

**Tender Heart School**  
**Sector 33 B, Chandigarh**

**Subject: English Literature**

**Class: V**

Good morning, Students

Let us understand the chapter “Swami Vivekanand – The Person” (Chapter 6) in your English Reader.

**Early Life and Background**

- **Childhood Name and Behaviour:** Swami Vivekananda was born as Narendranath Datta, affectionately called Biley by his parents. As a child, he was mischievous and loved to play, often climbing trees despite warnings about ghosts.
- **Influence of Mother:** His mother played a crucial role in shaping his character, teaching him to always follow the path of truth regardless of the consequences.

**Education and Intellect**

- **School and Extracurricular Activities:** Narendra was a bright student at Calcutta Metropolitan School, excelling not only academically but also in music, sports, wrestling, body-building, and gymnastics.
- **Courageous Acts:** An anecdote from his school days highlights his bravery; he once helped an injured sailor when all his classmates fled, showing his fearlessness and compassion.

**Higher Education and Spiritual Quest**

- **College Education:** Narendra attended the Scottish Church College in Calcutta, studying Philosophy, English, and Bengali, where he developed a close relationship with Reverend William Hastie, the college principal.
- **Introduction to Ramakrishna:** It was Reverend Hastie who introduced Narendra to the teachings of Sri Ramakrishna, which had a profound impact on him.

**Intellectual Abilities**

- **Avid Reader:** Known for his extraordinary reading and memorizing ability, Narendra impressed many with his photographic memory. For instance, he once read and memorized an entire set of the Encyclopedia Britannica volumes.
- **Concentration:** His ability to concentrate was remarkable. An example is provided where he accurately shot egg shells in a river, impressing local boys in Chicago by emphasizing the importance of focusing entirely on the task at hand.

**Spiritual Journey and Legacy**

- **Transformation into Swami Vivekananda:** Narendra grew up to become Swami Vivekananda, a Hindu monk and a famous spiritual thinker. He propagated the teachings of his guru, Ramakrishna Paramhansa, throughout his life.
- **Parliament of Religions:** He represented India at the first World's Parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1893, gaining worldwide acclaim.

- **Founding Institutions:** Swami Vivekananda founded the Ramakrishna Math and the Ramakrishna Mission, institutions dedicated to spiritual and social welfare.

### **Philosophy and Teachings**

- **Message to Countrymen:** He consistently urged his fellow Indians to "Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is achieved," advocating for perseverance and dedication.

The chapter highlights Swami Vivekananda's journey from a mischievous child to a revered philosopher and spiritual leader, emphasizing his intellect, courage, and commitment to truth and concentration. It underscores his significant contributions to India's spiritual heritage and his lasting legacy in the form of the Ramakrishna Math and Mission.