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How I Taught My Grandmother to Read-Sudha Murthy

Sudha Murthy's How I Taught My Grandmother to Read is a heartwarming narrative that explores the transformative power of education and the significance of literacy in one's life.

It is a rural village in northern Karnataka, where access to newspapers and magazines was limited. The narrator, a twelve-year-old girl, read a serialised novel called Kashi Yatre by Triveni, which appeared in a Kannada weekly called Karmaveera every Wednesday to her grandmother Krishtakka, who was an illiterate. The grandmother ___identified herself with the protagonist of the story — an old lady longing to visit Kashi, who selflessly chose to prioritise an orphan girl's___ happiness over her own pilgrimage.

One day, the narrator, after returning from a week-long wedding celebration, found her grandmother in tears. As she inquired, the grandmother revealed her regret for not being educated and her inability to read the latest episode of Kashi Yatre. She asked the narrator for help in learning to read the Kannada alphabet. At first, the narrator made fun of her grandmother. The grandmother assured that she will work hard and would keep Saraswati Pooja day during Dassara as the deadline to learn the letters of the Kannada Alphabet. The narrator, inspired by her grandmother's determination, agreed to teach her.

The narrator became her grandmother's first teacher. The grandmother surprised the narrator on Dassara day by touching her feet, acknowledging her as a teacher who had helped her achieve literacy. The narrator gave her a copy of Kashi Yatre, which was later published as a novel, as a gift to her grandmother.

How I taught my Grandmother to Read, brings out the importance of education and the impact it can have on an individual's sense of independence and self-worth. The story celebrates the triumph of knowledge, the relationship between a teacher and a student, as well as the bond between a grandmother and her granddaughter