginning!”



A new home

Mishi brought a little soil. Gappu tucked in a tiny seed.

“An old cup can be a new home,” he said.

“Sleep, little seed,” whispered Mishi.



Just a small sip

The next morning, there was only soil. Gappu nearly poured a whole jug—then paused.

“A little, not a lot.”

Together, they gave the seed a small sip.



Keeping a seed company

For several mornings, they came back to look.
Still no leaf!

“We can’t hurry a seed,” said Gappu. “But we
can keep it company.”

“Hello again!” said Mishi.



A little patch of tomorrow

Then, one morning—a little green leaf!

“The old cup has a new job,” said Gappu.

“Little by little is a lovely way to grow.”

“Hello, little leaf!” said Mishi.



While our little tree grows

“Our little tree will take a while to grow tall,”
said Gappu.

“While we wait, let me show you the rest of
the garden.”

Mishi waved to the seedling. “See you soon,
little tree!”



The tree with hanging roots

They stopped in the shade of a great banyan.

“Its hanging roots grow down like extra legs to help hold up its branches!”



Banyan बरगद bargad

A little leafy heart

“The peepal has heart-shaped leaves with long, pointy tips. Hear them rustle in the breeze?”

Mishi waved at a dancing leaf.

“A little leafy heart!”



Peepal पीपल peepal

Little leaves in a row

“Look at neem’s leafy rows! Each little leaflet has a toothed edge. Its spreading branches make a shady place to rest.”
Mishi wiggled her fingers like little leaves.



Neem नीम neem

A mango peeks out

“This sweet, juicy fruit is a mango, Mishi. It’s often called the king of fruits!

In Hindi, we say aam.”

“Aam!” said Mishi, pointing to the golden fruit.



Mango आम aam

Round fruit, little crowns

“A guava has green skin and flesh that can be pink or white inside.

And this is a pomegranate! Its little crown hides a fruit full of juicy, jewel-like seeds.”

“A crown!” said Mishi.



Guava अमरूद

amrood

Pomegranate अनार

anaar

Big leaves, lovely fruit

“Bananas grow together in bunches beneath great big leaves.

Papayas grow close to a tall stem. When ripe, their flesh is soft and orange!”

Mishi stretched up. “So much fruit!”



Banana केला

kela

Papaya पपीता

papeeta

A little yellow hello

“A lemon is small, but its juice has a big, tangy taste!

A little squeeze adds flavour to food.”

Mishi waved at the yellow fruit. “Hello, neemboo!”



Lemon नींबू neemboo

A familiar little pot

“This little plant is tulsi, or holy basil. Its leaves have a lovely scent, and it can grow in a sunny pot.” Mishi leaned closer. “Little leaves, lovely smell!”



Holy basil तुलसी tulsi

Two little leafy friends

“Mint has a cool, fresh smell. Coriander has frilly little leaves. These leafy friends help make green chutney tasty!”
Mishi gave a gentle sniff. “Sniff, sniff!”



Mint पुदीना
pudeena

Coriander धनिया
dhaniya

Petals and sunshine

“A rose wears layers of soft-looking petals. Marigolds look like little sunshine balls! People string marigolds into bright flower garlands.”

Mishi smiled. “Flowers for a celebration!”



Rose गुलाब
gulaab

Marigold गेंदा
genda

A flower with a long middle

“Look at this hibiscus, Mishi! Its broad petals open like a little trumpet. A long flower column peeks out from the middle.”

“There it is!” said Mishi.



Hibiscus गुड़हल gurhal

Hello, sunny flower

“A sunflower wears yellow petals around its big, dark middle.

Later, lots of seeds grow there. Birds enjoy them too!”

“Hello, sunny flower!” said Mishi.



Sunflower सूरजमुखी soorajmukhi

A flower above the water

“A lotus grows in a pond, anchored in the mud below. Its beautiful flower rises above the water. See the round leaves?”

“I see pink!” said Mishi from the dry path.



Lotus कमल kamal

Look all the way up

“Coconuts grow high on a palm. Under the husk and hard shell are white flesh and coconut water!

A grown-up can open one for us.”

“So high!” said Mishi.



Coconut नारियल naariyal

A little tang in a pod

“These curved brown pods hold tamarind,” said Gappu.

“Inside is sticky, tangy fruit that adds a lovely sour taste to chutney!”

“Imli!” said Mishi. “What a funny little pod!”



Tamarind इमली imli

A sweet-smelling hello

“Can you smell that sweet scent?” asked Gappu.
“These little white jasmine flowers are called mogra.
Such tiny flowers, such a lovely smell!”
Mishi leaned closer. “Sniff, sniff... hello, mogra!”



Arabian jasmine मोगरा mogra

Every plant has a surprise

“Imli hides a tangy surprise in a pod,
Mogra shares its scent on the breeze,”
said Gappu.
“Every plant has something to discover.”
“What will our little tree be like?”
wondered Mishi.
“Let’s go and see how it’s doing!”

Tamarind इमली

imli

Arabian jasmine मोगरा

mogra



Back to our little beginning

Back at their little cup, the seedling waited.

“So many garden friends,” said Gappu, “and one little plant to care for.”

“Tomorrow, we’ll see what’s new.”

“I’ll come too!” said Mishi.



Our word garden

So many lovely names.

Point to a name, find its page, and say hello again.

Banyan बरगद bargad

Peepal पीपल peepal

Neem नीम neem

Mango आम aam

Guava अमरूद amrood

Pomegranate अनार anaar

Banana केला kela

Papaya पपीता papeeta

Lemon नींबू neemboo

Holy basil तुलसी tulsi

Mint पुदीना pudeena

Coriander धनिया dhaniya

Rose गुलाब gulaab

Marigold गेंदा genda

Hibiscus गुड़हल gurhal

Sunflower सूरजमुखी soorajmukhi

Lotus कमल kamal

Coconut नारियल naariyal

Tamarind इमली imli

Arabian jasmine मोगरा mogra



What could we care for together?

An old cup becomes a new beginning. A tiny seed opens the gate to a garden of wonder.

Walk with Gappu and Mishi, meet 20 garden friends, and discover their English and Hindi names.

Little by little is a lovely way to grow.

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Written by Salil Jain.

