

The New Doll

Rabindranath Tagore



Let us make a paper doll. The finished result should look like this.

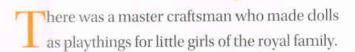
Materials required:

cardboard like a cornflakes box, scraps of fabric or coloured paper, small buttons, bits of yarn or wool, googly eyes, a marker, glue stick, a pair of scissors

This is how we make a doll.

- Draw a very basic doll shape on a cardboard and cut it out.
- Now, you have to decorate the doll.
- · Use varn or wool to make the hair.
- Cut the fabric/coloured paper according to the doll to make a
 dress or a pair of shorts and a shirt, and stick it on the cut-out.
 Use black cloth/paper to make shoes.
- Add buttons for decoration. Stick the googly eyes.
- Cut out small circles from a pink coloured paper and stick them on the face to make cheeks.

Your doll is ready. You may gift your doll to a friend/younger sibling.



Every year, a doll fair was held in the palace courtyard. All other artisans accorded the master the highest honour at the fair.

When he was nearly eighty years old, there came a new craftsman. Youthful in age and fresh in his style, he was called Kishanlal.

Of the dolls he made, some he would finish, others he would leave incomplete. Some he would colour, others he wouldn't. It appeared the dolls hadn't been finished yet and never would be. Young people said, "This man is brave."

The old-timers said, "You call it courage? This is impudence."

However, new times meant new demands. Today's princesses say, "We want these dolls."

The followers of old times said, "Arre! What bad taste!"

This made the younger lot more determined.

Crowds didn't flock the old man's stall this year. His dolls sat inside the basket and kept gazing wistfully like people waiting for a boat to reach the other shore.



A year passed by, then two; everyone forgot the old man's name. Kishanlal became the master craftsman at the royal doll fair.

The old man became heartbroken and was soon out of work. At last, his daughter suggested, "Come, stay with me."

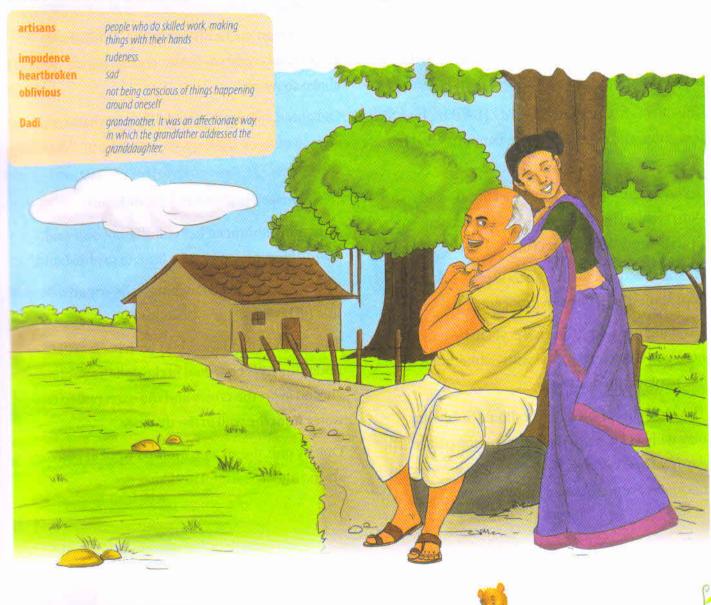
His son-in-law said, "Eat hearty, rest well, and keep an eye on our vegetable patch to chase away the cattle trying to enter it."

The old man's daughter would forever be busy with housework. His son-in-law made earthen lamps, which he ferried to the town.

Just like he didn't understand that times had changed, the old man seemed oblivious to the fact that his granddaughter was now a girl of sixteen.

Sitting under a tree, as the old man guarded the vegetable patch, often dozing off, his granddaughter would come and put her arms around his neck from behind. This made the old man very happy. He would say, "What is it, *Dadi*, what do you want?" The granddaughter would say, "Make me a doll; I will play with it."

The old man would ask, "Now, why would you like my doll?"



"Does anyone make better dolls than you?" the granddaughter would reply.

The old man would say, "Why, Kishanlal does."

"Not a chance!" the girl would say.

After countless rounds of this same argument, the old man would take out his raw materials from his cloth bag and fix his thick, round glasses to his eyes.

To his granddaughter he would say, "But, *Dadi*, the crow would eat up the corn."

She would reply, "Dada, I shall chase the crow away."

The days went by like this; the sound of oxen drawing water from the well reached them; the granddaughter chased the crows away, and the old man made dolls.

The old man was utterly scared of his daughter. She was strict, and everyone in the family heeded her dictates.

Today, engrossed in his doll making, the old man didn't realise his daughter was approaching him from behind, flailing her arms.

As she called out to him, he took off his glasses and kept staring at her like an innocent child.

His daughter said, "The cow is yet to be milked and here you are, wasting time with Subhadra. Is it her age to play with dolls?"

The old man babbled, "Why should Subhadra play with it? I will sell these dolls at the palace. The day my *Dadi* gets married, she has to have a gold necklace. I want to save money for that."

Annoyed, the daughter snapped, "At the palace who would buy such dolls?"

The old man hung his head in shame and became quiet.

Subhadra shook her head and said, "Let me see how anyone can stop herself from buying *Dada's* dolls at the palace."

A couple of days later, Subhadra returned with a gold coin and said to her mother, "Take this *mohur*, the price for my *Dada's* doll."

Mother asked, "Where did you get this?"

The daughter said, "I sold the doll at the palace."

The old man said with a chuckle, "*Dadi*, if only your *Dada* could see better and his hands wouldn't shake so much."

Delighted, her mother said, "If we have just sixteen of these *mohurs*, we can get a necklace for Subhadra."

"No worries then," assured the old man.

Subhadra embraced her grandfather and said, "Dadabhai, no worries for finding my husband."

The old man started laughing as he wiped a drop of tear off his eyes.

The old man had found his youth back. Sitting under the tree, he would make dolls as Subhadra chased away the crows and the oxen pulled out water from the well in the distance.

One by one, the sixteen *mohurs* were in place, now strung into a beautiful necklace.



The mother said, "Only the groom is missing."

Subhadra whispered into the old man's ears, *Dadabhai, my groom is ready."

Grandfather asked, "Tell me, *Dadi*, where did you find him?"

Subhadra said, "The day I went to the palace, the guard asked me what was I there for. I told him I wanted to sell dolls to the princesses. He said these dolls won't sell and turned me away. A man who

saw me crying said, 'Here, give me your dolls; if I alter the dresses a bit, they will sell very well.' If you like this man, *Dada*, I shall be happy to put the garland around his neck"

The old man asked, "Where is he?"

"There, under the Piyal tree," replied the granddaughter.

The groom-to-be entered the room; the old man said, "Arre! This is Kishanlal!"

Kishanlal touched the old man's feet and said, "Yes, I am Kishanlal."

The old man embraced him tight and said, "My dear, one day you had snatched the dolls I'd made, now you are taking away the doll of my life.

The granddaughter put her arms around the old man's neck and whispered to him, "Dada, with you in tow."

mohur

a gold coin used during the 16th century and later in India

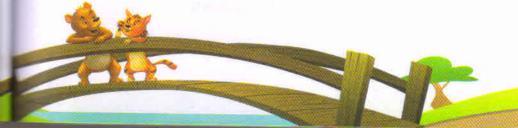


(reading for main ideas)

A. Choose the right options to complete these sentences.

- 1. Every year, a doll fair was held
 - a. in the village.
 - c. in the heart of the city.

- b. in the palace courtyard.
- d. in the artist's house.



- 2. All the girls liked Kishanlal's dolls because
 - a. they were very pretty.
 - b. they had lovely clothes.
 - c. there was something new and different about them.
 - d. they were inexpensive.
- 3. Subhadra brought a pile of gold to her mother by
 - a. selling her grandfather's dolls.
- b. working in the fields.

c. selling her old books.

d. selling her father's clay lamps.

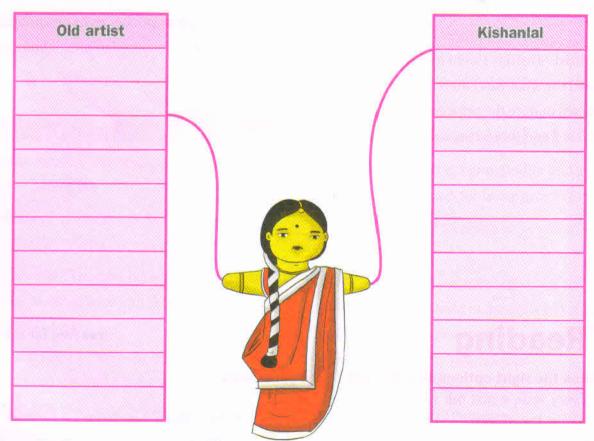
B. Answer these questions.

- 1. How did the old artist's son-in-law earn a living?
- 2. How did the old artist feel when he couldn't sell his dolls?
- 3. Why was Subhadra's mother angry with Subhadra's grandfather?

C. Think and answer.

(reading for inference; HOTS)

- 1. However, new times meant new demands. Explain the meaning of this sentence.
- 2. Whom do you like better—the old artist's daughter or his granddaughter? Why?
- 3. List the character traits of the old artist and Kishanlal in the table given below.



D. Discuss in class.

(value-based questions)

- 1. This made the younger lot more determined. When someone is asked not to do something, he/she becomes more determined to do it. Why is that so?
- 2. The old must give way to the new. Express your thoughts on this proverb.



(kinds of sentences)

A group of words that expresses a complete idea is called a sentence.

Read these sentences.

- There was a master craftsman who made dolls as playthings for little girls of the royal family.
- · "Now, why would you like my doll?"
- "Please make me some dolls."
- The followers of old times said, "Arre! What bad taste!"

The first sentence makes a statement. The second sentence asks a question. The third sentence is a request. The fourth sentence expresses a strong feeling.



There are four kinds of sentences.

- Declarative sentences make a statement to convey information or ideas. They end with a full stop. Example: The sun rises in the east.
- Imperative sentences are commands or requests. They also end with a full stop.
 Example: Stand up.
- Interrogative sentences ask a question and end with a question mark. Example: Where are you going?
- Exclamatory sentences express strong emotion. They always end with an exclamation mark. Example: What a happy moment!

Identify what kinds of sentences these are.

- 1. Hurray! We have won the match.
- 2. Where did you leave the umbrella?
- 3. I lost my spectacles in the market.
- 4. Get out of the room.
- 5. Please bring some vegetables from the market.
- 6. Do you want to watch a movie?





(meanings of words in context)

Read these sentences from the text.

- Young people said, "This man is brave."
- The old-timers said, "You call it courage? This is impudence."
- However, new times meant new demands. Today's princesses say, "We want these dolls."



The words in bold in the sentences you read are in Column A and their meanings are in Column B. Match the words to their meanings using the context clues.

Column A	Column B
1. brave	a. disrespect
2. impudence	b. the present time
3. demands	c. strong need for something
4. today's	d. bold



(writing a diary entry)

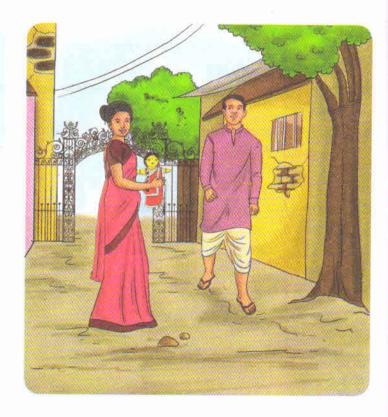
Imagine you are Kishanlal. One day, you see Subhadra at the palace trying to sell the old artist's dolls. You recognise the dolls and decide to sell the dolls to help the old man. You write a page in your diary that night. Write the diary entry.

Follow this format.

(Date, Day)
Dear Diary,
In the palace courtyard today...

Remember to

- · write in the first person and past tense;
- lay more emphasis on emotions than on the incident; and
- write in an informal, chatty language.



HOLY TRINITY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Melpalai, Edaicode Post, K.K. District.

Grade VI

English The New Doll

I. Answer the following questions.

1. How did the old artist's son-in-law earn his living?

The old artist's son-in-law earned his living by making earthen lamps, which he ferried to the town.

2. How did the old artist feel when he couldn't sell his doll? The old artist felt sad when he couldn't sell his doll.

- 3. Why was Subhadra's mother angry with Subhadra's grandfather?
 Subhadra's mother was angry with subhadra's grandfather because he was wasting his time by making doll for Subhadra.
- 4. Who made dolls for the royal family? Subhadra's grandfather made dolls for the royal family.
- 5. Why couldn't the old man sell his dolls?

 The old man couldn't sell his dolls because he left few of his dolls were incomplete. Some he would colour, others he wouldn't. It appeared the dolls hadn't been finished yet and never would be.
- 6. What happened to the old man's stall? Crowds didn't flock the old man's stall. Hence, his dolls sat 'inside the basket and kept gazing wistfully like people waiting for a boat to reach the other shove.
- 7. How did the old man spent his time in his daughters house?

 The old man spend his time by keeping an eye on their vegetable patch to chese away the cattle trying to enter in it.
- 8. What made the old man happy?
 Sitting under a tree, as guarding the vegetable patch and doing off often and enjoying with his grand daughter putting her arms around his neck from behind.
 This made the old man very happy.
- 9. However, new times meant new demands. Explain the meaning of this sentence. The statement 'But younger times had never demands' means that young people do not like or what the same things as their parents did. Their likes and dislikes change; therefore they want different kind of clothes, toys and games.
- 10. Whom do you like better the old artists daughter or his granddaughter? Why I like the old artist's daughter better because she gave shelter to her old father when he could no longer earn his livelihood. Though she was very strict, she took care of the entire family.
- 11. List the character traits of the old artist and kishanlal.

Old artist '.

He is skilled dot maker who was honoured as the best doll maker in the doll fair. He did not accept the change in people's taste. He loved his grand daughter deeply.

Kishanlal:

He is a new-age doll maker, became extremely popular but did not become proud. He was kind hearted, helped Subhadra sell her grandfather's dolls. He married the old man's grand daughter Subhadra.

- 12. This made the younger lot move determined. When someone is asked not to do something, he/she becomes more determined to do it why is that so? It is a tendency among the young to do what they are told not to do and not do what they are told to do. Smetimes this takes the form of a rebellion, but most of the time youngsters outgrow this tendency.
- 13. The old must give way to the new express your thoughts on the proverb. With time everything changes. What is new today becomes old tomorrow and must give way to newer trends. At the same time, we should respect and take the best things from the old and from our traditions.