

ALPHALEARN STUDYLAB

STD 7 ENGLISH

COMPLETE STUDY GUIDE

Poorvi — All 14 Chapters | 5 Units

- Chapter Summaries & Theme Notes
- Vocabulary Power — Meanings, Usage, Synonyms & Antonyms
 - Study Tips & Exam Tricks
- Every Worksheet Question Fully Solved

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Based on CBSE / NCERT Curriculum | Answer Keys Included

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How to Use This Guide

Read the Summary and Theme first to anchor the chapter. Master the Vocabulary Power table — one new word set per day. Then attempt each worksheet section and check yourself immediately with the answer box below it. Finish with the Study Tips before every exam.

UNIT 1

LEARNING TOGETHER

Ch. 1: The Day the River Spoke • Ch. 2: Three Days to See • Ch. 3: Try Again

CHAPTER 1

The Day the River Spoke

Chapter at a Glance — Summary

Jahnavi is a young girl in a coastal Indian village who longs to go to school, but her parents keep her home to mind her younger siblings. One day, while sitting by the river with Little Appu, she hears a sleepy, murmuring voice — the River itself speaks to her. The River reminds Jahnavi that she is already brave: she is not afraid of the lizard, the snake in the bamboo clump, or the rattling trains. Encouraged, Jahnavi slips into the village school and sits quietly in the back row. The kind teacher notices her, visits her home, and convinces her family. Jahnavi promises her mother that when she grows up she will become a teacher and bring every little girl of the village to school.

Theme & Central Message

Education is every child's right — especially the girl child's. Courage means using the bravery you already have, and one kind teacher can change a whole family's thinking.

Characters / Voices to Remember

Jahnavi — a curious, brave girl who longs to study; The River — her wise, playful friend and guide; Gopi (Ettan) — her elder brother; Little Appu — the baby she minds; The Teacher — kind and understanding.

Vocabulary Power

Word	Meaning	Usage in a Sentence	Synonym	Antonym
bask	to sit or lie in warmth, enjoying the sun	<i>The lizard slithered down to bask on the warm rock.</i>	sunbathe	shiver
thicket	a dense group of bushes and small trees	<i>A shy deer hid inside the thicket.</i>	shrubbery	clearing
murmur	to speak in a low, soft, continuous voice	<i>The river murmured softly as it flowed to the sea.</i>	whisper	shout
shriek	to make a high-pitched, piercing cry	<i>The parrot shrieked from the mango tree.</i>	scream	whisper
wail	to cry or complain loudly and sadly	<i>Little Appu wailed until his sister picked him up.</i>	sob	laugh
rustle	a light sound of leaves or paper moving	<i>She heard the rustle of leaves behind her.</i>	swish	silence
catamaran	a small boat made of logs tied together	<i>Chandu rowed his catamaran across the calm water.</i>	raft	—
conspiratorial	in a secretive way, as if sharing a secret	<i>The River whispered conspiratorially about the moon.</i>	secretively	openly
creep	to move slowly, quietly and carefully	<i>Jahnavi crept into the classroom without a sound.</i>	sneak	march
bustling	full of busy, noisy activity	<i>The bustling classroom fell silent when the teacher entered.</i>	lively	deserted

Study Tips & Exam Tricks

- ★ Remember the three fears the River lists (lizard, snake, trains) — examiners love this detail in short answers.
- ★ 'Ettan' (elder brother), 'catamaran' (Tamil origin) and 'Ashoka' (the lesson being taught) are favourite one-mark facts.
- ★ For the diary-entry question, always include feelings BEFORE and AFTER entering school — that contrast earns full marks.
- ★ Link the theme to girl-child education in value-based answers; mention Jahnavi's promise to become a teacher.

WORKSHEET 1 — Foundation & Application (Fully Solved)

SECTION A — Multiple Choice Questions [6 Marks]

Choose the correct option for each question. (1 mark each)

- Jahnavi lived in a _____ village in India.
(a) coastal
(b) mountain
(c) desert
(d) urban
- The voice Jahnavi heard near the river was described as:
(a) shrill and alarming
(b) sleepy and murmuring
(c) loud and cheerful
(d) sharp and piercing
- What word does Jahnavi use to address her elder brother Gopi?
(a) Anna
(b) Dada
(c) Ettan
(d) Bhaiya
- Why did the River say it 'had to hurry'?
(a) It was raining heavily.
(b) It had to reach the sea.
(c) It wanted to avoid the trains.
(d) It was late for school.
- The word 'catamaran' used in the story comes originally from:
(a) Sanskrit
(b) Hindi
(c) Tamil
(d) Bengali
- When Jahnavi crept into the classroom, she sat:
(a) on a wooden bench in the front
(b) beside the teacher's desk
(c) in the back row on the earthen floor
(d) near the door on a chair

✓ Answers — Section A

- (a) coastal
- (b) sleepy and murmuring
- (c) Ettan
- (b) It had to reach the sea.
- (c) Tamil
- (c) in the back row on the earthen floor

SECTION B — Fill in the Blanks [6 Marks]

Fill in each blank with the most appropriate word from the chapter. (1 mark each)

1. A green lizard _____ down to the river's edge to bask in the sun.
2. The lesson the teacher was reading on Jahnvi's first visit to school was about a prince called _____.
3. Jahnvi's youngest sibling, whom she was minding, was called Little _____.
4. The River said that _____ (Chandu's boat) was good enough for it.
5. Parrots _____, so the voice Jahnvi heard could not have been theirs.
6. The River told Jahnvi conspiratorially that the moon always goes over the mountains and down to the sea, just like _____.

✓ Answers — Section B

1. slithered
2. Ashoka
3. Appu
4. catamaran
5. shrieked
6. the River

SECTION C — Match the Following [4 Marks]

Match each word/phrase in Column A with its correct meaning/context in Column B. (1 mark each)

- | | | |
|-------------|-------|--------------------------------------|
| A. splashed | _____ | 1. light sound made by leaves moving |
| B. thicket | _____ | 2. fell in drops making a sound |
| C. wailed | _____ | 3. a dense group of bushes and trees |
| D. rustle | _____ | 4. complained loudly |

✓ Answers — Section C

- A. splashed → 2. fell in drops making a sound
B. thicket → 3. a dense group of bushes and trees
C. wailed → 4. complained loudly
D. rustle → 1. light sound made by leaves moving

SECTION D — True or False with Correction [4 Marks]

Write True (T) or False (F). If False, write the correct statement. ($\frac{1}{2}$ + $\frac{1}{2}$ mark each)

1. Jahnvi's parents worked as fishermen. _____
2. The River preferred large ships to Chandu's catamaran. _____
3. The teacher visited Jahnvi's home and spoke to her father about school. _____
4. Jahnvi's mother had also been denied schooling when she was young. _____

✓ Answers — Section D

1. False — Jahnvi's parents worked on the farm.
2. False — The River preferred Chandu's catamaran to large ships.
3. True
4. True

SECTION E — Short Answer Questions [6 Marks]

Answer in 2–3 sentences each. (2 marks each)

1. Why was Jahnvi unable to attend school, even though she longed to go?

2. How did the River reassure Jahnvi that she was brave enough to go to school?
3. What did Jahnvi promise her mother she would do when she grew up?

✓ Answers — Section E

1. Jahnvi could not go to school because her parents always asked her to stay home and look after her younger siblings. When she was small she was told she was 'too young'; as each new sibling arrived, her turn kept getting postponed until she was nearly ten and still minding Little Appu.
2. The River laughed and reminded Jahnvi that she was not afraid of the green lizard by the water, the snake living in the bamboo clump, or the big noisy trains rattling past the bridge. By pointing out these real fears she had already overcome, the River showed her that going into a classroom required no greater courage.
3. Jahnvi promised her mother that when she grew up she would become a teacher and go from house to house in their village, inviting every little girl to her school. She wanted to teach them everything she herself was going to learn.

SECTION F — Grammar: Prepositions & Sound Words [4 Marks]

(i) Fill in the blanks with the correct preposition from the box below. ($\frac{1}{2}$ mark each $\times 4 = 2$ marks)

[at · between · through · about · outside · on]

1. Jahnvi stood nervously _____ the gate of the school.
2. She found a seat _____ two friendly classmates.
3. She hurried _____ the bustling classroom when the bell rang.
4. The teacher started the lesson _____ numbers.

(ii) Match each sound word from the chapter with its correct definition. ($\frac{1}{2}$ mark each $\times 4 = 2$ marks)

- | | | |
|--------------|-------|---|
| A. shrieked | _____ | 1. shaking rapidly making continuous short sharp sounds |
| B. gasped | _____ | 2. speaking in a low continuous voice |
| C. rattling | _____ | 3. took a short quick breath due to surprise |
| D. murmuring | _____ | 4. made a high-pitched piercing sound |

✓ Answers — Section F

(i) Prepositions:

1. outside
2. between
3. through
4. about

(ii) Sound words:

- A. shrieked → made a high-pitched piercing sound
- B. gasped → took a short quick breath due to surprise
- C. rattling → shaking rapidly making continuous short sharp sounds
- D. murmuring → speaking in a low continuous voice

SECTION G — Creative Writing: Diary Entry [6 Marks]

Imagine you are Jahnvi. Write a diary entry (80–100 words) describing how you felt on your first day at school — your fear before entering, the moment the teacher noticed you, and your happiness when you were told you could stay.

Date: _____

✓ Answers — Section G

Dear Diary, Today I did something I never thought I could. My heart was pounding as I stood at the school door. The lesson was about a great king called Ashoka. I crept nearer and nearer until I was sitting with the others at the back. Then the teacher noticed me! I was sure she would send me away. But instead she said, 'We'll find a way, Jahnvi.' I could not stop smiling all the way home. The River was right — it truly was up to me! (Award marks for: relevant content 2, feelings expressed 2, language & grammar 2)

WORKSHEET 2 — Mastery & Exam Practice (Fully Solved)

SECTION A — Competency-Based MCQs [6 Marks]

Choose the most appropriate option. (1 mark each)

1. The River said, 'Seems to me little girls can do as much as little boys — they swim as fast as little boys.' What idea does this express?
 - (a) Girls are physically stronger than boys.
 - (b) Girls and boys are equal and capable.
 - (c) Only swimming ability matters for school.
 - (d) The River wanted Jahnvi to learn swimming.
2. The author deliberately portrays the River as a speaking character. What literary device is this?
 - (a) Simile
 - (b) Metaphor
 - (c) Personification
 - (d) Hyperbole
3. Jahnvi's mother said, 'When I was your age, I wanted to go to school, but your grandmother said No.' This detail suggests:
 - (a) Education was expensive in those days.
 - (b) Denial of education for girls is a generational problem.
 - (c) Jahnvi's mother was lazy about studying.
 - (d) The grandmother was right to prevent her.
4. The River's advice, 'Remember — it's up to you!' best reflects which value?
 - (a) Obedience to elders
 - (b) Self-reliance and initiative
 - (c) Dependence on guidance
 - (d) Competition with others
5. Why did the author begin the story with a vivid description of nature — the kingfisher, the green lizard, the bamboo thicket?
 - (a) To prove Jahnvi was careless.
 - (b) To introduce the setting and show Jahnvi's deep familiarity and comfort with the river.
 - (c) To show that the animals were spying on Jahnvi.
 - (d) To describe the beauty of the forest.
6. 'It couldn't be the river!' — The exclamation mark here primarily conveys:
 - (a) Jahnvi's excitement
 - (b) Jahnvi's disbelief
 - (c) Jahnvi's anger
 - (d) Jahnvi's joy

✓ Answers — Section A

1. (b) Girls and boys are equal and capable.
2. (c) Personification
3. (b) Denial of education for girls is a generational problem.
4. (b) Self-reliance and initiative
5. (b) To introduce the setting and show Jahnvi's deep familiarity and comfort with the river.
6. (b) Jahnvi's disbelief

SECTION B — Assertion-Reason Questions [4 Marks]

Select the correct option for each Assertion (A) and Reason (R) pair. (1 mark each)

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true but R is false.
- (d) A is false but R is true.

1. Assertion (A): The author capitalises the word 'River' throughout the story.

Reason (R): The River has been given human qualities such as speaking, laughing, and giving advice, making it a character in its own right.

2. Assertion (A): Jahnavi was afraid to enter the school.

Reason (R): She feared that the teacher would send her away and that she was too old to start.

3. Assertion (A): The River says it cannot take Jahnavi to school.

Reason (R): The school is not located by the sea and Jahnavi would get her feet wet.

4. Assertion (A): Jahnavi's mother was ultimately happy about her daughter going to school.

Reason (R): The mother herself had been denied schooling when she was young and understood the value of education.

✓ Answers — Section B

1. (a) — Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
2. (a) — Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
3. (a) — Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
4. (a) — Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

SECTION C — Reference-to-Context Comprehension [6 Marks]

Read the extract carefully and answer the questions that follow.

"Can I do something?" asked Jahnavi. "Well, it's up to you," said the River. "Seems to me little girls can do as much as little boys — they swim as fast as little boys. You just slip along one morning and sit there in the school and listen to what's going on, and maybe the teacher will let you stay." "I couldn't," gasped Jahnavi. "I couldn't! They'd scare me! They'd chase me out."

1. Who is the speaker of the words 'It's up to you'? What is the significance of this statement? (2 marks)
2. What does the repetition of 'I couldn't!' tell us about Jahnavi's state of mind? (1 mark)
3. What does the River suggest as the best course of action for Jahnavi? (1 mark)
4. Choose the correct option. When the River says Jahnavi should 'slip along', it means she should move — (a) quickly (b) carefully (c) quietly (d) angrily. (1 mark)
5. According to the River, what quality do girls share equally with boys? (1 mark)

✓ Answers — Section C

1. The River is the speaker. The statement 'It's up to you' is significant because it shifts the responsibility for change onto Jahnavi herself, encouraging self-reliance rather than waiting for others to give her permission.
2. The repetition of 'I couldn't!' reveals Jahnavi's deep fear, self-doubt, and lack of confidence. It shows how years of being held back have made her believe she is incapable of taking action.
3. The River advises Jahnavi to quietly slip into the school one morning, sit down and listen to the lesson, in the hope that the teacher will allow her to stay.
4. (c) quietly
5. According to the River, girls can swim just as fast as boys — symbolising that they are equally capable in all walks of life.

SECTION D — HOTS & Inference-Based Questions [6 Marks]

Answer each question in 3–4 sentences. (2 marks each)

1. The River knows many things about Jahnavi — her daily visits, her fears, even the snake in the bamboo clump. How is this explained in the story, and what does it add to the narrative?
2. Jahnavi has a long list of 'whys' — why spiders are yellow in yellow flowers, why fish become frogs, and so on. What does this tell us about her character? How does it contrast with the way others treat her?
3. The story ends with Jahnavi running to the River to share her success. What does this suggest about the role of nature and the River in her emotional life?

✓ Answers — Section D

1. The River knows Jahnavi well because she has been visiting it almost every day. This means the River has silently witnessed her life — her fears, routines, and surroundings, including the snake in the bamboo clump. It adds a magical, fairy-tale quality to the story and makes the River seem like a wise, all-knowing friend rather than a mere body of water.
2. Jahnavi's curiosity about why spiders match flower colours, why fish turn to frogs, and why the moon follows the same path reveals a sharp, eager mind. It shows she is a natural learner who deserves education. This contrasts powerfully with the way her family treats her — assigning her childcare duties and overlooking her intelligence simply because she is a girl.
3. Jahnavi's first instinct after being allowed into school is to run back to the River and share the good news. This shows that the River is her closest confidant — a source of comfort, wisdom, and encouragement. Nature, through the River, has played the role that her family and society failed to play: that of a genuine supporter who believes in her potential.

SECTION E — Integrated Grammar [3 Marks]

(i) State whether the underlined word functions as a Preposition (P) or an Adverb (A). ($\frac{1}{2}$ mark each $\times 4 = 2$ marks)

1. A kingfisher swept down, its wings an arrow of blue in the sunlight. _____
2. The River goes down towards the sea. _____
3. She crept nearer and nearer till she was inside the classroom. _____
4. She stepped outside after the school was over. _____

(ii) The author capitalises the word 'River'. What grammar concept explains why she does this, and what effect does it have? (1 mark)

✓ Answers — Section E

- (i)
1. A (adverb — modifies 'swept', no noun follows)
 2. P (preposition — followed by object 'towards the sea')
 3. P (preposition — followed by object 'the classroom')
 4. A (adverb — modifies 'stepped', no object follows)
- (ii) . The author treats 'River' as a proper noun by capitalising it, because the River has been given the qualities of a person (personification). This makes the River feel like a named character rather than a geographic feature, deepening the emotional bond between Jahnavi and the River.

SECTION F — Long Answer / Value-Based Creative Writing [5 Marks]

Answer ONE of the following questions in 120–150 words.

Option A. HOTS — Value-Based Long Answer 'Remember — it's up to you!' said the River. Discuss how Jahnavi's journey reflects the values of self-reliance, gender equality, and the power of education. Support your answer with evidence from the text. Option B. Creative Writing — Dialogue Imagine the River meets another child — a young boy named Rajan afraid of failing his exams. Write a short conversation (8-10 exchanges) between Rajan and the River, where the River encourages him as it did Jahnavi.

✓ Answers — Section F

Option A — Value-Based Long Answer (5 marks) Content (3). Award marks for discussing: (1) self-reliance — Jahnavi acts on the River's advice on her own; (2) gender equality — River explicitly states girls can do as much as boys; mother supports girl's education; (3) power of education — Jahnavi's dream to read, to know 'whys', and her promise to teach other girls. Text evidence (1). Student must quote or closely reference at least one line from the story. Language (1). Clarity, sentence structure, and appropriate vocabulary.

Option B — Dialogue Writing (5 marks) Content & Creativity (3). River should echo its characteristic tone: gentle, wise, uses Rajan's real-life courage or strengths to counter his fear of failing. Dialogue should have a clear arc — fear expressed → River's encouragement → Rajan's resolve. Format (1). Correct dialogue format with speaker labels and punctuation. Language (1). Natural, age-appropriate English with good expression.

— End of Worksheets — UNIT 1: LEARNING TOGETHER