

Story Highlights

Lory is afraid to face her exams that are approaching *fast*. She finds her subjects **difficult** to understand. Tomato can understand Lory's problem for he too had been in a situation where he did not *understand* what was happening and why. So he helps her out by explaining to her that she must just **take heart** and **apply** *herself* to her task and she will receive help when she has the right heart posture just as he too had when he found himself in trouble. He did *not* give **up** but gave himself **over** to the task – thanks to Cherry tree's story that helped him understand.

By the time he narrates both stories, Lory is clear that giving-up is *not* an option and one must think **positive** to get results. Of course, she had worked **hard** the previous times but hard work *alone* could **not cut it**. She needed **divine help** too and so she needed to have the right **heart posture** to receive *wisdom* and *understanding* from God. When God is involved, things do turn out much *better* than we expect and surely, when one can **dream** and *work* towards it, one will have **success**. Thus she is motivated to work hard for her exams and she comes out with flying **colours**. Her father takes them to the circus where they have a great time.



Important Information

Format

ePub and PDF

DRM

None

Values

Courage

Clarity

Hope

Steadfastness

Teachability

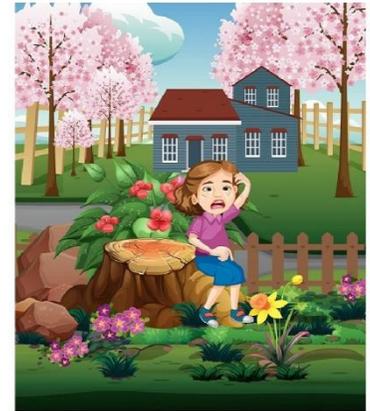
KEY OBSERVATIONS:

1. Lory must face her exams and she is appalled to do so. Time is running out and the subjects are too difficult. She must start but she doesn't know where to start. A Tomato comes to her rescue. She can't understand his language so he explains what he means with his own story. It had been a perfect day until he ran into his own grave! No help could be found and Tomato regretted his fate, when Cherry tree surprises him with her own story of how she too had lost all hope when she started losing all her leaves and becoming pale beyond recognition.

2. The story does motivate Lory to take the step to preparing for her exams. One might wonder how a Tomato or a Cherry tree can inspire someone to do well in their exams? But the fact remains that exams are to kids what bad weather and falls are to other elements in nature. They feel threatened by the difficult questions that they cannot answer. They cannot make sense of the question itself. The adults that handle them may not understand their insecurities and trials. It is self-deprecating to underperform. They feel hapless when time runs out. They too can start over reacting when faced with a threat so large.

Problems Addressed

- Feeling depressed
- Being too serious
- Frustration at not having any success



Lory sat weeping in the garden, sharing her woes with anyone who would listen. My final exams are starting soon... What am I going to do? I feel so afraid. I got less marks in the previous tests. The subjects are so hard—I stand no chance. I will fail all the papers!

Resources Developed

- Developing relaxation skills
- Openness to doing something different
- Being persistent
- Learning to smile, laugh and have positive feelings

3. So comfort the child, that all is not lost. There is still time. If one could just be calm and concentrate, one can still come out with flying colors. Yet it is not all about focus and determination and patient work. The Cherry tree worried about its status. “I will look very bad.” The Tomato was worried he won’t make it. We face these heart-wrenching realities too and we have to find answers to difficult problems and we might use the guiding principles: “All is not lost. Time is on our side. Working hard is the best option. Success comes as a result of positive thinking and relevant action etc.” to NO avail.

4. Just as nature is governed by the Creator himself, we too must feel protected by God. When times go out of control, we must remind ourselves that we ought not try to solve every problem on our own but relax and let things be presided over by God. The Cherry tree had a problem that she could do nothing about. And Tomato too had to trust in divine providence to see him through. Lory too received wisdom from above and it wasn’t just hard work but a whole lot other endowments and innate potential that God had so lavishly poured into her that helped her come out top in her exam.



Outcomes Offered

- Learning what works and what does not
- Understanding another's experience
- The joy of positive emotions
- Knowing that persistence will be rewarded