

Catch the rainbow and bring it down!

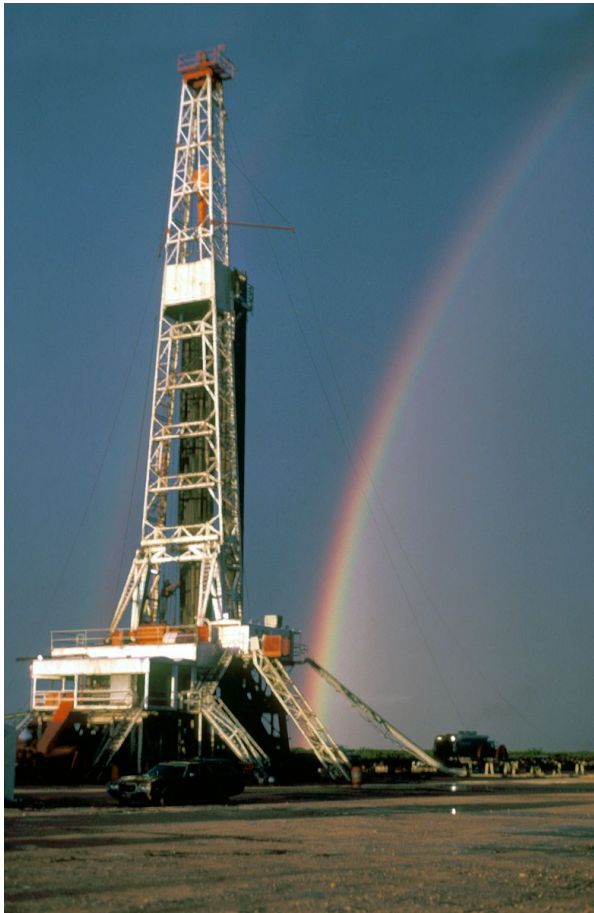
Maria loved the monsoon. When it poured outside and the thunder roared, lightning flashed and all the puddles on their terrace started turning into small lakes, she simply couldn't wait for the sun to come out so that she could float paper boats in them. Some of her boats would bob along gently while others would tip over and stop. She never tried of making them all stay afloat, though.



So, it was no surprise that even as the rain came down in heavy sheets (with no sign of stopping soon), she had already begun making her small paper boats: from differently coloured paper, brown paper, newspaper and sometimes even from waste pieces of hard plastic. She was so absorbed with this task that she jumped up when her elder sister, Annie, shouted out in an excited voice: "Maria! Come fast to the terrace! See, see! A rainbow!"

It was only then that Maria realized that the rain had stopped some time ago. She had been so busy making her little boats that she never knew when it had stopped raining.

So, she dropped her boats and ran up to the terrace. And oh! What a glorious sight she saw! Spread across the far end of the sky, high above the tall buildings there was a glorious band of colours!



"Where was it hiding all this while, Annie?" asked Maria. "Why couldn't we see it before this?"

Annie laughed. "It comes out only after the rain stops, silly! And it needs the sun to appear..."

Maria frowned as she thought about what Annie had just said. "But the sun is out all through the summer. Why doesn't it show up then?"

"You dummy! Why do you think we call it a RAINbow? It also has to rain, for it to show up!" Annie patted her little sister's head impatiently.

Maria couldn't understand why the rainbow was so fussy. It wanted the rain, then it wanted the sun ... I mean, what else did it want?

"I wish we could bring it down and keep it next to us," Maria said, wistfully. "Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could have a rainbow by our bedside?"

Annie giggled. "We can see it inside a soap bubble sometimes, remember?" She asked, cocking her eyebrow at Maria.

Oh yes! Maria remembered that they had had great fun last summer holidays at their Uncle Jim's place. 'Soap bubble day' was how they referred to it ever after. Yes, they had seen little rainbows inside the bubbles.



"But bubbles burst and then poof! There goes the rainbow, too!" said Maria, sadly. "I want a permanent rainbow. Or at least, one that lasts a few days so that I can keep looking at it ..."

Annie perked up. "Are you giving me a challenge, Maria?" she asked, sharply.

Maria had not meant to do that. But now that her sister was taking it as a challenge, she jumped up. "Oh yes! Will you find a way?"

And so, Annie set about trying to meet that challenge.

Can you help her?

Write/draw your thoughts and ideas and send them in to thinkingteacher22@gmail.com