

Title: Visiting My Gramer Bari in the Rainy Season

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Level: Elementary to Pre-Intermediate

Genre: Non-fiction (Holidays, Festivals, Life in the countryside)

Adapted and edited with author's permission by Cherie Brown. Painting by Abrar Hossain Zain

It was *Nabeel's* school **holidays**, and one day his father **suddenly** had an idea. It was time to visit his village home. Nabeel's father wanted to teach *Nabeel* how to live in different places and get used to different ways of living. "Everyone should go to their *gramer bari** at least once a year." he said, and he started to **clean** their car for the **trip**.

The next day, *Nabeel* and his **parents** headed out very early, as if they were going on an **exciting** adventure. They thought they would arrive at 11:30 am, but as the road was free and a little less crowded than usual, they reached the village early, at **exactly** 10:57 am. After arriving, *Nabeel* took a long **breath** and **shouted** "At last!!!!!!!!!! We made it!!!" He was so excited to be there after the long car trip.

After **greeting** everyone, and then settling down again, *Nabeel* felt very **tired**, so he did not visit any other place that day. The next day, he felt less tired, so he visited more of his relatives who lived in other parts of the village. That was a really good day! He got to eat **a lot of pitha*** and *Nabeel* felt that he had been **treated** like a *prince** the whole time. Just like that, the day was over.

On the second day of their visit, *Nabeel* went fishing with his father. He also **bathed** in a *pond** which was owned by his **grandfather**. That day it **rained** a lot, but *Nabeel* didn't mind. He bathed in the rain too. Unfortunately, *Nabeel* caught a light **fever** as he bathed outside in the rain for a long time. His relatives in the village treated him with **medicine** made from the plants that grew in the village, and he soon felt much better. He went to bed and slept deeply all night long.

The next morning, *Nabeel* **woke up** and found that his fever was gone and he felt much better. He went out of the house, and very soon he became friends with many of the village children. They played many games that he did not know about, but he enjoyed playing with them. He had so much **fun**, that he kept playing with them all night, until the sun came up the next day. He was tired after that long night, so he slept a lot the next day.



Painting by HOSSAIN Abrar Zain, 12 January 2018

The following day was *Eid* and so it was a *festival** day. Once again, *Nabeel* got to eat very *tasty**, good food, such as *firni** and *polau**. *Nabeel* could **smell** *ghee** everywhere as the villagers **cooked** special food. It was a very tiring day, because there was so much going on, but it was the most enjoyable day of all for *Nabeel*.

Soon it was the last day of their trip and the time came for them to leave for Dhaka. Early in the morning, they **packed up** everything and got ready to leave. *Nabeel* and his parents waved goodbye to everyone and set out for home. “I had such a great time. I want to come again next year.” said *Nabeel* to his father as they drove away, and his father smiled.

Later, when *Nabeel* told me about his trip, I thought it really is a good idea to take some fresh air sometimes by visiting your village home. In the city you can’t really breathe fresh air because of all the cars and *pollution**. I agree with *Nabeel’s* father. If you get the chance, you should visit your *gramer bari*, your village home, at least once every year.

Learning Activities

Vocabulary

Words from the high frequency second 1000 General Service Word List. These words are very common in English, so you should learn them before the other words listed here.

bathed

exactly

grandfather

medicine

smell

trip

breath (noun)/breathe (verb)	excited/exciting	greeting	packed (up)	suddenly
clean	fever	holidays	parents	tired/tiring
cooked	fun	lot (a lot of)	shouted	treated

Glossary: These words are not so common in English so it is not important to learn these yet.

1. **festival** = (noun) a special day when people often mark the day by eating special food and taking part in special activities
2. **pollution** = (noun) when a place has been hurt or spoiled because of rubbish or dangerous or poisonous materials
3. **pond** = (noun) a small body of water, smaller than a lake
4. **prince** = (noun) a man or boy who has a royal title. The son of a king or queen.
5. **tasty** = (adjective) describes food that feels good to eat when you put it into your mouth.

List of non-English words:

1. **Eid** = a Muslim festival, treated as the biggest festival time in Bangladesh
2. **Gramer bari** = village home
3. **pitha** = a traditional Bengali food, sort of cake
4. **firni** = a traditional Bengali sweet dish
5. **polau** = a traditional Bengali rich food, a sort of fried rice
6. **ghee** = clarified butter

Comprehension Questions (Give your answers in English.)

1. **Remembering:** Why did *Nabeel's* father want to take *Nabeel* to his *gramer bari*?
2. **Understanding:** Why did *Nabeel* feel that he had been treated like a *prince*?

Critical Thinking Questions (Give your answers in English.)

1. **Applying:** If you had a whole day to yourself, and you could do anything you wanted, what would you do? Why did you choose to do that?

2. **Applying:** Would you bathe (or have you ever bathed) in a pond outdoors on a rainy day? Why/Why not?
3. **Analysing and Evaluating:** What holiday activities are good to do on a sunny day? What holiday activities are good to do on a rainy day? What activities can you do on both a sunny and a rainy day? (Make three lists.) Which activities are more fun and why?
4. **Evaluating:** In your view, which is better, a holiday in a village or a holiday in the city? Why?
5. **Creating:** Make a class book with the title "*Things to do on Rainy Days*". Each student should make one colourful page for the book, in English. Each page should have the following...
 - a. information about a rainy day activity (everyone should choose something different). Say what it is, where and when people can do the activity, and how to do it.
 - b. a drawing or picture of someone doing the activity
 - c. some sentences saying why the student chose this activity. (Start with..."I chose this activity because...")
 - d. the student's name

Students should present their pages to their classmates (in groups or to the whole class). If possible, someone should copy each page (enough for one for every student), put the pages together, make them into books, and give one to each class member. If that is not possible, make one class book, and place it in your class 'library' so that everyone can read it. If making a book is not possible, ask each student to present their information (in groups or to the whole class) as a short talk, in English.