



Annual Haircut Day- ONCE AGAIN!

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Re-level: Rohini Nilekani

Level 2



“Parvati,” shouted Sringeri Srinivas, the banana farmer.
“I must cut my hair on this Annual Haircut Day!”



“Well, don’t ask **me!**” Parvatamma declared. “You know I have so much extra work now. There is the cooking and the cleaning and the farm work. Today, I have no time to cut such long hair.”



“Why should I need you?” asked Sringeri, puzzled.
“As usual, I will go to Bhimanna, the barber.”



OHO! Suddenly, he remembered. Bhimanna's shop was closed. It was because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

There was a lockdown everywhere.



The village, the country, and in fact, the whole world was troubled because of one little virus, named SARS-CoV-2.

Sringeri Srinivas peeped out from his gate. The main road of the village was quiet. He could see the closed barbershop in the distance.



Out came Sringeri's famous frown. "Hmmp!" he growled. "Am I going to let one tiny little virus prevent me from keeping my promise to my Gods? Never!"



He picked up his phone and called Bhimanna.

"You know, it is my Annual Haircut Day today. Can you help me?"

In a kind voice, Bhimanna replied, "Sringeri Anna, you know I cannot help you this time. It is dangerous for both of us."



"What shall I do? Nobody will help me now," wailed Sringeri.



Suddenly, little Uma stepped up bravely to her angry father.

“Appa, until the lockdown is over, why don’t you try a new hairstyle? We will help you.”



Soon, the children had crowded around their father. Shiva checked the internet to find ways to style hair.

Shankari pulled out a chair, a comb, and a mirror.
Little Uma found some pins and ribbons.



The children had a jolly time, styling Sringeri's long, thick hair into many, many shapes.



It was the best time the family had enjoyed since the lockdown.



“Idea! Idea! I have an idea!” shouted Sringeri, jumping out of the chair. All the combs and pins and ribbons went flying about.



Sringeri Srinivas stormed out of his house and out of the farm gate, right on to the village street.

"Devare! My Gods!" he said, waving his hands at the sky. *"I have an idea."*



Sringeri Srinivas was so loud, that all the villagers peeped out of their homes. Youngsters came out, wearing masks. The cows ambled up. The monkeys swung by. The birds flew closer. The dogs pricked up their ears. After so many weeks, something was happening in the village. Everyone was curious.



"Devare, I had made a promise to you that I would cut my hair on this auspicious day every year. But now, because of this ... this *virus-birus*, I cannot get a good haircut," Sringeri explained.



"So, I am making a new promise. Until our scientists find a cure for this illness, I will NOT cut my hair. Even if it becomes as long as the ... as the king cobra in my cousin's village, I will not cut my hair until our scientists succeed."



"And I will make a donation to help them too," Sringeri swore, putting his hand to his heart.
The whole village roared in approval.



Somebody picked up a drum.
Byrappa began to sing.
The little children began to dance.



Soon the news spread far and wide.

Sringeri Srinivas was doing a special penance for the health of his village, and of the world!



When the lockdown lifted a little, they came to see Sringeri Srinivas's long, amazing hair.



Many villagers were inspired to grow their own hair!

“I hope our scientists find a cure **soon**,” prayed Parvatamma, standing outside the village temple.



"I really hope so too," whispered Bhimanna, the barber.

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Annual Haircut Day- ONCE AGAIN!

(English)

Sringeri Srinivas is back! It is Annual Haircut Day, once again. But there is a lockdown in his village due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The barbershop is closed. What will the lovable banana farmer do this time?

This is a Level 2 book for children who recognize familiar words and can read new words with help.



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