

INDIA'S HEROES

Anonymous

Vocabulary and key words:

1. fidgeted
2. air of thrill and enthusiasm
3. assignment had not been a drudge
4. particular trait or quality
5. wish to emulate
6. crackle of sheets
7. rapt attention
8. perspiration
9. accustomed
10. not have a flair
11. two tenures
12. battalion in counter terrorism
13. insurgency
14. arranged for his evacuation
15. courageous
16. birds chirped
17. cars honked
18. abandon his responsibilities
19. restore the heritage structure
20. welled up
21. selfless
22. class rose as one, applauding and cheering
23. uphold the virtues of peace, tolerance and selflessness

The story is narrated from the third person omniscient point of view.

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Students	Kabir	Mrs. Baruah
<p>Students fidgeted and shifted in their seats, and an air of thrill and enthusiasm prevailed. She addressed an eager class 8 A. All forty hands went up in unison.</p> <p>A crackle of sheets was heard as students hurriedly arranged their pages of their assignments.</p> <p>They were eager to speak in front of their class mates. The class listened in rapt attention as one by one the children spoke about actors, sports stars, politicians and so on.</p>	<p>When Kabir got up to speak, his hands shook slightly and beads of perspiration appeared on his forehead. He was not accustomed to facing the entire class and speaking aloud. He knew he did not have a flair for making speeches.</p> <p>However, he had worked hard on his assignments and written from the depth of his heart. His assignments were different from the others. It did not focus on one person, profession or quality.</p> <p>Clearing his throat he spoke of :</p> <p>1. Thirty one year old Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan, an NSG Commando who was courageous. Sandeep Unnikrishnan had made up his mind to join the army when he was 8 years old.</p>	<p>She gave them a few seconds to settle down, let us begin our lesson for today. Mrs. Baruah beamed Mrs. Baruah said</p> <p>wonderful, you can speak on a profession someone you like and want to be like, a role model or a mentor or talk on a particular trait or quality you admire.</p> <p>Mrs. Baruah was looking down; tears welled up in her eyes. Mrs. Baurah dabbed a handkerchief to her eyes.</p>

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Students	Kabir	Mrs. Baruah
<p>By now, every eye was focused on him. Everyone had been allotted three minutes. (At the end of Kabir's first minute) Outside birds chirped, cars honked and the younger children enjoyed their recess, but class 8A was oblivious to everything and were all ears listening to Kabir. Swathi's eyes were moist. The class rose as one, applauding and cheering.</p>	<p>He served two tenures with his battalion in counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations. He became part of the NSG in January 2007. On the 27th of November 2008 he died in Mumbai fighting terrorists at the Taj Hotel. He and his team entered the hotel and engaged the terrorists in a fierce gunfight. The courageous major chased the terrorists who had escaped to another floor single-handedly. He saved his fellow soldier Gajendra Singh, but was hit by bullets and succumbed to his injuries. Kabir finished his first minute and every eye was focused on him. He used the public announcement system to warn people to escape from a different exit and continued doing so for half an hour risking his own life. 3. He would like to be like Karambir Singh Kang, the noble and loyal General Manager of the Taj Hotel, who did not worry about his family's own needs and did not abandon his responsibilities to his guests. His wife and children were trapped in a room engulfed by fire.</p>	

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<p>The children would become pillars who would uphold the virtues of peace, tolerance and selflessness in India.</p>	<p>Kabir suppressed a sob and continued. Swathi's eyes were moist.</p> <p>4. When I grow up I want to be fearless and brave like Anti-Terrorism Squad Chief Hemant Karkare, who was gunned down with his valiant comrades, Ashok Kamte and Vijay Salasker near Cama Hospital. Hemant Karkare was a brave officer who had served in Austria for seven years as an intelligence officer in RAW.</p> <p>Kabir had goose bumps on his arms and Mrs. Baruah was looking down as tears had welled up in her eyes.</p> <p>5. When I grow up I want to be caring like Mohammed Taufeeq Sheikh, a young boy who ran a tea stall outside the CST Station. He helped transport the injured to St. George Hospital.</p> <p>6. When I grow up I want to be selfless like Sandra Samuel an Indian nanny who saved the life of two-year old Moshe Holtzberg when Nariman House was attacked.</p> <p>7. When I grow up I would wish to be like the caretakers of the Kabristans in Mumbai, who displayed their resolve and refused to allow the dead terrorists to be buried there.</p> <p>When Kabir ended his speech the class rose as one applauding and cheering. Mrs. Baruah dabbed her handkerchief to her eyes.</p>	

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Name of Hero	Profession	Quality	Location
Thirty one year old Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan	NSG Commando	Courageous	Mumbai, at Taj Hotel
Vishnu Dattaram Zende	Announcer for 10 years with Mumbai Railways	alert and lucky	CST Platform
Karambir Singh Kang	General Manager of Taj Hotel	noble and loyal	Taj Hotel, Mumbai
Hemant Karkare Ashok Kamte Vijay Salasker	Anti terrorism squad chief Police Officers Police Officers	fearless and brave valiant comrades	Near Cama Hospital
Mohammed Taufeeq Sheikh	ran a tea stall outside CST Station	caring	helped transport the injured to St. George Hospital
Sandra Samuel	Indian Nanny	selfless	Nariman House
Caretakers of Kabristans	Caretakers	resolve	Kabristans, Mumbai

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Time line	Class	Kabir	Mrs. Baruah & Others
At the start of the lesson	Students fidgeted and shifted in their seats, an air of thrill and enthusiasm prevailed, all forty hands went up in unison, and the class listened in rapt attention.	hands shook slightly and beads of perspiration appeared on his forehead, clearing his throat	beamed
At the end of one minute after speaking about Sandeep Unnikrishnan	Every eye was focused on him		Outside birds chirped, cars honked and younger children enjoyed their recess.
After speaking about Karambir Singh	Swathi's eyes were moist	suppressed a sob	
After speaking about Hemant Karkare		Kabir had goose bumps	Looking down as her eyes had welled up with tears
At the end of his speech	The class rose as one applauding and cheering		Mrs. Baruah dabbed her handkerchief to her eyes.