

Samaira and the Snowman



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Chapter 1 - Samaira



Let me tell you a story about a little girl named Samaira. She was 9 years old, was very kind and loved going to new places. Samaira was very smart, her father would often give her difficult riddles which she would crack with ease.

She had never experienced the snowfall and she really wanted to. She lived in Bangalore in southern India and it doesn't snow over there. After a lot of pleading, her parents finally decided to spend her winter vacations in Shimla. She was really looking forward to building a snowman just like she saw in movies. They all started packing their bags. She was so excited and just couldn't wait! The airport was really crowded but she enjoyed her flight.

When they finally reached their hotel, Samaira was jumping around in excitement and went to hug her parents for getting her there. Dad and the bellboy carried their luggage to their room and kept the suitcases in the wardrobe. The room was marvelous, and Samaira loved it!

Chapter 2 – The Golden Sand

They were all starving! They quickly got ready and went downstairs to eat lunch in the hotel restaurant. As their eyes fell on the delicious buffet spread, their hunger doubled. Samaira ate to her fill. Once the lunch was done, they all decided to go out and explore the city. On the way out, Samaira saw a thin, poor old woman who looked famished. She was shivering with cold in the open and had no shelter. Samaira felt bad for her and decided to take the old woman inside and gave her some food. Her parents were very pleased and helped her treat the old woman. The old woman was also very happy with Samaira, she wanted to return the favor.

None of them yet knew that the old woman was a actually a magical fairy in disguise who could read people's mind.

She knew Samaira was in Shimla because she was longing to make a snowman. She gave her a little bag with sparkly golden sand in it. Samaira asked the woman what it was, but all the woman said was "You'll know. Just remember to sprinkle some of this sand on the

snowman you make tomorrow". Samaira was very confused but agreed anyway.



Chapter 3 – The Snowy Hills

The next day, all of them woke up early in the morning and quickly got ready in their new winter wear and went downstairs for breakfast. After that they all headed out in the car they had rented, dad was driving. After about one hour of driving, they reached in a valley. The view outside was so beautiful! They could see white snowy hills on either side of the road they were driving on. It was so beautiful and Samaira kept asking her father to drive faster, because she was getting so impatient!

They stopped at a slope which was covered with fluffy snow. They got down and started racing up the tiny snowy hill. Samaira won the race, she started cheering for herself in excitement! She spotted a frozen river down, on which people were ice-skating!

They ice skated for some time and then went up the hill again to build a snowman! Samaira collected balls of snow, gave them a round shape and put one on top of the other. Then she added the nose, eyes, mouth, hands and a muffler. Suddenly, Samaira remembered what the old woman had said and she took out the magic sand and sprinkled it on the snowman. Nothing happened. Just then her parents asked her to wait over there for a while because they wanted to check out something for a bit. As soon as her parents left, the snowman started speaking!

Chapter 4 – The Snowman comes Alive!

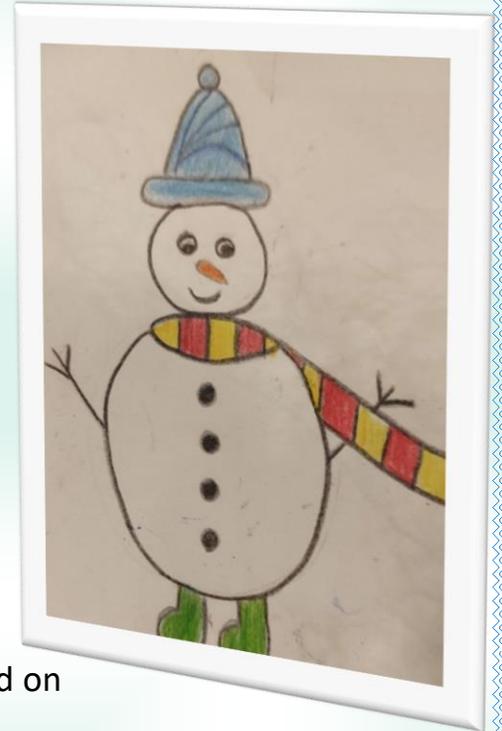
He said "Hi! my name is Himansh! What's yours?"

Samaira was shell shocked at hearing the snowman talks and couldn't believe her ears! "S-S-Samaira", she replied in a stammering voice.

"H-H-How can you talk?", she asked.

The snowman said "I know it's hard to believe, but the old woman you met was actually a fairy. And the sand she gave you was magical, when you sprinkle that sand on something, it comes alive. This sand is given only to people who the fairies find worthy". "So, there are more fairies like the one I met?", asked Samaira. "Yes", said Himansh. "The dust is also supposed to be sprinkled on something for a reason". "Oh" said Samaira, still a bit confused. "But what is the reason I sprinkled the sand on you?", asked Samaira. "You see, I need your help. My sister has been captured by the evil Snow Queen. You have been chosen by the fairies to help me".

As he said these words, Samaira's mom and dad headed towards them. Himansh stood still. Then Samaira's dad told her that her mother liked something at the shop, so they were going there again to buy it and asked her to wait there longer. As they left Himansh asked her if she could help him. She said, "I wish I could, but my parents will not let me go with you".



"Don't worry about that", said Himansh. "The place we are going now, time moves much faster there. An hour here is like a week there. We would have finished our journey by the time your parents come back from the shop!"

"Wow!", said Samaira. "You just hold my hand and I will take you there in no time". Then Samaira held his hand and both were spinning like a tornado. When the spinning stopped, they had reached another snowy hill, but it was much colder. "Now we are in the realm of the Snow Queen. We will have to walk from here."

Chapter 5 – Adventure Begins!

On the way, Samaira asked Himansh if he knew how to get his sister back from the evil Snow Queen. "The only thing I know is that you have to do three most difficult tasks or answer the most difficult questions to get her back", said Himansh. "But the number of questions or tasks will not be less or more than three". "Ok", said Samaira. "But how did they capture your sister?" "Well, one day my sister was just taking a stroll in front of our little house on the snowy street. Suddenly, two men who worked for the queen caught her, put her in a cart and started taking her away. She screamed for help. By the time I came running out of the house, they had already gone. It was too late. The evil Snow Queen kidnaps young snow-boys and snow-girls and makes them work in her dungeons as her slaves". Samaira was feeling very bad for him. "Don't worry", she said. "We will get her back." "Thanks" said Himansh.

Chapter 6 – The Snow Queen and the Castle

The journey was long, so they rested frequently and slept in a cave at night. The whole time Samaira was thinking about what was going to happen when she will meet the queen. After travelling for two days, they finally reached a huge castle made of ice with guards on the gate. It was very beautiful from the outside.

Both stood outside the castle admiring it in awe. It was huge and magnificent! The whole castle was made of shiny blue ice and had tall, thin towers in it. Himansh said to Samaira, "Now we shall go inside and solve the queen's riddle. It will be tricky, but we must do this in order to save my sister." "You're right", said Samaira.

Suddenly few soldiers appeared and told them to move towards the gate. The queen had ordered her soldiers to bring them in. As they entered the castle, they saw everything was blue and icy, and even the floor was so slippery, that it was difficult to walk!

"Well, well ...", the queen said in a shrieking voice, "Looks like another bunch of fools have come to try and win back my slaves! Show me your faces". As the queen saw them, she burst out laughing! "A snowman with a little girl?", she said. "You think you can answer my questions?" "Yes, your majesty", said Samaira.



"We'll see about that", said the queen. "Till then you are my prisoners. You may come tomorrow for your first task". The queen waved and guards locked them in one small room in the castle.

Chapter 7 – The First Task

The next day, both were very nervous but still collected their might and entered the throne room. Seeing them the queen said, "So here you are". Then she clapped her hands twice and a servant entered with a hammer and a pot made of mud. Then he led both outside the castle where an elephant was tied up. The queen also came out. Then she explained "For your first task, you have to put this elephant inside the pot".

Both looked at each other. They had no idea how to put a huge elephant in a small mud pot. Suddenly Samaira's eyes lit up. "I know, I know." She took the hammer and broke the pot from below to make a hole. Then she took the pot in front of the queen in a way that she could see the elephant through it. It looked as if the elephant was inside the pot. "Have I completed the task?", she asked the queen. "Yes, you have", said the queen, visibly annoyed. She marched off inside the castle in an angry way. Himansh jumped up and down in joy and thanked Samaira effusively. He was mesmerized by her smartness.

Chapter 8 – The Second Task

Today was the second day and the queen yet had another task for them up above her sleeve. This time she called them in her castle and drew a line on



the chalkboard. Then she asked them to make this line shorter without erasing anything. Then after a lot of deliberation Samaira had once again come up with an answer. She drew another longer line below the one that the queen drew, and said "I have made the line shorter, your

majesty". The queen this time was even angrier and could not believe it! She shouted at them to go away and thought of a plan to make it more difficult to answer the next

day. But this night both of them weren't able to sleep, for tomorrow was the last and final day and they had to give the correct answer, because if they did not, then they would never get Himansh's sister back!

Chapter 9 – The Final Question

Today was the final day and their hearts were beating so fast that they could hear it! Once again, they entered the queen's castle and this time instead of making them do a task, she popped up a question. "What comes first, the hen or the egg?" This time Himansh replied. "The hen", he said. "Why do you say so"? Asked the queen. "Well I don't need to answer that because you were only supposed to ask one last question to me today and that is already over", said Himansh. They had once again given a smart answer, and this meant the queen had to release Himansh's sister! They were overjoyed and hugged each other in happiness! Suddenly, the queen started melting. Samaira asked Himansh, "What's happening?" He replied "That is because when you answer all three questions correctly, not only do you get your wish but even the evil queen vanishes from the face of the earth".

Chapter 10 – Back Home

Himansh' s sister was finally free, and they were so happy! The three of them explored the whole place and enjoyed its beauty. They had become best friends now. Himansh and his sister couldn't believe their luck and never stopped thanking Samaira. Now it was time for Samaira to go and she felt sad about it, but she was also happy that she could be of help to someone in need. She waved goodbye, sprinkled some sand on herself and in no time, she reached back swirling like a tornado. And guess what, the snowman was right! When she reached back, her parents were just coming back from shopping! She whispered to herself "This was my best vacation ever"!

About the Author

Tiya Rai Chutani is a student of Grade 4, NPS Koramangala who lives with her parents and younger brother in Whitefield, Bangalore. She is a beautiful



bubbly girl who keeps the home alive with her chirpings. Tiya is multifaceted and has diverse hobbies. She loves baking and the whole family is a big fan of her delicious cupcakes. She is a very good basketball player and an avid Kathak dancer. She has had a natural inclination towards languages and would quickly grasp minor nuances at a very early age. This penchant grew with age and now she is an ardent reader who loves writing prose as well as verse.

Many of her short stories and poems have been published in the school magazine.

Blurb

Samaira, a 9-year-old girl, longed for playing in the snow and making a snowman. But when she eventually managed to go to snow clad hills near Shimla and actually build a snowman, something happened which she hadn't imagined in her wildest dreams ... the SNOWMAN CAME ALIVE! And then she follows him on a roller coaster adventure journey to help her new friend, in an icy land full of surprises with talking snowboys and snowgirls, and not to forget, an evil queen!