

UNIT-3

CHAPTER-1 : (Mystery and magic)

The Case of the Fifth Word



(by Donald J.Sobol)

About the Chapter: The 'Case of the Fifth Word' is a detective story featuring Encyclopedia Brown, a clever eighth-grader who helps his father, Chief Brown, solve a mysterious case. When a former convict dies and leaves a strange message in his will, Encyclopedia deciphers a hidden clue using logic and pattern recognition. The story highlights critical thinking, observation and the value of quiet intelligence.

Important Characters :

Leroy (Encyclopedia) Brown A clever eighth-grader with an encyclopedic memory who secretly solves tough police cases.

Chief Brown The smart and respected Chief of Police in Idaville and Encyclopedia's father.

Mrs. Brown Encyclopedia's observant and supportive mother, often part of the family's mystery discussions.

Tim Nolan A former prisoner and palm-tree nursery owner, suspected in a jewellery robbery and recently

Daniel Davenport Nolan's prison friend, believed to be his partner in the robbery and missing since the crime. deceased.

Part I :

Encyclopedia Brown is a brilliant eighth-grade boy who lives in Idaville, where his father, Chief Brown, works as the Chief of Police. Although Chief Brown is known for being smart and quick-thinking, he sometimes turns to his son for help with unsolved cases. These mysterious discussions often happen over dinner.

One Tuesday evening, Chief Brown seems troubled. He stares at his bowl of cream-of-mushroom soup which is a sign that he is working on a difficult case. Encyclopedia and his mother immediately notice. Chief Brown shares that a man named Tim Nolan has died. Mrs. Brown recognises the name and recalls Nolan's possible link to a jewellery store robbery that occurred five years ago. Chief Brown confirms that two masked men robbed the Diamond Mart on Sixth Avenue. They stole a million dollars' worth of jewellery.

At the time of the robbery, a store clerk thought she recognised Nolan but she wasn't certain enough to testify in court. As a result, Nolan was only questioned, not arrested. Chief Brown always believed that Nolan had worked with another man, Daniel Davenport, whom he had met in prison in South Carolina.

After being released, Nolan moved to Idaville and opened a small palm-tree nursery. Just a week before the robbery, Davenport moved in with Nolan, which made the timing look suspicious. But there was no concrete evidence and Davenport disappeared suddenly after the robbery. That is why the case went cold.

Chief Brown reveals that Nolan died of a stroke. Before dying, he somehow managed to leave his will on the kitchen table, which states that everything he owned, including the palm-tree nursery, should go to Daniel Davenport.

Although Nolan had a history of heart problems, the, is not convinced everything is as it seems. He believes, Nolan and Davenport may have hidden the stolen jewellery, waiting for the right time to retrieve it. A ten, officers searched Nolan's house thoroughly but found be trace of the missing loot. The mystery deepens-and Encyclopedia is already thinking about the clues.

Part II :

After Tim Nolan's death, Chief Brown finds something unusual: a sheet from a desk calendar clipped to Nolan's will. On it are four odd words written beneath Daniel Davenport's name and address:

Nom Utes Sweden Hurts. These strange words puzzle both Chief and Mrs. Brown. While Mrs. Brown tries to decode them using her grammar knowledge, she can't find any clear meaning. She eventually turns to Encyclopedia.

Encyclopedia studies the words and asks just one question: 'Is there a young fir tree in Nolan's palm-tree nursery?' Chief Brown confirms that there is one. Surprised, he asks how Encyclopedia knew that. The young detective says, 'The four words say so.'

Encyclopedia explains that the mysterious message is actually a simple word puzzle based on the days of the week. Nolan had used a calendar sheet to create a secret clue. He took the names of the weekdays and removed the letters D-A-Y from each one. The leftover letters formed the strange words: 'Nom' from Monday, 'Utes' from Tuesday, 'Sweden' from Wednesday and 'Hurts' from

Thursday. The pattern clearly pointed to Friday as the missing fifth word. When D-A-Y is removed from Friday, it leaves 'Fir'. This was a clever hint that led Encyclopedia to suspect the jewellery was hidden under the young from in Nolan's nursery.

The fifth 'word' or clue leads to the hidden jewellery. Mar had buried the stolen jewels under a fir tree growing in : twenty-gallon jug of earth in his nursery. Thanks to Encyclopedia's sharp mind, the mystery is solved before dessert like every time.

CHAPTER-2 : (Mystery and magic)

The Magic Brush of Dreams

About the Chapter The poem is about Gopi, a girl who gets a magic brush. She uses it to help poor villagers by painting things they need. When a greedy Zamindar asks her to paint for him, she refuses and shows courage. Gopi escapes from prison using her magic and protects her village. The poem teaches kindness, bravery and the power of helping others.

Important Characters :

Gopi A brave and kind-hearted girl who uses a magical brush to help the poor and stand up to injustice. The Mysterious Man A wise, quiet figure who gives Gopi the magic brush and tells her to use it only for the poor.

The Villagers Kind and supportive people who respect Gopi and benefit from her magical paintings.

The Zamindar A greedy and powerful landlord who tries to misuse the magic brush for wealth and control.

The Zamindar's Men Followers of the Zamindar who obey his orders but retreat in fear when Gopi stands firm.

Stanza-wise Explanation

Stanza 1 :

Go and gather wild beans, Gopi, Go and fetch some rice.
Go and pluck the mangoes, And bring home something nice.

Explanation This stanza tells us about Gopi's daily life. She is probably a young girl who lives in a village. In village life, it's normal for children to help with everyday tasks. Her family is asking her to go out and collect food items like wild beans, rice and mangoes. These are simple, natural foods that grow around them. The way the lines are written feels gentle and rhythmic, like something Gopi might hear often. This shows how close her life is to nature.

Stanza 2 :

Gopi sits beneath the banyan, A twig is in her hand.
She sits there drawing pictures, Pictures in the sand.

Explanation In this stanza, instead of doing what she was told, Gopi goes and sits under a big banyan tree. This tree is a calm, shady place often seen in villages. She takes a small stick and starts drawing pictures in the sand. This shows that Gopi is interested in something else. She enjoys creating art and using her imagination. Even though she doesn't say anything, her actions show that she's a quiet and thoughtful child. Drawing in the sand is her way of dreaming.

Stanza 3 :

The winds blow by and sweeps away, The pictures in the sand.
But on a stone there sits a man, A brush is in his hand.

Explanation In this stanza, while Gopi is drawing, the wind blows and erases her sand pictures. This can mean that dreams and creative things can disappear quickly if they're not protected. But then something unexpected happens. A man is sitting on a stone nearby and he has a paintbrush in his hand. He seems calm and magical. His appearance feels special, like he came out of nowhere. This moment marks a change in the poem—from real life to something magical. We now feel that something wonderful is about to happen to Gopi.

Stanza 4 :

He looks around. He calls to Gopi., "Come here!" he whispers.
"Hush! We mustn't let the village know, About this magic brush."

Explanation In this stanza, the man looks around to make sure no one is watching. Then, he quietly calls Gopi to come closer. He tells her to keep this a secret and not to tell the village about the magic brush. The fact that he whispers makes the moment feel more magical and mysterious. It's like he is trusting Gopi with something very special.

Stanza 5 :

He slips the brush into her hand, And tells her to be sure,
"Paint not for the wealthy ones, But only for the poor"

Explanation In this stanza, the man gently puts the magic brush into Gopi's hand. This shows that he believes in her and trusts her with something powerful. But he also gives her a clear instruction: she must not use the brush for rich people. She should only use it to help the poor. This gives the story an important message—that special talents and powers should be used to do good and help those in need.

Stanza 6 :

"Did you gather wild beans, Gopi?, Did you fetch some rice?
Did you pluck the mangoes, And bring home something nice?"

Explanation In this stanza, the grown-ups ask Gopi the same questions from the first stanza. They want to know if she has collected the wild beans, rice and mangoes. Their questions sound a little surprising, maybe even disappointing.

Stanza 7 :

"No beans, no rice, no mangoes!", Gopi grins and runs inside.
She paints a bowl of khichdi and waits, Until the paint has dried.

Explanation In this stanza, Gopi laughs and tells then she hasn't brought any food-no beans, no rice and no mangoes. But she's not upset. She runs inside with a big grin because she has a plan. She paints a bowl of khichdi with the magic brush and waits for it to dry. Khichdi is a simple, healthy meal made from rice and lentils. Instead of picking food, she paints it.

Stanza 8 :

"The bowl is full of khichdi, Gopi!", Into the house the villagers streamed
The young and old all wish to see, The magic brush of dreams.

Explanation In this stanza, the painted bowl of khichdi becomes real! Everyone is amazed. The villagers rush into Gopi's house to see what's happening. People of all ages come to see the magic brush in action. They are full of wonder and excitement. The brush is now called 'the brush of dreams,' which means it doesn't just make pictures-it can make dreams come true. Her creativity has turned into something that can help and surprise the whole community.

Stanza 9 :

She paints a muffler for a farmer, A plough for another man,
A shawl for a grandmother, And for a girl, a fan.

Explanation In this stanza, Gopi starts painting useful things for people around her. She paints a muffler to keep a farmer warm, a plough for another man to work the land, a shawl for an old woman and a fan for a girl she remembers what the man told her and uses the brush only for those in need. Gopi doesn't use the magic brush for herself-she uses it to help others.

Stanza 10 :

And soon the news spreads far and wide, Through forests, fields and plains,
Until the Zamindar himself, Hears of these magic gains.

Explanation In this stanza, the news of Gopi's magic brush spreads across the land. It travels through forests, fields and plains-reaching even faraway places. Finally, the Zamindar (a rich and powerful landlord) hears about it. Until now, Gopi's magic was used for good, and people were happy. But the mention of the Zamindar brings a new feeling-maybe trouble is coming. Rich and powerful people might not have the same good intentions as Gopi. This stanza builds tension and prepares the reader for what might happen next in the story.

Stanza 11 :

"I order you to paint for me, A fortress tall and grand.
Paint treasures, jewels and riches rare, Enough to rule this land."

Explanation In this stanza, the Zamindar, who is rich and powerful, commands Gopi to paint things for him. He wants her to paint a tall, grand fortress and treasures like gold and jewels. These things show his greed and desire for control. Unlike Gopi, who uses the brush to help others, the Zamindar only thinks about himself. His voice is bossy and proud and he believes that because he has power, he can force Gopi to do what he wants.

Stanza 12 :

Gopi bows and shakes her head., "My lord, I can't comply.
I swore to use this magic brush, To help the needy by."

Explanation In this stanza, Gopi politely bows but firmly says no. She tells the Zamindar that she made a promise to use the magic brush only to help poor people. She stays calm and respectful, even though she is in a dangerous situation. This shows her bravery and honesty. She is not scared by the Zamindar's power and refuses to break her promise, even if it means getting into trouble.

Stanza 13 :

The Zamindar roars and stamps his foot. , He bellows to his men,
"Seize this brush and seize the girl., Throw her in the pen!"

Explanation In this stanza, the Zamindar becomes very "angry when Gopi refuses him. He shouts and stamps his foot He tells his guards to take the brush from Gopi and lock her up. The words used-like 'roars' and bellows' show how furious and unfair he is. He thinks he can get whatever he wants by shouting and using force. Gopi is thrown into a small prison, which shows how people in power can sometimes act cruelly when they don't get their way.

Stanza 14 :

Now Gopi waits inside the cell, Upon a cold mud floor.
Until the Zamindar returns, And shouts through the door.

Explanation In this stanza, Gopi sits quietly in the prison cell, which has a cold mud floor. Even though the place is uncomfortable, she stays patient and calm. She waits without fear. Later, the Zamindar comes back and calls out to her. His loud voice breaks the silence. This stanza shows the difference between Gopi's peaceful strength and the Zamindar's loud, greedy behaviour.

Stanza 15 :

He holds the brush. He thunders loud, "Paint my fortress tall!
Paint gold and rubies, emeralds bright, And you shall leave this hall!"

Explanation In this stanza, the Zamindar holds the magic brush himself. He shouts at Gopi again, telling her to paint the fortress and riches he wants. He says he'll let her go free if she agrees. This is another test for Gopi-will she break her promise just to escape? The Zamindar is trying to tempt her with freedom but his goal is still selfish. The poem builds suspense here, as we wonder what Gopi will do next.

Stanza 16 :

That night the Zamindar lies in bed, Dreaming of his gold,
While Gopi paints a winding road, A horse both strong and bold.

Explanation In this stanza, while the Zamindar sleeps, dreaming of gold, Gopi quietly uses the brush to create a way to escape. She paints a winding road and a strong, fast horse. Instead of giving in to the Zamindar's demand, she uses her cleverness and bravery to find a solution.

Stanza 17 :

The road leads out of prison gates., The horse, she swiftly urges
Gopi leaps on and gallops fast, Through fields and many villages.

Explanation In this stanza, the road and horse come alive, just like her other paintings. Gopi quickly jumps onto the horse and rides away from the prison. She travels through fields and villages. This moment is exciting and magical.

Stanza 18 :

"It's Gopi! It's Gopi! She's back again!", Say the villagers, merry and kind.
But Gopi keeps on painting still, With the Zamindar's men following behind.

Explanation In this stanza, Gopi returns to the village and the villagers are very happy to see her. They welcome her with kindness and joy. But Gopi doesn't stop to rest-she knows the Zamindar's guards are still chasing her. She keeps painting, thinking fast and staying brave. Even in danger, she remains calm and focused.

Stanza 19 :

She paints a mighty river wide, Its currents fast and deep.
The Zamindar and all his men, Stop short and cannot leap.

Explanation In this stanza, Gopi paints a large, fast-flowing river to stop the Zamindar and his men from catching her. The river is too deep and strong for them to cross. This clever move saves her. It shows how intelligence and creativity can defeat even powerful enemies. Gopi never uses violence-just her art and imagination.

Stanza 20 :

"Now should I paint a beast, To leap and chase you through?
Stop this chase or it will feast, On you and you and you!"

Explanation In this stanza, Gopi warns the Zamindar : and his men that if they don't stop chasing her, she could paint a fierce beast to attack them. Her voice is strong and serious. She is not afraid anymore. This is the moment where her magical power finally wins over their threats.

Stanza 21 :

The Zamindar cries, "No, no, no more!, I'll leave, I'll go away!"
He turns and flees; his men behind, Dare not choose to stay.

Explanation In this stanza. the Zamindar gets scared. He shouts that he doesn't want to continue and decides to run away. His men, seeing him flee, also leave. Gopi has won-not by hurting anyone but by being brave, clever and using her magic with care.

Stanza 22 :

Now Gopi paints for the village folk, A feast of sweets and tea.
A courtyard bright, a band to play, And songs of victory.

Explanation Now that the danger is over, Gopi celebrates with the villagers. She paints a wonderful feast with sweets and tea. There is music, dancing and a joyful atmosphere. Everyone feels happy and free. This ending shows that Gopi used the magic brush the right way-to spread happiness, help others and bring the village together. It is a joyful and satisfying end to the magical story.

CHAPTER 3: (Mystery and Magic) Spectacular Wonders

About the Chapter This chapter takes you on a journey to amazing natural places in india, you'll learn about strange mountains, mysterious craters and magical hills that trick your eyes. It shows how nature can be full of surprises and wonders waiting to be explored!

Chapter Summary :

India is home to some amazing natural phenomena that spark imagination. India is full of amazing natural wonders that surprise and fascinate us. This chapter explores some of these unique places and explains the science and stories behind them.

Located in the Himalayas, the Valley of Flowers is covered with hundreds of colourful flowers like poppies, orchids, and marigolds. It is home to rare animals like snow leopard and flying squirrels. From May to October, it becomes a beautiful natural garden and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

In Meghalaya, people create strong bridges using the roots of rubber trees instead of cement. These bridges are long-lasting and part of the natural ecosystem. Some are over 100 feet high or 175 feet long, showing the wisdom of the local people. Around 100 such bridges exist today.

This lake was formed when a meteorite hit the Earth thousands of years ago. It is the only crater in India made in basalt rock and is one of the largest in the world. The lake is round and salty, and it reminds us of Earth's ancient history.

In Ladakh, there is a hill where vehicles seem to move uphill on their own. This surprising event is actually an optical illusion caused by the slope of the road and the surrounding land. It feels like gravity disappears!

Near Kochi, the backwaters of Kumbalangi village glow at night. This glow comes from tiny living organisms called planktons The glowing waters look magical and attract many visitors to this peaceful eco-tourism spot.

The Sundarbans is a large mangrove forest found in the river delta of the Ganga, Brahmaputra, and Meghna. Trees grow in salty, waterlogged soil and help protect the coast. It is home to many animals, including the Bengal tiger and crocodiles.

At Chandipur Beach, the sea seems to disappear during low tide as the water moves 2 to 5 km away from the shore. After a few hours, it returns. This daily event looks like the sea is playing hide-and-seek.