

SSSB Story 042a: Shakina and the Singing Parrot [5-12 years]



Shakina was a nine-year-old girl from a simple, hardworking family. Her parents were grateful and content with whatever life gave them.

Shakina saw her friends with shiny shoes, colorful toys, and fancy restaurant food in their lunch boxes. Her own tiffin was always simple homemade meals, lovingly prepared by her mother. Yet, Shakina was never jealous. She would say to parents: “Mother, Father, my gurus in SSSSB class teach us to be grateful, kind, and helpful. That way, we will always be happy.”

Her cheerful words made her parents smile and stay positive.

In the evenings, parents sold noodles and dumplings outside their home. Shakina sat under a huge tree, finishing homework. She often sang bhajans she had learned in class, her voice floating like sweet music in the air.

One evening, she heard a gentle call: “Shakina... Shakina...” Looking up, she saw a rainbow-colored parrot perched on the tree. “Was it you who called me?” she asked, scratching her head.

The parrot winked and said, “You have a beautiful voice. Will you sing new songs for me whenever you come here?”

From that day, Shakina sang joyfully under the tree—and the parrot sang along with her! After homework, she helped her parents serve customers. Her melodious songs brought peace and happiness to everyone. Soon, people came not only to eat noodles but also to enjoy her singing.

With folded hands and a bright smile, Shakina welcomed each guest: “Welcome, please enjoy.” The parrot even copied her, chirping: “Sairam, Welcome!” Customers were amazed, and the children laughed with delight.

Shakina played with the children, sharing her toys and laughter. And the leftover food? She gave it to nearby cats, dogs, and even pigs, who happily joined the feast.

Her kindness and music turned every evening into something special. Customers felt nourished not only by food but also by love and laughter. Her parents’ small business grew, and their home filled with joy.

Question and Heart-Work: Which talent do you have and how can you use it to help others?