

6th Standard English

The Friendly Mongoose

There was a farmer. He lived with his wife and a small child in a village. One evening, the farmer brought a baby mongoose. He thought that the mongoose would be their son's friend. The mongoose grew to its full size in five or six months. The farmer's son was still a baby.

One day, the farmer's wife went to the market. She asked her husband to keep an eye on the baby. The baby was sleeping in the cradle. She did not want to leave her child alone with the mongoose. Clearly she feared that the mongoose might harm her child. The farmer assured her not to be afraid. The farmer trusted the mongoose fully.

The farmer's wife went to the market. The farmer also went to take a look at his fields soon after. The farmer's wife returned home with a basketful of groceries. The mongoose was waiting for her at the door. He saw her and ran to welcome her. The farmer's wife saw that the face and paws of the mongoose were smeared with blood.

She thought that the mongoose had killed her son. So she hit the mongoose hard with her basket full of groceries. The mongoose died instantly. She ran inside. She saw her baby fast asleep. Nearby, a black snake lay dead in a pool

of blood. She understood that the mongoose had killed the snake and saved her son. She repented over her rash and foolish action. She started sobbing but in vain. Her repentance shows that hurry causes worry.

