



The Envious Neighbour

A Japanese Folk Tale

Discuss the following.

Warm Up

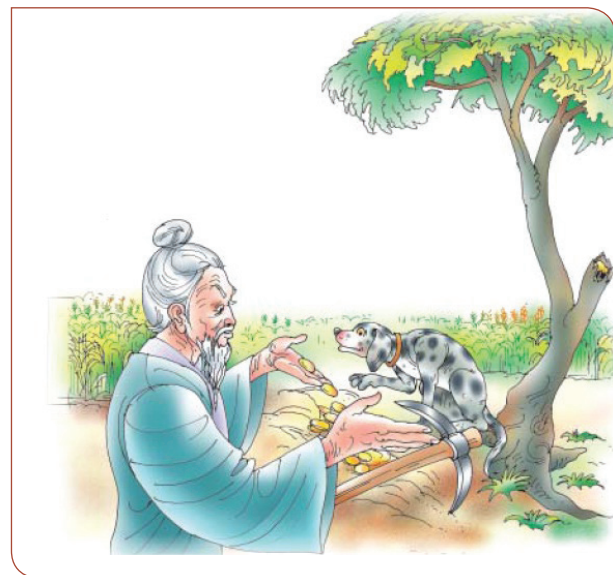
1. Ratan Tata and Azim Premji are a few rich people of India who spend a part of their wealth on charity. What influences them to share and care for others?
2. Think of any undesirable quality that you would like to get rid off and discuss it with your friends.
3. Do you like pets? Why?

Now read the Japanese folk tale about two neighbours and how their character changed their lives.

In the old, old days, there lived an honest man with his wife, who had a pet dog, which they used to feed with fish and **tit-bit** from their own kitchen. One day, as the old folks went out to work in their garden, the dog went with them, and began playing about. All of a sudden, the dog stopped short, and began to bark, "Bow, wow, wow!" **wagging** his tail violently.

The old people thought that there must be something nice to eat under the ground, so they brought a spade and began digging, when, lo and behold! The place was full of gold pieces and silver, and all sorts of precious things, which had been buried there. So, they gathered the treasure and after giving alms to the poor, bought themselves rice-fields and corn-fields, and became wealthy people.

Now, in the neighbouring house there dwelt a **covetous** and stingy old couple, who when they heard what had happened, came and borrowed the dog and having taken him



home, prepared a great feast for him, and said— "If you please, Mr. Dog, we should be much **obliged** to you if you would show us a place with plenty of money in it."

The dog, however, who up to that time had received nothing but cuffs and kicks