

Tender Heart High School, Sector 33 B, Chandigarh.

Subject: English Literature

Class: VI

Chapter: 18 “Sindbad the Sailor”

Good morning students,

*Today let us read and understand the Summary of the Chapter: 18
“Sindbad the Sailor” in your English Reader.*

In the era of Caliph Harun-al-Rashid, a poor porter named Hindbad lived in Baghdad. One hot day, while carrying a heavy load across the city, he became exhausted and rested near a grand house. The air was filled with the scent of rose-water and aloes-wood, and he heard melodious music and sensed the aroma of delicious dishes from within. Curious about the owner, he learned from a guard that it was the residence of Sindbad the Sailor, the renowned and wealthy traveller.

Overwhelmed with envy, Hindbad lamented his own hard life, questioning why Sindbad enjoyed such luxury while he toiled daily for mere stale bread. His audible complaints reached Sindbad, who sent a servant to invite him inside. Trembling, Hindbad entered a vast room where Sindbad and his guests were feasting. Sindbad warmly welcomed him, offered him food, and engaged him in conversation. He acknowledged hearing Hindbad’s grievances and expressed understanding and empathy.

Sindbad explained that his wealth was not easily acquired; it was the result of enduring numerous hardships and dangers during his seven voyages. He offered to share the stories of these adventures with Hindbad. Sindbad then instructed a servant to deliver Hindbad’s load to its destination and began narrating the tale of his first voyage. At the end of the evening, he gave Hindbad a purse containing a hundred sequins and invited him to return the next day to hear about his second voyage.

This routine continued, with Hindbad attending the banquets, listening to Sindbad’s tales, and receiving a purse of money each day. On the sixth day, Sindbad recounted his sixth voyage:

Despite previous shipwrecks and perils, Sindbad felt compelled to undertake a sixth voyage, disregarding the pleas of his family and friends. He traveled overland to a distant Indian port and embarked on a long sea journey. However, they encountered stormy weather that drove the ship off course, eventually

wrecking it against a massive mountain rising from the sea. The survivors found themselves on a desolate island, surrounded by the wreckage of countless ships and the remains of unfortunate sailors.

On this island, they discovered a river of fresh water flowing into a dark cave adorned with precious stones. With no hope of scaling the mountain or awaiting rescue, they rationed their provisions. One by one, Sindbad's companions perished, and as his own food supply dwindled, he devised a plan. He built a sturdy raft from driftwood, loaded it with valuable gems, and entrusted himself to the river's current, hoping it would lead to safety.

After a perilous journey through the dark cave, Sindbad emerged into daylight, where he was rescued by friendly locals. They took him to the city of Serendib and presented him to their king. Sindbad recounted his adventures to the monarch, who was impressed and treated him with great hospitality. The king provided Sindbad with lodging and generous gifts, including precious stones and rare commodities.

After some time, Sindbad expressed his desire to return home. The king granted his request, sending him off with additional gifts and a letter for Caliph Harun-al-Rashid, affirming their friendship. Sindbad returned to Baghdad, presented the gifts and letter to the Caliph, and shared the tales of his adventures.

Upon concluding his story, Sindbad dismissed his guests, giving Hindbad another hundred sequins, and invited them to return the following day to hear about his seventh and final voyage.