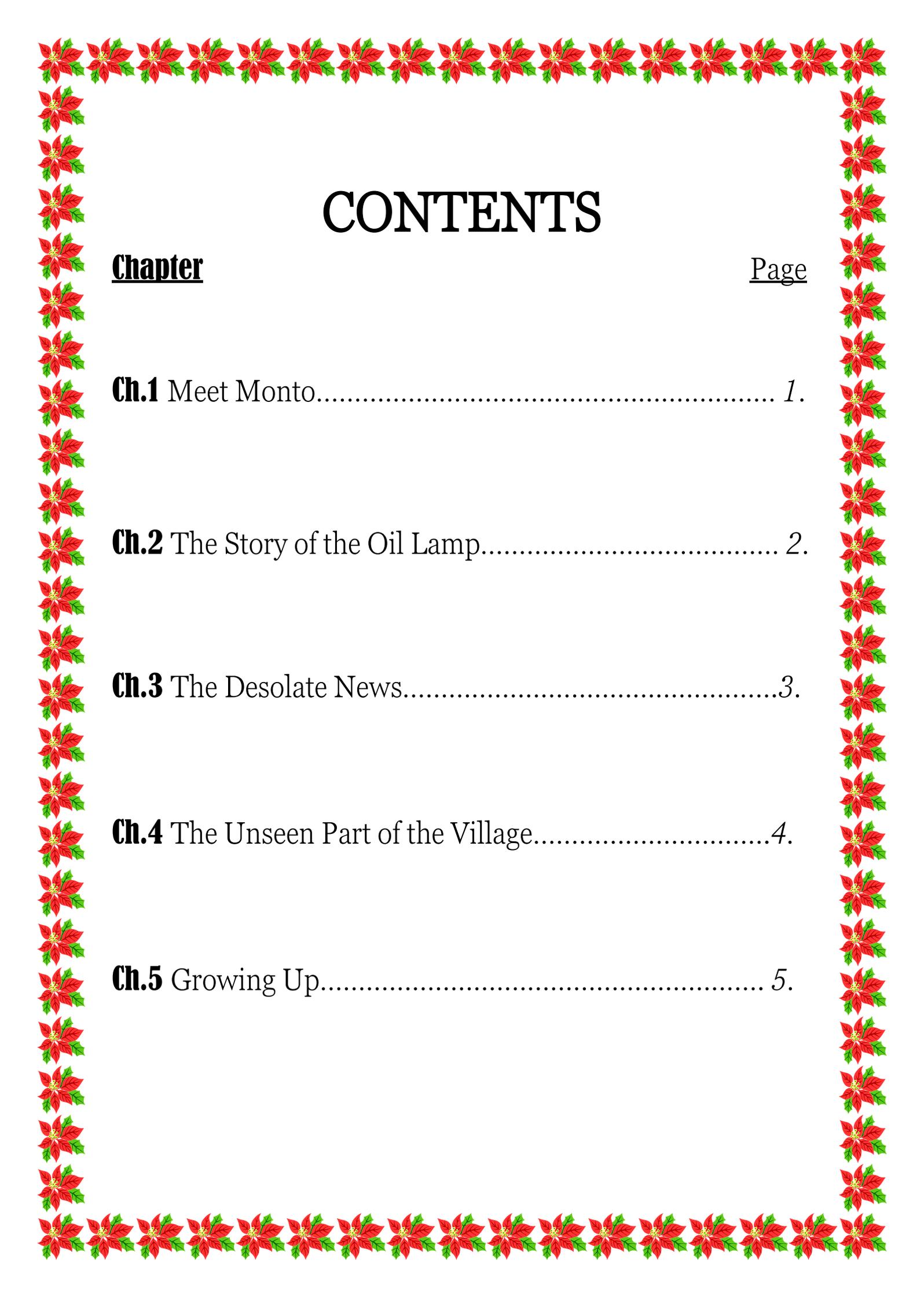


The illustration depicts a serene night scene. A large, bright white circle representing the moon is positioned in the upper left quadrant of a dark, textured sky. To the right, a string of lights is shown, with a white metal hanger-like structure. The sky is filled with numerous small, glowing yellow dots representing stars or distant lights. Below the sky, a vibrant green field is shown, with several small, stylized green birds scattered across it. The entire scene is framed by a decorative border of red poinsettia flowers with green leaves.

Beams of Lights

By Rishima Varija

Illustrated by: Mrigank Kumar



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Ch. 1 Meet Monto

Monto was a boy who came from a family who didn't have a single paisa. His real name was Arpit Chakraborty. He used to live in a woody, small, tawny cottage, with his family of 6 members and a dog whose name was Motu, the place where he lived had bright green kusha grass growing around it.

Monto was a kind and a helpful boy; he was thin and frail due to little food, his eye color was light brown, he was covered in dust but had a milk chocolate complexion and had loved studying the new fascinating things, he helped people poorer than him as much as possible with a big heart.

He would wake up before the rooster's crow and sell peanuts with his brothers. While he was selling peanuts, his parents would go to a 5 km way to the city to sell tea in a rusty trolley, his sisters would collect sticks for the fire at the woods, his grandma stayed at home cooking mashed potatoes and Motu helped Grandma clean the house with effort.



After selling the peanut he would go to school and gain his knowledge with a twinkle in his eye. He would come back from school trudging. He would eat his supper (mashed potatoes). Then he would study with an oil lamp shimmering through the night sky, the owls' hoots filled the village and the little creature which he hadn't known about was swaying in the pitch-black sky.

He would go to bed to hear his grandma's exhilarating stories. His grandma would tell him the wonderful stories about people who saved animals, helped the poor, saved the ecosystem, some were about Barack Obama, Buddha, Malala, Martin Luther King etc. His biggest dream was to become like one of people and help the world.

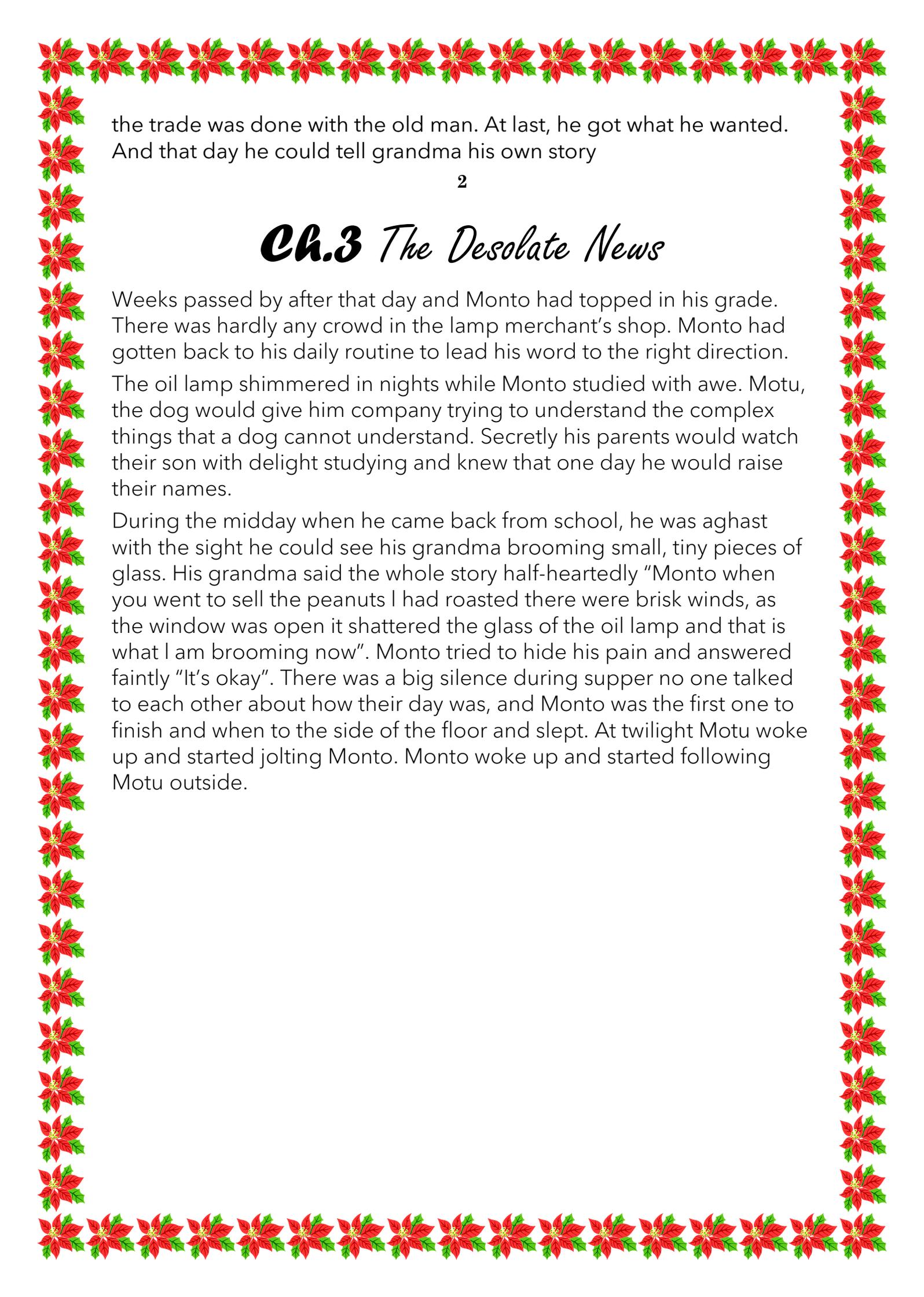
Ch.2 The Story of the Oil Lamp

Monto had a small oil lamp which has a big story of how he got it. It all started with him struggling to study at evenings because not a single light bulb was there in the house, he hardly studied and in difficult tests at school he used to fail most of the time. Every time the results came, he got **B, C, D & F**. So, to make things right he tried getting one oil lamp and he can start studying once again.

First, he went to the lamp merchant and asked, "Sir can you show me the cheapest oil lamp" and the merchant answered in his gruffy voice "My shop is not an area for lower castes like you and I don't sell 'cheap' things". The people in the crowd started murmuring among each other and Monto went home sadly thinking they were talking about him but no, they were talking about how rude a man can be to an innocent boy.



Then he heard a whisper coming from the side of the street "Psst Psst little boy come here take this lamp for whatever need you want but please give me some clothes to wear" the kind, old gentleman said with a pleasant smile on his face. He nodded and ran back home and rummaged to find the loosest clothes he had. He sprinted back and



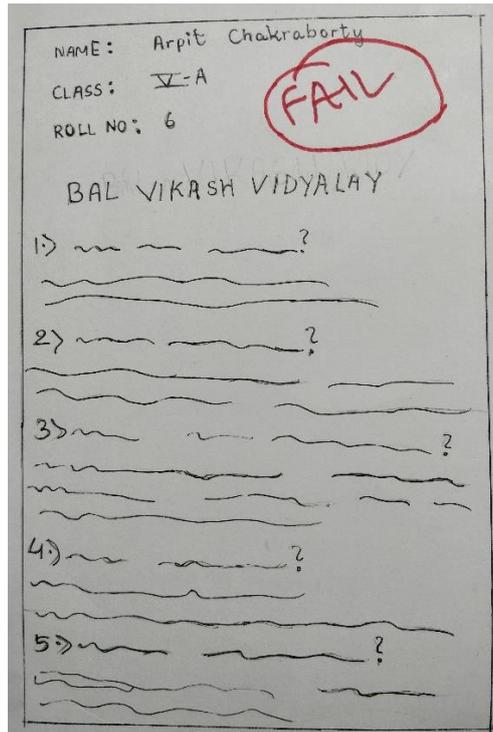
the trade was done with the old man. At last, he got what he wanted.
And that day he could tell grandma his own story

2

Ch.3 The Desolate News

Weeks passed by after that day and Monto had topped in his grade. There was hardly any crowd in the lamp merchant's shop. Monto had gotten back to his daily routine to lead his word to the right direction. The oil lamp shimmered in nights while Monto studied with awe. Motu, the dog would give him company trying to understand the complex things that a dog cannot understand. Secretly his parents would watch their son with delight studying and knew that one day he would raise their names.

During the midday when he came back from school, he was aghast with the sight he could see his grandma brooming small, tiny pieces of glass. His grandma said the whole story half-heartedly "Monto when you went to sell the peanuts I had roasted there were brisk winds, as the window was open it shattered the glass of the oil lamp and that is what I am brooming now". Monto tried to hide his pain and answered faintly "It's okay". There was a big silence during supper no one talked to each other about how their day was, and Monto was the first one to finish and when to the side of the floor and slept. At twilight Motu woke up and started jolting Monto. Monto woke up and started following Motu outside.



3

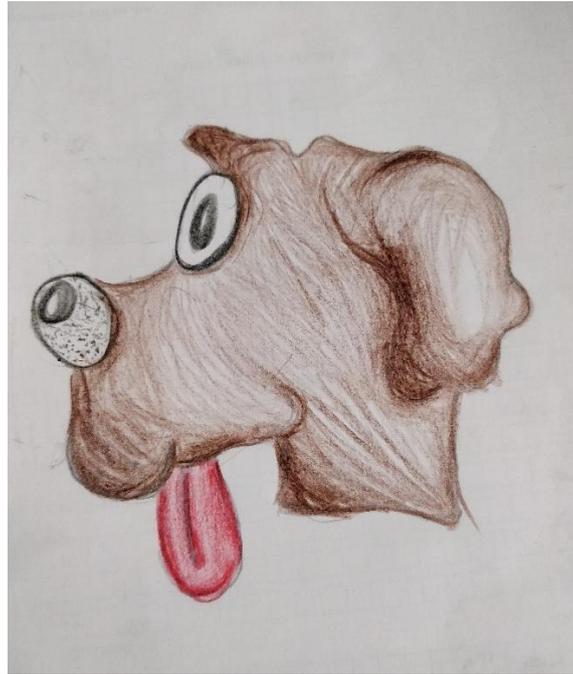
Ch.4 *The Unseen Part of the Village*

Motu had brought Monto to the unseen area of the village. It was the most wondrous area Monto had ever seen before. There were small lightings every where, some were rich gold in colour while some were lights of silver. They were fireflies, enjoying the dark, silent midnight!

Monto was filled with joy and excitement because he had gotten an idea! He hurriedly ran back to his cottage brought all his supplies to study (quietly in the cottage of course). He came back and sat on the fresh kusha grass. He started studying about Nature, and he discovered how wondrous and interesting Mother Nature is.

Motu was having a dog smile because he had served his master. Monto didn't mind that he was doing it was late in the night, while the rest of the village was sleeping peacefully. The leaves of the trees were rustling, owls were hooting, frogs were croaking, the fireflies were dancing through the dark horizon, Motu wagged his tail and Monto was very thankful to the fireflies and other animal who helped him in any way.

It was the best day in his life, he topped in class once again. He grew along animals teaching them tricks and training them to be obedient.



Ch.5 Growing Up

Monto grew up and became a professor in 'The University of Animal Conservation of Wildlife in the U.K.'. He was now called Professor Chakraborty, Arpit Chakraborty. He is well known for saving animals which are near extinction, some of these animals are the sabadiam goose, leaflet cricket and so on. But he never forgot those little creatures otherwise he would never be this rich and famous. Along with his favorite class he made the first conservation of fireflies- Conservatory of Fireflies. He wanted to save them from Artificial Lights- so the conservatory only uses oil lamps or lanterns to light the conservatory, Habitat loss- the conservatory does its best to prevent habitat loss, pesticides- the conservatory is obviously pesticide-free. He won many Awards and Certificates from some of the greatest people. Monto or should I say Professor Chakraborty had come a long way from a small, tawny cottage to a rich, educated and famous man.

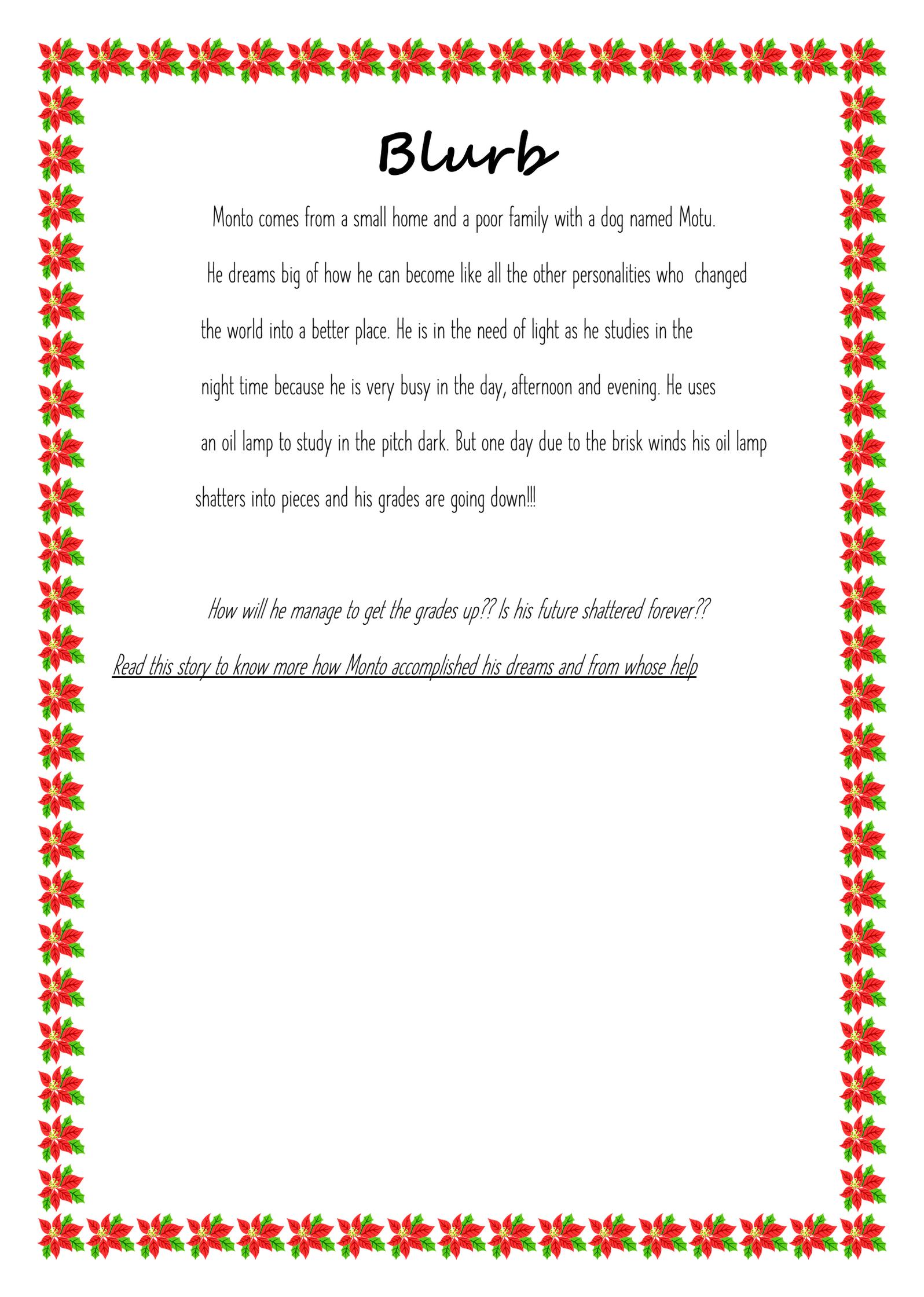


About the Author



Rishima Varija is a student of National Public School, Koramangala. She is in grade 4, section C. Other than writing, Rishima likes painting, drawing, playing indoor and outdoor games. She is curious and eager to learn. She is passionate about teaching and implementing what she has learned.

Rishima is a voracious reader, she likes to read both fictional and non-fiction books. Rishima also likes to spend her time with her friends to come up with different ways to contribute to the environment. Rishima likes to lead from the front that excites her friend to collaborate and execute the plan. Rishima's book *Beams of Lights* is about Nature and Humanity will team up then they can accomplish great things



Blurb

Monto comes from a small home and a poor family with a dog named Motu.

He dreams big of how he can become like all the other personalities who changed the world into a better place. He is in the need of light as he studies in the night time because he is very busy in the day, afternoon and evening. He uses an oil lamp to study in the pitch dark. But one day due to the brisk winds his oil lamp shatters into pieces and his grades are going down!!!

How will he manage to get the grades up?? Is his future shattered forever??

Read this story to know more how Monto accomplished his dreams and from whose help